
Application Guide: 2 Samuel 8

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Have your parents ever told you that you were not allowed to go somewhere or do something that looked like a lot of fun? Have you ever found out later that you could have gotten hurt if you had gone there or done that? Talk about your experience and what you learned.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: It can be hard to understand why God would command David to wipe out entire groups of people. Some books of the Bible talk about so much blood-shed it's hard to understand how a loving God could do such things. My best explanation is that these people were so far from God and so much against Him that there was no hope for them to ever be converted and love God. So, God wiped them out so they would stop hurting and tempting His people and leading them away from Him. Since they had seemingly committed the unpardonable sin it seems better to wipe them out and save His own children in the process—or at least give them a better chance. All good parents try to save their children from the things that are hurting them.

Do you think it's fair for God to send soldiers to wipe out people that hate Him and are destroying His children? Why/why not?

What specifically would you like to ask God about His treatment of enemy nations when you get to heaven?

Do you ever wish you could wipe out things that hurt you? What kinds of things might that be? Do you think God would want those same things wiped out of your life?

What would your world be like if television and the internet were suddenly wiped out? Do you think you would be a better or worse person?

What would happen to your life if music suddenly disappeared? Do you think the music you listen to is uplifting or do you think it distracts you from God?

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

Choose one:

- a. Try turning off the internet for one week. Only use it if you need to for school assignments—nothing else. Take the time you would normally spend surfing the internet and spend that time with God. Record what happens in a journal.
- b. Try listening to only Christian music for one week. That means no secular music at any time. Record your thoughts and feelings every day in a journal. At the end of the week ask your friends and family if they notice a difference in you.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray for God to help you make good decisions in the activities you choose to engage in. Ask Him to help you identify the negative influences in your life and to give you the strength and help you need to eliminate them.