
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 18

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What's the worst fight you've ever gotten into with your parents? What was it over? How did it start? How did it end? In retrospect, was it worth fighting over?

- b. What's the worst fight you've ever gotten into with one of your siblings? What was it over? How did it start? How did it end? In retrospect, was it worth fighting over?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

The Situation: The battle of Absalom vs. David finally begins with thousands of soldiers fighting on each side. Keep in mind that these are all Israelites fighting with each other. This is a civil war.

This war is a son fighting against his father for power and control. Do you think there were any other fathers and sons fighting against each other or brothers who had taken opposite sides? How do you think it made the people involved feel to know that they may end up killing someone from their own family?

Studies show that one of the most dangerous situations for police to encounter is domestic violence. Why do you think people that are supposed to love each other the most can sometimes hate each other and hurt each other more than anyone else?

People have been fighting for power and control ever since Lucifer rebelled against God in heaven. Why do you think it is still so natural for so many people to want power and control?

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

Choose one:

- a. Try to think of three things you can do to help reduce the fighting that takes place between you and your siblings at home. Write the list on a nice piece of paper and post it where you and your siblings will see it often.
- b. Try to think of three things you can do to help reduce the fighting that takes place between you and your parents at home. Write the list on a nice piece of paper and post it where everyone in your family will see it often.
- c. Try to think of three things you can do to reduce your desire to control others.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to help you give control of your life over to Him so that He can use His perfect nature to control your imperfect nature.
- b. Pray for your family to live in harmony and for your home to be a place where Jesus is in control and a place where you can find peace and love rather than anger and fighting.

5. Outreach Idea

Talk to you youth group about volunteering at a local women's shelter. Ask for the shelter's director to talk to you group about domestic violence and what you can do to help stop it.