



REFLECTION / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pick a few questions from below and reflect this week, or choose 4-5 to discuss in your home group.

- Why do you think Absalom waits four years before carrying out his conspiracy?
- Have you ever observed a takeover similar to Absalom's? Did the conspirator employ similar tactics?
- Do you think David is to blame in any way for Absalom's action?
- Read Proverbs 18:19. Why is it so difficult to restore the relationship with someone who has been offended?
- Read Psalm 3. What connections do you make with David's words to a past betrayal you experienced?
- Does David seem gullible to you in this chapter?
- Read 2 Samuel 15:13-37. What observations can you make about David's character in these verses?
- Do you think David should have stayed and fought Absalom? Why?
- Have you ever just wanted to escape a situation and so you decided not to stay and fight? Why did you decide not to?
- How have you seen unity destroyed in organizations, families or churches? What did you learn from chapter 15 that might have made that situation better?



THINK ABOUT IT

2 Samuel 15: How Dividers Divide

OVERVIEW

In 2 Samuel 15, Absalom undermines King David's authority, by placing himself prominently at the city gates, commiserating with others who had a complaint against David. As his influence grows, Absalom consolidates his power and proclaims himself the new king.

The chapter ends with David shamefully exiled from his own palace, fleeing the wrath of Absalom and his mob of malcontents, yet assuring that others are not unnecessarily displaced.

INTERPRETIVE & THEOLOGICAL ISSUES

Check out this great blog on preserving Christian unity: <http://www.challies.com/reading-classics-together/12-ways-to-preserve-christian-unity>. (Adapted from Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices, by Puritan Thomas Brooks, 1608-1680)

SERMON OUTLINE & REFERENCES

HOW DIVIDERS DIVIDE:

1. **By making themselves look good.** 2 Samuel 15:1-2
 2. **By finding common ground with the dissatisfied.** 2 Samuel 15:2-5; Proverbs 16:28
 3. **By making others look bad.** 2 Samuel 15:3
 4. **By presenting themselves as the answer to all the problems.** 2 Samuel 15:4
 5. **By being partially right.** 2 Samuel 15:6; 2 Corinthians 11:13
 6. **By consolidating power and then mounting a takeover.** 2 Samuel 15:7-8
- *Miscellaneous: Proverbs 2:6, 18:19; Matthew 7:15, 18:7; John 17:23; Ephesians 4:3; James 1:5;