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# Application Guide: 2 Samuel 4

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

Choose one:

- a. What is the worst story of betrayal you know of in Bible times? What made it so bad?

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- b. What is the worst story of betrayal you know of in modern times? What made it so bad?

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

**The Situation:** This chapter tells the story of betrayal. Two men, Baanah and Recab, who were captains of king Ishbosheth's raiding parties heard that their great commander, Abner, had defected to David's side and then been killed. They apparently realized that king Ishbosheth was in the process of losing power so they decided to kill him and take his head to David to show what they had done.

What is the difference between killing and murder in times of war?

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What do you think Baanah and Recab felt they had to gain by committing this act of murder?

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What makes this story a story of betrayal?

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How do you think the sleeping doorkeeper should be treated in this situation?

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

In this story David shows that he doesn't believe in getting revenge on his enemies himself. Instead, David leaves revenge and justice in God's hands.

Think of a time when you have tried to get revenge

- a. What happened that made you feel like you needed to get revenge?

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- b. How did the situation turn out?

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- c. What did you learn from David's story that could help you to deal with situations like this differently?

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

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to forgive you for the times you've tried to get revenge.
- b. Pray and ask Jesus to help you remember to leave justice in God's hands.
- c. Pray for peace to always deal with difficult situations calmly.

**5. Outreach Idea**

Go and talk to someone that has made you angry and made you feel like you needed revenge. Tell them that you forgive them and want to start over with your relationship.