

Check-in and Prayer~2min

Review prayer requests/concerns from previous weeks & pray/praise through any updates

Topic Introduction~5min

Who were some bad influences on you growing up? Did you see your parents argue growing up? What was your relationship like with your siblings?

Read Text~10min

Context: Leader/volunteer speak to some of the context of this story. Where are we in 2 Samuel? What just happened (look at section headings), and what will follow in the story? (After David's wicked sin in ch. 11, his family begins to implode in 13.) Main points from the sermon: Dysfunctional families have bad influences, think they're alone, bear toxic fruit, suffer sickening silence, and our hope is only in the influence of Jesus who is always with us to prune and break the silence).

- **Read Together:** 2 Samuel 13:1-29 out loud.
- **Read Alone:** Underline or mark: questions, contrasts, repetition, commands, topic changes, ooh/ahh moments, other verses come to mind?
- **Personal Paraphrase:** Have a volunteer *paraphrase* the story from what they remember after reading (without looking at the text!). Repetition is the goal, after going through the story 3 times, we can better analyze/interpret it.

Discussion~30min

- Discuss initial observations/questions and let the conversation flow.
- What other options could Amnon have done to deal with his lust for Tamar? What would you have told Amnon?
- Why does Absalom respond the way he does? Why do you think Absalom wanted King David to go with them (13:24)?
- What aspects of human nature do we see playing out in this story?
- Where is God in all of this (consider looking back at chapter 12)?

Pray and Apply~30min

Write/Journal responses to the following questions

- In what ways was your first family dysfunctional? (Unhelpful/destructive habits or sins).
- In what ways is your family dysfunctional? It may be easier to look backwards. What bad fruit/habits is your family struggling with?
- How might Jesus be inviting you to break the silence and embrace his pruning discipline? How can you seek forgiveness and start baling out the water from the leaking dysfunction?
- In what ways can your group seek and support other families that are struggling? What families do you know are struggling that you can commit to prayer this week?

Pray Together (as a whole group or break out groups)

- Share and pray over the above questions.