
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 16

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. How would you define the word loyalty? Give an example of how you have been loyal to a friend.

- b. Give an example of how a friend has been loyal to you?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

The situation: Rather than fighting with his son and having Jerusalem torn up with war, David decides to leave town with his family and friends. His most loyal followers go with him but a few also decide to stay behind. Other friends of David's defect to his aggressive son, Absalom.

How much do you think Absalom could trust the people that defected from his father to him? Does the passage indicate that all of those seemingly following Absalom really were following him? What lesson can you learn from this?

If a friend abandons you when it looks like you are losing popularity, do you think they were ever really a friend? Why/why not?

Have you ever abandoned a friend? Why? Was that being disloyal? Why/why not?

How do you know who your true friends are?

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

- a. Think through your friendships and make a list of the top 2-5. Are you more loyal to some friends than others? Why do you think that is? Are there some friends you think you should be more loyal to? Why/why not?

- b. Think about your friends that are always there for you? What qualities that you see in them would you like to develop more in yourself? Have a conversation with those friends and ask them to help you try and develop those good qualities you see in them.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to help you be a loyal friend. Ask Him to help you emulate the good qualities you see in others around you.
- b. Thank Jesus for being loyal to you no matter how you treat Him. Pray and ask Jesus to help you treat Him better and spend more time with Him.
- c. Thank Jesus for the friends in your life and ask Him to help you express that gratitude to them more frequently as well.

5. Outreach Idea (Optional)

Talk to a friend that you used to be close to. Discuss what went wrong and try to make things right again.