

2 Samuel 14

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Sermon Study Guide

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions.**

The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. Joab used the woman of Tekoa to manipulate David to act and Absalom manipulated Joab to act. There's no question that manipulation prompted action, but was this godly wisdom at work or human wisdom? What tests can we apply to discern the difference between godly and human wisdom?
2. Discuss whether God calls us to manipulate others as a means of serving His purposes?
3. In 2 Samuel 14:25-27, Absalom's style and beautiful family brought him attention. The same value system persists today, image and style are prized above all else. Why is this our default setting?
4. Why is it essential that the church hold fast to the teaching that its membership and leadership excel in Christ's character and conduct, rather than in appearance?