
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 17

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What is the best advice anyone has ever given you? Did you take the advice? How did it turn out?

- b. What is the worst advice anyone has ever given you? Did you take the advice? How did it turn out?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)



The Situation: Absalom is listening to two of his father's former advisors—one is truly on his side and the other is secretly against him.

David has always been a “man after God’s own heart” and has typically sought God’s counsel for his every move (with the exception of the whole Bathsheba incident). In this situation how does it appear that Absalom is making his decisions? Do you think he is consulting God as well or following his own desires?

Why do you think Absalom has turned out to be so different than his father?

In what ways are you like/unlike your father? In what ways would you like to be more like your father?

How do you think Absalom got to the point of wanting to kill his own father?

In this situation God's will prevailed. In spite of Absalom's best efforts God was in control. How does this make you feel about spending time with God and pursuing His will in your life? Do you think you can truly be successful in life without God on your side?

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

Choose one or two:

- a. Think about how you make decisions in your life and who's advice you follow the most often. Who do you listen to more: Your parents, God, friends, or popular culture/advertising? Why do you think that is? How is that working out for you?

- b. Think about your perfect Father in heaven. In what ways do you think you are like Him? In what ways are you not like Him? How would you like to be more like Him?

- c. The best way to become more like your Father in heaven is to spend more time with Him. Make a list of 3-5 ways that you would like to spend more time with God/Jesus. Write out a plan and a schedule for implementing this in your life.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to remind you to ask Him about all the decisions you need to make in your life. Ask Him to help you make wise decisions and to give you the strength to always do what you know is right.
- b. Pray for you friends and relatives who are making some bad choices right now. Ask for God's will to prevail in their lives.