



# THE STORY OF DAVID DAVID'S BEST FRIEND

1 SAMUEL 18:1-16, 19:1-12

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand that God is with us all the time, through good and bad.

## WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Covenant:** an agreement or a contract

## MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **1 Samuel 18:14:** "In everything he [David] did he had great success, because the Lord was with him."

**Psalms 34:19:** "The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all."

## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 19:1-12:** After David had defeated Goliath, the giant Philistine soldier, King Saul would not allow David to return home to his father. David was successful in every mission Saul gave him, so Saul made him the leader over all of his soldiers. Jonathan, Saul's son, made a covenant with David, and gave him his robe, armor, sword, bow, and his belt as a sign of his friendship. Saul became jealous of David's success and popularity and began trying to kill him. First, he threw a spear at him, next he assigned him to lead troops in a battle against the Philistines, then he tried to get his son and servants to kill him, and finally he tried to throw a spear at him again. Each attempt was unsuccessful. Jonathan and Michal, both Saul's children, help David to escape Saul's plots to murder him.



## SUGGESTIONS

- **Sometimes trouble is not our fault:** Even though David loved God and had victory over his enemies, he still found himself in trouble with Saul. He had done nothing to anger Saul.
- **Sometimes we can get ourselves into trouble:** Saul couldn't handle David's success. He should have been happy for the young man who helped him, but instead he became jealous and tried to kill David.
- **God is with us in our troubles:** David had done nothing to deserve the treatment he received from Saul. Even though Saul was determined to kill David, God was with him, and He continued to make David successful.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

**Ages 5-7** | **Arrows of Friendship** | **Supplies:** straws, cardboard tubes, yarn, rubber bands, brown paper, glue, scissors, crayons or markers, hole punch

Cut triangles from the brown paper so that each student will have three. Cut circles from the brown paper so that each student will have one. Punch holes at the top and bottom of each cardboard tube. Give each student three straws, three brown paper triangles, a cardboard tube, a rubber band, and one brown paper circle. Instruct the students to write down something they think is important to be a good friend on each of the triangles. Instruct the students to glue the triangles to the ends of the straws to make arrows. Instruct the students to wrap the brown paper circle around one of the ends of their cardboard tube and secure it using the rubber band. Thread the yarn through the holes in the cardboard tube and tie ends in a knot. Students will have created a quiver to hold their friendship arrows.



**Ages 5-10 Friendship Necklace | Supplies:** yarn or string, cardstock, crayons or markers, scissors, hole punch, dry macaroni

Cut out heart shapes from the cardstock, and punch a hole in it. Give each student a piece of yarn or string long enough to make a necklace, a cardstock heart, and a handful of macaroni. Instruct the students to write the word Friend on their heart. Instruct students to thread their string or yarn through half of their macaroni, then thread the heart onto the yarn, and then thread the rest of the macaroni onto the yarn.

Students can give these necklaces to their friends.

**Ages 8-10 Friendship High Five | Supplies:** paper, markers or crayons

Give each student a piece of paper and crayons and markers. Instruct students to trace the outline of their hand. On each finger, instruct them to write the following phrases:

- Tell the truth
- Take turns and share
- Keep promises
- Show gratitude
- Be kind

Let students decorate the hand and the rest of the paper however they want.

MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING



**1 Samuel 18:14:** David did well in everything he did because he followed the Lord and the Lord was with him all the time.

**Psalms 34:19:** When we follow God, we are doing what is right. We may still encounter trouble, but God is always with us to help us get through it.



**POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

**Ages 5-10** **Giving the Shirt Off Your Back** | *Supplies: dress up clothes, baskets or boxes*

*Divide the class into teams.*

Divide each team into two groups and have them stand on opposite sides of the room. Place the baskets/boxes containing a number of clothing items for each team on one side of the room. On "GO!" the first student in line should put on all of the clothing in the box and run to his or her teammates on the other side of the room. The student should remove each item of clothing and give it to the first person in line. That student should then put on each item of clothing. Once fully dressed, this student runs to his or her teammates on the other side of the room and repeats the process. The first team to have had all teammates dressed wins.

**TAKE  
HOME**

- **Sometimes trouble is not our fault:** Sometimes trouble comes our way and it's not our fault. We can always rest easier knowing that God is with us and that He will give us the wisdom and strength to make it through anything that life sends our way.
- **Sometimes we can get ourselves into trouble:** Sometimes the trouble we run into in our lives is because of mistakes we make and sins we commit. Saul turned away from God, and God responded by turning away from Saul. We don't have to worry about this because of Jesus' sacrifice. Our sins have been forgiven, and God will never turn away from us!
- **God is with us in our troubles:** No matter where the trouble has come from in our lives, we can turn to God. If the trouble is not our fault, we can trust God to be with us. If the trouble is our fault, we can confess our sins and trust that God will forgive us.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What did Jonathan give to David?

**A1:** Jonathan gave David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.

**Q1b:** Have you ever given your best friend something?

**Teacher's Note:** Presents are a lovely way of showing people that we care about them. Jonathan gave David a number of very nice things, but his gift was meant to show more than just that they were friends. The things that Jonathan gave to him were symbolic of his commitment to their friendship. Jonathan's robe was likely very nice and probably expensive. Giving David his armor, bow, and sword showed that Jonathan respected David as a soldier and that he trusted him. These gifts were meant to show that David should receive the same honor, respect, and level of importance that Jonathan did as the son of the king.

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### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Who came out to greet King Saul and his army?

**A2:** Women in the towns came out to greet King Saul and his army.

**Q2b:** Which is more food: 10 Oreo cookies or one large pizza?

**TN:** Even though the number of cookies is greater than the number of pizzas, one large pizza is definitely more food than 10 Oreo cookies. If that still doesn't make sense, think about how full we would be if we had eaten either option. We might be able to eat 10 cookies, but a whole large pizza would be tough! Saul and his army took on the full Philistine army, but David took on their biggest, toughest, and meanest soldier all on his own. This is why the women sang that Saul had slain his thousands, and David had slain his ten thousands.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** What did Saul throw at David?

**A3:** Saul threw a spear at David.

**Q3b:** If you worked on a group assignment in class, would it be fair if only one person got a good grade?



**TN:** At first, it might seem like this is unfair. The answer really is that it depends on the circumstances and amount of work each person put into the project. If the one person who received the good grade really did all the work, then he or she is the only group member who deserves a good grade. Now ask students how they

would feel if one person did all the work, but everyone in the group got a good grade. While this isn't particularly fair to the one person who did all the work, no one in the group should be upset or jealous about the grade. While Saul did lead his troops into battle, he wasn't getting very far against the Philistines until David arrived. David's victory over Goliath won the battle for Israel. This was good news for Saul, but because he wasn't the only one being praised for the victory, he became angry and jealous of the attention David was receiving.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** Why did Saul give David command of a thousand men?

**A4:** Saul gave David command of a thousand men so he could send David away.

**Q4b:** Your friend offers to help you paint your room. He is doing a good job. Do you worry he will try to steal your room from you?

**TN:** That just doesn't make any sense! Why would that even be a thing someone would think about or worry over? Well, that's exactly what Saul was doing. He had appointed David to help him, and David did a good job at everything the king asked him to do. This should have appeared as a blessing, but because Saul was so concerned that David could easily take his position as king because he was an excellent soldier and all the people loved him. These thoughts caused Saul to make more and more bad decisions.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** Who did Saul tell about his plan to kill David?

**A5:** Saul told his son, Jonathan, and all his servants.

**Q5b:** What would you do if a friend told you about a plan to do something mean to someone you don't know?



**TN:** This would be a tough situation. While we would feel a need to stay loyal to our friend, we shouldn't let anyone do anything mean to another person, even a person we don't know. We should try to talk our friend out of acting on this plan, but if that doesn't work, then we should tell an adult.



### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What was David doing when Saul threw a spear at him?

**A6:** David was playing his lyre when Saul threw a spear at him.

**Q6b:** How many times should you forgive a person for lying to you or treating you badly?

**TN:** We should forgive people every time they lie to us or treat us poorly. Jesus forgave us of our sins, so we should not hold grudges against anyone. That does not mean that it is okay to let people take advantage of us or continue to hurt us emotionally or physically. Whenever someone does something to hurt us, we should learn from the experience so that we become wiser and less likely to be victims to such actions again. Saul had tried to kill David before, and even though Saul had promised not to try to kill David, he had learned from his past experiences with Saul, and he was ready to dodge the spear Saul threw at him.

**Q7a:** Where did Saul send his messengers?



SLIDE 7

QUESTION & ANSWER

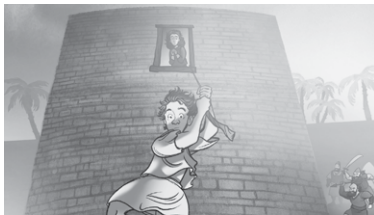


**A7:** Saul sent his messengers to David's house to make sure he didn't try to escape in the night.

**Q7b:** If David were staying in your house, how would you help him to sneak out?



**TN:** Let the students answer and be creative.







## QUESTION & ANSWER

### MEMORY VERSES

▶ **1 Samuel 18:14:** "In everything he [David] did he had great success, because the Lord was with him."

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### BIG IDEA

▶ God is with us in the good times and in the bad times.

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### CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Father God, thank You for always being with us. Help us to remain strong and continue to follow You in the face of trouble. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



After David had killed Goliath, King Saul called for David. Saul explained that he would not allow David to return home to his father. From then on, David was successful in every mission Saul gave him. His success led Saul to make him the leader of all his soldiers. This decision pleased all of Saul's people, as David was well liked by everyone. He was especially favored by Jonathan, Saul's son. Jonathan grew to love David as he loved himself. One day, Jonathan made a covenant with David and gave him his robe, armor, sword, bow, and his belt as a sign of their friendship.

### SLIDE 2



When Saul and his army journeyed home after defeating the Philistines, the women in the towns came out to greet them and celebrate their victory. They sang and danced to songs of joy played on their instruments. They sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

### SLIDE 3



This well-meaning song did not please King Saul at all, as it gave David credit for more of the victory. In his anger, he became jealous and suspicious of David, wondering if he would try to take his kingdom from him. From that moment on, Saul kept a close eye on David. The next day, as usual, David was playing his lyre for Saul when an evil spirit from God came on Saul. Thinking to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall," Saul grabbed a spear and threw it at David. Saul threw the spear at David twice, but David dodged it both times.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



Because Saul could see that the Lord was with David and that the Lord was no longer with him, Saul was afraid of David. In an attempt to send David away from him, Saul gave him command over a thousand men. David led the troops in their campaigns, and he was successful in everything he did because the Lord was with him. All of Israel and Judah loved David because he led them in their campaigns. Seeing how successful and loved David was made Saul's fear grow even more.

### SLIDE 5



After a failed attempt to have David killed in battle against the Philistines, Saul made a new plan to kill him. Saul spoke to his son, Jonathan, and all his servants and told them to kill David. Jonathan, who was David's friend, told David about his father's plan. "My father is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning and go into hiding," Jonathan warned. Jonathan promised to go to his father and speak on David's behalf. The next day, Jonathan reminded Saul of the good that David had done for him and that he had done nothing to him. "Do not sin against your servant David, as he has not sinned against you," he pleaded. Saul listened to his son and made a promise, saying, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death."





## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 6



Jonathan told David the whole conversation, and he brought him to Saul. Life returned to normal, and David stayed with Saul as he had before. Once more, war broke out with the Philistines, and David went out to fight them. He struck them with such force that they fled before him. One day, after he had returned from battle, David was playing his lyre for Saul when an evil spirit from the Lord came upon the king. Just as before, Saul grabbed a spear and threw it at David. The spear missed David and became stuck in the wall. David fled to his home.

### SLIDE 7



Saul sent messengers to David's house to make sure that he did not escape in the night. Saul wanted them to bring David to him in the morning so that he could kill him. Michal, one of Saul's daughters who had been given to David to be his wife, told David that he needed to leave. She warned her beloved husband, "If you do not escape tonight, tomorrow you will be killed!" Michal helped David get out of their house by climbing out a window and down the wall so that he could escape unseen by Saul's men.

