
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 15

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Has anyone ever betrayed you? What happened?

- b. Have you ever had to run away from a bad situation so that it didn't get worse? What happened?

- c. Have you ever tried to communicate with someone who wasn't really listening to you? How does it make you feel?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

The Situation: This chapter starts detailing some of the consequences of David's mistake with Bathsheba. The prophecy was: "Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you (12:11)." Now Absalom, home from exile, decides to try and take the kingdom from his father by winning over the people's hearts with sympathy, kindness and his good looks.

What role does the way a person's looks play in their life? Why do you think that is? Is that fair?

What role does being nice to people play in life? How do you feel when someone is especially nice to you? How do you know if someone is being kind just to manipulate you?

What does this story tell you about people's desire to have someone listen to them and place value on them?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Think through your life and try to determine if you are a good listener or not. Talk to someone you know that is a good listener and ask them to give you some tips to improve your listening skills.
- b. Think through your life and try to determine ways that you may have betrayed someone. Think and pray about how you can be a more faithful friend to those you know.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to help you be a better listener.
- b. After taking some time in prayer sit quietly for 5 minutes just trying to listen to what Jesus may be trying to tell you.

5. Outreach Idea

Think of an outreach ministry that you could start that would involve listening to people and showing them that you care?