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# Application Guide: 2 Samuel 24

## 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What is the worst punishment you have ever received for doing something wrong? What had you done? Do you think the punishment was fair? Why/why not?

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- b. What is the worst punishment you have ever heard of one of your friends receiving? What had they done? Do you think the punishment was fair? Why/why not?

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## 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

**The situation:** David got into trouble for going through Israel and counting how many warriors he had that he could rely on.

Why do you think this was such a terrible thing to do?

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Do you think that it shows that he was trusting more in human power than in God's power? Why/why not?

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Which punishment would you have chosen if you were David? Why?

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Did you know that there were angels that were assigned to kill people? How do you feel about that?

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How do you think the “death angel” felt about the job he had to do?

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When people commit terrible sins today how does God punish them?

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Why do you think it’s different now than it was in David’s time?

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What do you think our world would be like if there was never any punishment or consequences for doing wrong?

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How do you think you will punish your children when you have them some day? Why?

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

- a. Think through your life and try to determine what kind of punishment has been the most effective in helping you to become a better person. Why do you think that punishment works for you? Do you think it is possible to discipline or punish yourself before someone else has to? Why/why not?

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- b. Talk to your parents and thank them for punishing you. Spend some time talking with your parents and ask them how it feels when they have to punish you. Let them know which punishments are the most and least effective for you—be honest!

**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Pray and thank Jesus for the times He has punished and corrected you. Be specific.
- b. Pray and ask Jesus to continue to guide you in your life and to continue punishing you when you need it.