



TEACHER BOOK

YEAR 2 • BOOK 2

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Generations of Grace
13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

www.generationsofgrace.com

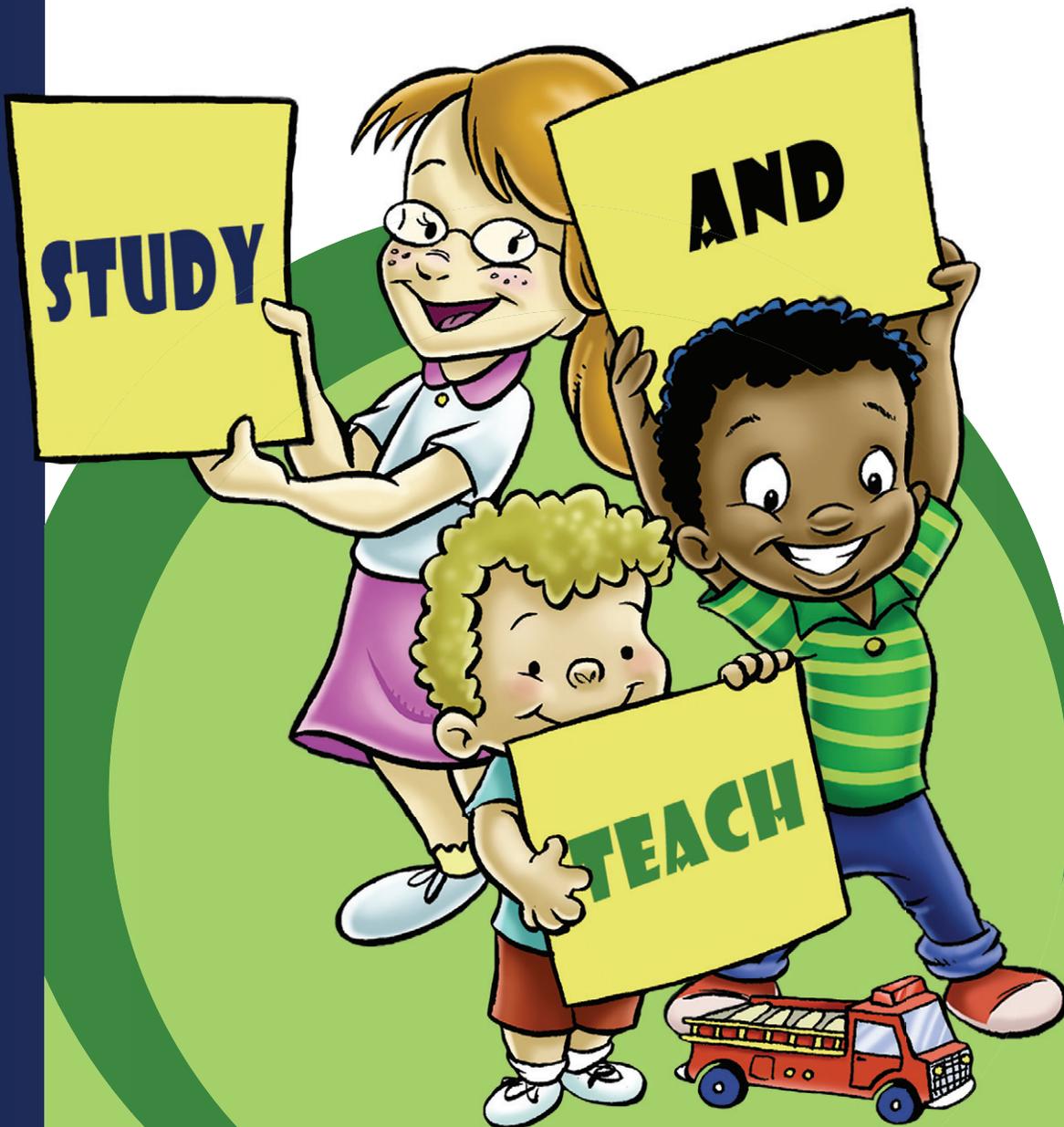
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ISBN 978-1-4951-8704-9

WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to edify your teachers, evangelize your children, and encourage your families.



Study the Lesson

This section is designed to edify and equip teachers and to guide you through the preparation of an age appropriate Bible lesson.

- **Central Truth** – Identifies the theme and focal point of lesson.
- **Supporting Truths** – Provides appropriate objectives for mastering the central truth.
- **Spotlight on the Gospel** – Explains how each lesson connects to the gospel.
- **Lesson Commentary** – Communicates the truth of each lesson to the teacher's heart and mind.



Teach the Lesson

Use the child involvement resources to engage children from the moment they walk into the classroom until pick-up time.

- **Outlines** – Guide both teachers and children through the lesson.
- **Lesson Questions** – Foster greater interaction between teacher and child.
- **Activities** – Creative opening ideas, visual aids, and crafts to introduce, illustrate, and apply lesson.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Family Devotional**

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LESSON 14

God gives Israel a prophet and judge

1 SAMUEL 1:1-7:17



God graciously provides for His people.



“And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked for him from the LORD’” (1 Sam 1:20).

Supporting Truths

1. God gives grace to His people.
2. God gives grace to the humble.
3. God is opposed to the proud.
4. God gives grace, but He is still holy.
5. To receive God’s grace, one must repent.

Objectives

1. Explain how Samuel was a gracious gift to Hannah and to all Israel.
2. Compare Hannah’s humble prayer to Israel’s humble repentance.
3. Compare God’s response to the proud priests to His response to Israel’s proud use of the ark.
4. List 3 examples of people failing to treat God as holy.
5. Describe the parts of Israel’s repentance.



Lesson Summary

At the end of the period of the judges, a barren woman named Hannah cried out to God for a son. God showed grace to her by giving her a son. But God's grace to Hannah was just the beginning. Through her son, Samuel, God would show His grace to all Israel. Samuel proclaimed God's word to Israel, led Israel in repentance, and prayed so that God defeated Israel's enemy, the Philistines.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The story of Samuel is a story of God's grace, freely providing salvation to those who have not earned it. It is also a story of the Messiah, since through Samuel God would anoint the king whose descendant would be Jesus. Today, God offers grace through Jesus Christ, whose death pays for sin. But to receive this forgiveness in Christ, we must realize God's holiness, repent, and trust Christ alone.

LAST WEEK



God's sovereignty in the
book of Ruth
Ruth 1:1-4:22

THIS WEEK



God gives Israel a
prophet and judge
1 Samuel 1:1-7:17

NEXT WEEK



Israel rejects God as
King
1 Samuel 8:1-12:25

Lesson Commentary

God graciously provides for His people.

First Samuel begins where Judges ends. Israel had forsaken their God. Even the priests were wicked. Israel's only hope was for God's gracious intervention. And God did intervene. First Samuel begins with an unlikely story of God's grace to one woman. Why? Because the same God who graciously provided a son to barren Hannah would also use that son to graciously provide a leader to the needy nation of Israel. Through that son, Samuel, God would reveal His word to Israel, lead Israel to repentance, deliver them from the Philistines, and eventually anoint David as king. Samuel was a gift of God's grace, both to Hannah and to all Israel.

The LORD gave Hannah a son (1 Sam 1:1–2:10)

God's grace to Israel began with His gift to a barren woman. This woman was Hannah, and her name even means "grace." Grace is the blessing, favor, kindness, and pleasure that God shows to those who have not earned it. At first it does not seem like God was showing Hannah grace, because He caused her to be barren: childless (1 Sam 1:6). However, like other barren women in the Bible—Sarah (Gen 11:30), Rebekah (Gen 25:20–26), Rachel (Gen 29:31–30:24), Manoah's wife (Judg 13), and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5)—Hannah would, by God's grace, bear a very important son.

But before blessing Hannah, God used trouble to drive Hannah to Himself. He used Peninnah's cruel mockery to bring Hannah to tears, and in her tears, Hannah cried out to the LORD (1 Sam 1:6–10). God is sovereign, using even sinful actions and sorrow in order to bring about His gracious plan (Gen 50:20; Rom 8:28).

In her sorrow, Hannah cried out to God in a beautiful prayer. She poured out her complaint to God (1 Sam 1:16; Ps 142:2), but she prayed to Him in faith, calling Him "The LORD of hosts" (1 Sam 1:11), the sovereign ruler over all. She made her own request known to God (1 Sam 1:11a; Phil 4:6), but she desired that God would be honored through His answer to her prayer (1 Sam 1:11b; Matt 6:9–10). Finally, after praying, she experienced God's peace (1 Sam 1:18; Phil 4:7).



God answered Hannah's prayer, and Hannah named her son Samuel, which means "one requested from God." Hannah knew Samuel was a gift from God, so she sang another beautiful prayer. In this song Hannah praised the LORD for His holiness and grace. He is holy: there is none like Him (1 Sam 2:2). He will not allow those who oppress His people to prosper. He is also gracious: He lifts up the humble (2:7–8). Just as God did for Hannah, so He would do for all Israel, thundering against their enemies and providing a king to rule over Israel (2:10). In the same way, God continues to exalt all who will humble themselves before Him (Jas 4:10).

The LORD gave Israel a prophet (1 Sam 2:18–4:1)

Unfortunately, Israel ignored God's holiness. As priests, Eli's sons were to be holy, dedicated completely to God. But they took advantage of their exalted position and lived only for themselves (1 Sam 2:12–17, 22). They used the sacrifices, which were most holy to God, to satisfy their own desires. They persisted in their sin so long that eventually God hardened them, ensuring God's judgment of their sin (2:25; Rom 1:24).

Eli was also guilty. Although he told his sons to stop (1 Sam 2:23–25), his words were empty, since he did nothing to stop them. He honored his wicked sons more than the holy God

THINK ABOUT IT

God opposes those who despise His holiness, whether they actively disobey or just tolerate evil.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God gives Israel a prophet and judge • 1 Samuel 1:1–7:17



(2:29). As a result, God revealed that He would punish Eli's family—his two sons would die on the same day (2:30–34).

In contrast to Eli's sons, Samuel served the LORD (2:11). As Samuel grew up, he also grew in godliness, maturing both spiritually and socially (2:26; cf. Luke 2:52). The contrast between Eli's family and Hannah's family shows that God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Sam 2:21, 34; Jas 4:6). Samuel's growth in godliness also shows that even when evil seems rampant, God is at work quietly accomplishing His gracious plan.

God showed grace to all of Israel by raising Samuel up as their prophet. Samuel was ready to obey as God's faithful servant (1 Sam 3:10), and even though the first prophecy was bad news, Samuel spoke God's word faithfully (3:11–18). God's word had been rare in Israel (3:1), but through Samuel, God's word came again to all Israel, from the northern boundary at Dan to the southern boundary at Beersheba (3:20). God's words through Samuel were a precious gift to His people Israel.

The LORD gave Israel a judge (1 Sam 4–7)

Like their priests, Israel did not treat God as holy. When Israel carried the ark of the covenant into battle against the Philistines, they were using it like a good-luck charm (1 Sam 4). They thought they could use the symbol of God's presence to get whatever they wanted. However, God punished Israel for failing to treat Him as holy, allowing the Philistines to defeat Israel, kill 30,000 men, and capture the ark. By causing Israel to lose, God showed He could not be used. He must be treated as holy.

The Philistines believed that Israel's defeat showed that their god, Dagon, was greater than the LORD. They took the ark and put it in the Dagon's temple to show the LORD's weakness (5:2). But God would not allow this Philistine idol to stand next to the ark. He humiliated Dagon and struck the Philistines with a terrible plague (5:3–6). Eventually, the Philistines returned the ark, admitting that they had sinned and that they had no power over the LORD (6:1–12).

When the ark came to Bethshemesh, the Israelites there still failed to treat God as holy (6:19). God's judgment was devastating. While the Philistines killed only 30,000 Israelites, God Himself killed 50,070 Israelites after some of the men did not treat the ark as holy. Because God is holy, He is to be feared above all.

Finally, after 20 years of Samuel faithfully proclaiming God's word to Israel, Israel began to seek the LORD (7:2). Samuel knew that true repentance requires confessing sin, turning away from sin, and turning to God alone. So he called Israel to get rid of their idols and worship God alone, and Israel obeyed (7:3–6).

When the Philistines prepared to attack again, Israel asked Samuel to cry out to God on their behalf, and God heard Samuel's prayer. He confused the Philistines by thundering against them, just as Hannah had predicted in her song of praise (7:10; 2:10). So God's people should not let difficulty turn them away from seeking God. To those who seek God first, God provides everything they need (Matt 6:33).

After their defeat of the Philistines, Samuel set up a stone called "Ebenezer," which means "stone of help" (1 Sam 7:12). He said, "The LORD has helped us up to this point." Everything that had happened—even Israel's defeat, the deaths of the priests, the loss of the ark, and the judgment at Beth-Shemesh—all this was for Israel's good. God was helping them to know their own sinfulness, recognize God's holiness, repent, and trust in His power.

The story of Samuel is a gospel story. It is a story of God's grace, freely providing salvation to those who have not earned it. It is a story of God's holiness, demanding true repentance and worship of God alone. It is also a story of the Messiah, since through Samuel God would anoint the king whose descendant would be Jesus. Today, God offers grace through Jesus Christ, whose death pays for sin. But to receive this forgiveness in Christ, we must realize God's holiness, repent, and trust Christ alone.

THINK ABOUT IT

"Who is able to stand before Yahweh, this holy God?" (6:20).



Lesson Outline

God graciously provides for His people.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Hannah could not have children (1:1–8).
2. Hannah asked the LORD for a son (1:9–18).
3. The LORD gave Hannah a son (1:19–28).
4. Hannah praised the LORD for her son (2:1–10).
5. Hannah's son served the LORD (2:11, 18–21, 26; 3:1–4:1).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. The LORD gave Hannah a son (1 Sam 1:1–2:10)
 - Problem: God kept Hannah from having children, and Peninnah insulted her (1:1–8).
 - Hannah asked God for a son (1:9–18).
 - Hannah had a son and devoted him to the LORD (1:19–28).
 - Hannah praised the LORD for showing grace to the humble (2:1–10).
2. The LORD gave Israel a prophet (1 Sam 2:11–4:1)
 - Problem: Eli's sons despised the LORD, so the LORD would kill them (2:12–17, 22–25, 27–36).
 - Samuel grew and served in the LORD's presence (2:11, 18–21, 26).
 - The LORD called Samuel to be His prophet, and Samuel was ready (3:1–4:1).
3. The LORD gave Israel a judge (1 Sam 7).
 - Problem: Israel did not treat God as holy, so many Israelites were killed (4:1–7:1).
 - Israel finally began to seek the LORD (7:2).
 - Samuel led Israel to truly repent (7:3–6).
 - Samuel cried out to God, and God defeated the Philistines (7:7–14).
 - Samuel kept judging Israel (7:15–17).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What was Hannah's problem?**
She was barren. She could not have children, and Peninnah made fun of her because of this.
- 2. What did Hannah do?**
She prayed to God.
- 3. How did God show grace to Hannah?**
He gave her a son.
- 4. How was Samuel a gift to all Israel?**
God used Samuel to teach Israel God's word.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. How did Hannah's prayer show her humility?**
She trusted that God was in control of all things. She wanted God to be honored through her son.
- 2. What did Hannah praise God for when He answered her prayer?**
She praised God for His holiness, for opposing the proud but giving grace to the humble, and for being faithful to His anointed king.
- 3. How did Eli and his sons despise God's holiness?**
Eli's sons took whatever meat they wanted from God's sacrifices and were immoral. Eli did not honor God by stopping his sons' sin.
- 4. What happened to Eli and his sons?**
Both sons died in battle. Eli died later the same day after hearing of the ark's capture and his sons' death.
- 5. What happened when Israel tried to use the ark like a good-luck charm?**
God caused them to be defeated and the ark to be captured. He showed them He couldn't be used.
- 6. What happened when the Philistines brought the ark into Dagon's temple?**
The LORD knocked Dagon down, cut him in pieces, and struck the Philistines with a plague. He showed them He was the true God.
- 7. What happened when the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark?**
God killed 50,070 of them. He showed them that He must be feared because He is holy.
- 8. What did Israel's repentance look like?**
They confessed their sin, destroyed their idols, worshiped God alone, and trusted Him to save them from the Philistines.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

Bring in an audio recording of various sounds. Play the sounds and ask the children to raise their hands when they know what each sound is. Call on children to identify each sound. You could even have the sounds play from different sides of the room. Ask the children what the sound was and where it came from. In today's lesson, the children will hear about a boy who heard something very special coming from an unexpected place.

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

Samuel was a prophet. Ask the children what they think a prophet is. Explain that a prophet was a person who spoke for God. Get a bullhorn, or make one out of paper, and using it, say today's memory verse with the children. Explain that a prophet is a person who acts like a megaphone. God used His prophets as mouth-pieces to speak His words. He used them to catch the people's attention and turn the people back to Him.



THREE WRAPPED PRESENTS

Bring three large wrapped packages for the children to open during the lesson. The first should contain a baby doll (Samuel). The second should contain a Bible, since prophets brought the word of God. The third may contain a stone to represent the Ebenezer stone of 1 Samuel 7:12. Other possibilities could be a judge's gavel, a military medal, or a captain's hat.

PROPS

As you teach throughout the story, use props to illustrate major aspects or events. For example, a baby bottle can be used to illustrate Hannah raising Samuel until he was weaned. Baby clothing of various sizes could be used to illustrate that Hannah would bring Samuel clothes every year. A pillow could be used to illustrate that God spoke to Samuel as he was lying down. A thin sheet of metal or a cookie sheet could be used to make thunder sound effects by shaking or striking a thin sheet of metal while reading about God's thunder in 1 Samuel 7:10.



GOD'S GIFT OF SAMUEL

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, string, hole punch, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures from craft sheet and punch two holes in the top of each picture. Have students color the pictures. Help them to put the pictures on the string in the proper order, as shown below. Tie off the ends of the string.

God's Gift of Samuel
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God gives Israel a prophet and judge • 1 Samuel 1:1–7:17



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

HANNAH'S HOPE

The events in today's lesson can be acted out to illustrate for the children what it may have been like for Hannah and Samuel. Ask a female volunteer to dress up as Hannah and tell the story as a monologue from Hannah's perspective.

WHAT IS HONOR?

Ask the children who the most important person in the country is. Ask them why they think that person is important. To honor someone is to think of that person as important. God is the most important person in the universe. Ask the children why God is important. Explain that honor also is placing value or worth on someone. Ask the children what kinds of gifts they would give to a very important person. God is infinitely more important than any person on earth. What kinds of gifts would show God that you think He is important? What kinds of attitudes and actions could you give God as gifts to show Him you think He is important?



ILLUSTRATE

GRACE: FREELY GIVEN

Bring in two 1 dollar bills. Give one away freely. For the other, require a child to accomplish an impossible number of demands (all good ones, like memorizing a book of the Bible). Explain the difference between how each child received the dollar bill. So God showed grace to Hannah and to Israel in giving Samuel to them when they didn't deserve it.

LIKE A GREAT FIRE

Explain that God's holiness is like fire. Fire is a good thing—it gives us light, warmth, and energy—but if we treat fire lightly we will get burned.



APPLY

SAMUEL HEARS GOD SPEAK

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheet, white paper, scissors, tape, and crayons.

Directions: Cut the pieces from the craft sheet. Color the boy Samuel. Make cuts on the picture along the dotted lines. Place the strip with the arrow behind the picture. Tape another piece of paper to the back to form a pocket that is tight enough to hold the strip, but loose enough to allow it to move up and down. Color the back strip accordingly. Move strip up and down to change Samuel from being asleep to being awake.

Samuel Hears God Speak
See *Year2 Craft Book, Book 1*.



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

MATERNAL TESTIMONY

Invite to class a mother who had a difficult time becoming pregnant. She can share her testimony of how God provided a child (or children) for her, answering a prayer similar to Hannah's.

A GREAT GIFT

Ask the children to think about the greatest gift they have ever received. Now tell the children to imagine that they loved the person who gave the gift so much that once they received the gift, they gave it back to him. In today's story, a woman named Hannah received an amazing gift, one that she had wanted for a very long time. She wanted a child, but God had not given one to her. She asked God for a child and promised that she would give the child back to God. God blessed her with a son, and Hannah kept her promise. She raised the child for a few years and then gave him back to God. God would use that child to do amazing things for Him.



ILLUSTRATE

HOLINESS

A hundred dollar bill looks valuable, until it touches the flames. We too, like Eli and his sons, overestimate our importance. But when we come into contact with God's holiness, our true value is revealed. But what happens when a metal coin goes into the flame? When Christ transforms us, we become righteous in God's sight, and God's holiness will not consume us.

PROPHET OR JUDGE

During the lesson, list the things that refer to Samuel as prophet and Samuel as judge on the marker board. After the lesson, play a review game.

Samuel the Prophet

1. Set apart to God (1:21–23)
2. Ministered to the Lord (2:11; 3:1)
3. God had called him (3:8)
4. God was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground (3:19)
5. Established as a prophet of the Lord (3:20)

Samuel the Judge

1. Called Israel to get rid of idols and turn to the Lord with all their hearts (7:3)
2. Confessed Israel's sins to God (7:5–6)
3. Offered a sacrifice to God and prayed for Israel's deliverance (7:8–9)
4. Set up a memorial stone (7:12)
5. Judged Israel throughout his life (7:16–17)



APPLY

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

Ask the children if they tell their mom and dad what to do. What would happen if they did this? Why? If they need their parents to do something for them, do they tell them or ask them? Because their parents are in charge, they must honor them and act humbly before them. What happens if they are proud towards them? They are disciplined. The same is true (only in a much greater way!) with God. We cannot tell God what to do. We can only ask humbly, and let Him decide what is best.



LESSON 15

Israel rejects God as King

1 SAMUEL 8:1-12:25



God is still King even when His people reject Him.



“But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us’” (1 Sam 10:19).

Supporting Truths

1. God is King.
2. We reject God as King when we trust in people or things instead of God.
3. God is still King because He is still in control.
4. God deserves to be treated as King because His is powerful and kind.
5. When we reject God as King, we must repent and return to Him.

Objectives

1. List two things God did for Israel as Israel’s King.
2. Explain why Israel wanted a human king.
3. Explain how God controlled the circumstances and used Saul.
4. Describe the storm and explain why God is still faithful to His people.
5. Explain what Samuel told Israel to do when they saw God’s power in the storm.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

Israel rejects God as King • 1 Samuel 8:1–12:25



Lesson Summary

Samuel felt rejected when Israel asked for a king. But Israel was actually rejecting God as their King. They wanted a human king in order to be like all the nations around them. So God gave them Saul, a king similar to those of the surrounding nations. Despite their poor choice, God used Saul to rescue Israel from the Ammonites.

Spotlight on the Gospel

God used Israel's sinful request to establish the kingship in Israel. Although Saul was not a godly king, the next king, David, was a man after God's own heart. Through David the prophesied King would come—Jesus, the King of kings. All who trust in Jesus as King of their life will be saved, because King Jesus died to defeat sin and rose to defeat death.

LAST WEEK



God gives Israel a prophet
and judge

1 Samuel 1:1–7:17

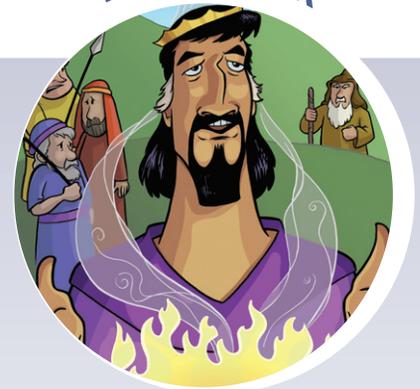
THIS WEEK



Israel rejects God as
King

1 Samuel 8:1–12:25

NEXT WEEK



Saul disobeys God

1 Samuel 13:1–15:35

UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson Commentary

God is still King even when His people reject Him.

The revival under Samuel restored Israel to God and reunited the twelve tribes. Samuel truly was a gift of God's grace. But as Samuel grew old, his sons failed to follow his godly example. So the elders of Israel came to Samuel at Ramah to ask for a human king. Their request was reasonable. Samuel was aging and his sons had disqualified themselves from leadership. However, the Israelites sinned when they sought protection from a human king in the place of God at their King. Even so, despite man's rejection of God, He remains King and continues to reign from His throne in heaven.

Israel rejected the LORD as their king (8:1–22)

Because Samuel's sons broke God's law for judges (1 Sam 8:3; Deut 16:19) and the system of judges was failing, it seemed logical to seek a new form of government. So the elders of Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king (1 Sam 8:5). After all, God had revealed that Israel would have a king, and the prophecies of a coming king contained blessings, not warnings (Gen 35:11; 36:31; 49:10; Num 24:7, 9, 17; Deut 17:14–20).

So why was Samuel upset when Israel asked for a king (1 Sam 8:6)? The request for a king was not sinful in itself. Rather, it was the motivation behind the request. It was wrong because Israel was called to be holy as God is *holy*. They were called to be *different* because God is different (Lev 20:26). But they wanted a king in order to be like all the nations around them (1 Sam 8:20). It was also wrong because God was the one who went before them and fought their battles (Exod 14:14; Deut 3:22; Josh 10:14). But Israel wanted a human king to go before them and fight their battles (1 Sam 8:20). Israel foolishly put their hope in human kings and not in God (Ps 118:8–9; 146:3).

God told Samuel to warn Israel (1 Sam 8:9). Israel had thought only of what the king would do for them, but

Samuel warned of all the king would take from them (8:10–18). But they would not listen. So God granted them their request, allowing them to feel for themselves the pain a king would bring (8:22).

How often we commit the same error as Israel! We strive to be like the world around us, and when trouble finds us, we look to worldly methods and personalities for salvation (Jas 4:4; 1 John 2:15–17). But the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the power of God is greater also (1 Cor 1:25). Let us look only to Him in our time of need.

The LORD gave Israel a human king (9:1–10:1)

God was still *sovereign*, *in control* even over Israel's sinful choice. He controlled all the details—the lost donkeys, the unsuccessful search, and the servant's suggestion. It was God who brought Saul to Samuel, just as He planned (1 Sam 9:1–16; Prov 16:9; 20:24). He chose Saul as king, not because Saul was fit to be king, but because Saul was what Israel wanted. He was tall and handsome, just like the kings of the nations surrounding them (1 Sam 9:2; cf. Deut 1:28; 2:10; 9:2). Israel would get the king they deserved—tall, handsome, and godless.

But God can use even a sinful request to accomplish His purpose. Through Saul, God would rescue Israel from their enemies (1 Sam 9:16). And despite Israel's rejection of God, He had compassion on them. Truly God's *mercy*, *His kindness to those who do not deserve it*, is very great (Ps 103:11).

God used Saul as king to rescue Israel (10:2–11:15)

Before using Saul, God confirmed that Saul was to be His servant. Samuel predicted three detailed signs showing that Saul was God's choice (1 Sam 10:2–7). Since he was God's choice, Saul was to be God's

THINK ABOUT IT

It is a warning to be careful what we pray for. Answered prayers are not necessarily good prayers.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

Israel rejects God as King • 1 Samuel 8:1–12:25



servant, submitting to God's word spoken through Samuel (10:8). Israel's kings were always to obey God's word spoken through the prophets.

God then confirmed to the people that Saul was His choice for king. This did not change the sinfulness of Israel's request, as Samuel pointed out again (10:12–19). Even Saul's timid behavior while hiding among the luggage did nothing to convince Israel that he might be the wrong choice for king (10:22). Ironically, the people

thought a king could save them, yet they could not even find their king without God's help. After this ceremony, Samuel again affirmed that Saul's authority was under the authority of God's word (10:25).

Having confirmed Saul's position, God began to use Saul to free Israel from Ammonite oppression. Nahash, whose name means "snake," was threatening to mutilate the warriors of Jabesh-Gilead (11:1–2). But the Spirit transformed Saul from a timid farmer into a brilliant military general (11:6). In less than a week, Saul united Israel, assembled an army of over 300,000 men, coordinated an all-night march, and utterly defeated a foreign enemy before the heat of the day. All this from a man who couldn't even find his father's donkeys! Clearly it was God, not any human leader, who won the victory.

Samuel rebuked Israel for rejecting the LORD (12:1–12:25)

As Israel officially crowned Saul king, Samuel tried once more to lead the nation to repentance. He began by reminding Israel of his faithful service (12:1–5). He then reminded Israel of times in the past when disaster threatened and God delivered them (12:6–11). But this time, when Israel was in need, they cried out not to God but to a human king (12:12). Even though they could recall numerous instances of God's deliverance,

they quickly forgot His faithfulness and chased after man-made solutions.

Samuel offered a final reminder: God sent thunder and rain during harvest (12:16–17). This was proof that Samuel was speaking for God, since thunder and rain almost never occurred at that time of year. Rain during harvest could destroy the crops, ruining months of labor in a moment. It was proof that God was still Israel's king, whether they recognized Him or not. If Israel continued in rebellion against God, no king would be able to rescue them from God's wrath (12:15, 25). When Israel saw how terrible their sin was in God's eyes, they feared God as they should (12:18).

Although God detested their sin and demanded obedience, He was *faithful*. He would not abandon His people. Why? Because He had chosen them, and He would not go back on His choice. For the sake of His name, He would never reject them (1 Sam 12:22; Isa 48:9). Samuel too would faithfully fulfill his duty to pray for Israel (1 Sam 12:23).

The nation had their earthly king, but their allegiance still belonged to the King of heaven (12:14–15). Before this King all men will one day stand to give an account of everything they have ever thought, said, and done (Rom 14:10, 12). At this time every knee will bow before Him (Rom 14:11). Let us bow before this great King while we yet live, seeking His grace and forgiveness while it may be found.

THINK ABOUT IT

They traded the glory of immortal God for the glory of mortal man (Rom 1:23).



THINK ABOUT IT

God's law is over every person, no matter how great their earthly authority.

Lesson Outline

God is still King even when His people reject Him.



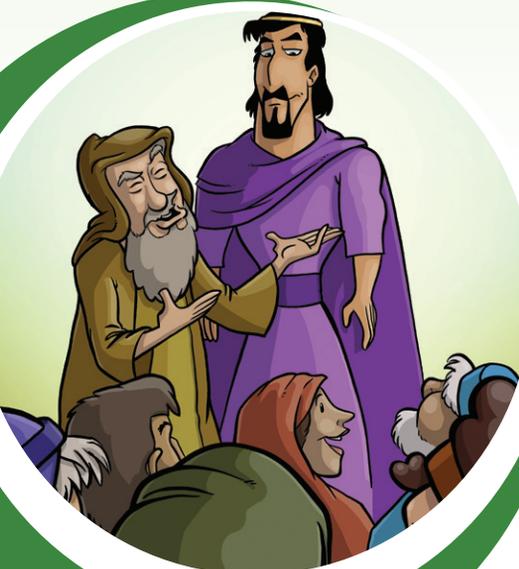
AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Israel wanted a king just like the people around them (8:1–22).
2. God gave them a king just like the people around them (9:1–10:1).
3. God used Saul to rescue Israel (10:2–11:15).
4. Samuel told Israel to repent for rejecting God as their king (12:1–25).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Israel rejected the LORD as their king (8:1–22).
 - Samuel was old and his sons were dishonest (8:1–3).
 - Israel wanted a king just like all the other nations (8:4–5).
 - The LORD revealed why Israel wanted a king (8:6–9).
 - Israel did not listen to Samuel's warning (8:10–22).
2. The LORD gave Israel a human king (9:1–10:1).
 - Saul was tall, good-looking, and godless (9:1–8).
 - The LORD directed Saul to Samuel (9:3–17).
 - Samuel anointed Saul as king (9:18–10:1).
3. God used Saul to rescue Israel (10:2–11:15).
 - God confirmed His choice of Saul as king (10:2–27).
 - The Spirit empowered Saul to defeat Israel's enemy (11:1–11).
 - Israel made Saul their king (11:12–15).
4. Samuel rebuked Israel for rejecting the LORD (12:1–12:25).
 - Israel knew that Samuel was trustworthy (12:1–5).
 - Israel had not trusted the One who had rescued them in the past (12:6–12).
 - No king could protect those who rebel against the LORD (12:13–18, 25).
 - Israel should fear and worship the LORD, who will not abandon His people (12:19–24).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did Israel want?**
They wanted a human king like the nations around them.
- 2. Why did they want a human king?**
They wanted a human king because they did not trust God to save them.
- 3. Who was the king God gave them?**
Saul.
- 4. What did Samuel tell them to do?**
Samuel told them to repent and worship God as their true King.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did Israel want a king?**
They wanted to be like the nations around them. They did not trust God to fight their battles as their King.
- 2. Did they listen to Samuel's warning?**
No. They chose foolish human thinking instead of God's wisdom.
- 3. What kind of a king did God give them?**
God gave them a tall, handsome, and godless king. Saul was the king they asked for and the king they deserved.
- 4. Was God still King? How do you know?**
God was still King. He controlled the events to make Saul king, and He changed Saul and gave Saul power to deliver Israel.
- 5. Did God reject His people when they rejected Him?**
No. He still had compassion on them, and He used Saul to save them.
- 6. Why was it silly for Israel to choose a human king in the place of God?**
(1) Because God had already proven that He could rescue them; (2) Their problems were the result of sin, not lack of a king; (3) A human king could do nothing without God; (4) A human king could not protect against God's wrath.
- 7. What did God do to show Israel how much He hated their request for a king?**
He sent thunder and rain during wheat harvest.
- 8. What did Samuel tell Israel to do?**
Samuel did not tell Israel to get rid of their new human king. Instead, he said that Israel and their king should worship God as the true King.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

A KING—GOOD OR BAD?

In today's lesson, Israel demands a king from Samuel. Although asking for a king was not wrong in itself, God warned Israel about the dangers of having a king. Like many other things, a king could bring both good and harm. Bring a number of objects to class and ask the children whether they are good or bad (knife, medicine, food, stick, money, matches, handcuffs, etc.). These things can be either helpful or harmful, depending on who uses them and how they are used. God warned Israel that their kings would ultimately bring them harm rather than good.

WHO SAYS?

Play a game of "Simon Says" with the children. After the game, ask the children what happens when someone doesn't follow the directions Simon gives them (they are out of the game). Then ask the children if they can just replace Simon if they don't like his directions. Maybe they think they or someone else can do a better job? Explain that that is what the nation of Israel does in today's lesson. They did not want to follow God's directions anymore and replaced Him with a human king.



ILLUSTRATE

SAUL STANDS OUT IN A CROWD

Have one teacher sit in the middle of the children during the lesson. When it comes time to describe God choosing Saul in 1 Samuel 9:2, have the children stand up and the teacher stand up in the middle. Wow! He really stands out in a crowd. The point to remember is that God is the one who chose Saul.

OBJECTS OF A KING

Make use of objects to teach about some of the functions of a king. As the lesson progresses, a child can be called up to hold one or more of the objects. A crown, robe, scepter, Bible, sword, shield, money, treasure, picture of horses, food, etc., can all be used as you explain God's warning to Israel.



APPLY

GOD IS KING CROWN

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut the shapes from the craft sheet. Have the children color the shapes. Give each student a crown made of construction paper or bulletin-board borders. Have them color the crown and glue on the shapes from the craft sheet.



God is King Crown
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

Israel rejects God as King • 1 Samuel 8:1–12:25



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

EXPECTATIONS

Have you ever wanted something so badly that you thought you would burst if you didn't get it? Maybe you waited day after day, counting down how much time was left until it arrived. But after receiving it, you soon discovered that it was not all that you had thought it would be. You were actually disappointed and not very happy with it. In today's lesson, the children of Israel say that they want a king. Once God gives them a king, however, they realize that he is not all that they thought he would be.

THE IGNORED WARNING

Have you ever been warned not to do something? Warnings are good to listen to because they can save you from a lot of pain and problems later. When Israel said that they wanted a king, Samuel warned them that it would mean some very painful things. Their sons and daughters would be taken from them. They would one day regret having this king that they were asking for. But even though they were warned, Israel still wanted to have a king like the other nations.



ILLUSTRATE

GOD VERSUS A HUMAN KING

Make two different kinds of crowns, one elaborately decorated and one made from plain paper with marks and tears on it. Begin the story by wearing the gold crown, and explain to the children that Israel had no human king because God was their king. Review some of the ways God had protected and provided for Israel. As you go through the lesson, explain that Israel rejected God as their king and chose rather to have a human king. Put on the poorly made crown, and explain that even the best human king could not rule as well as God had.

DANGER AHEAD

Bring a traffic warning sign ("Danger Ahead") to class. Use this object to begin a discussion about some of the signs that warn us when we have rejected God as our king. Some warning signs include: (1) Disobeying God's commands in the Bible; (2) Rebellion against God's representatives: parents, teachers, and government (police); and (3) Rejection or apathy towards God's church.



APPLY

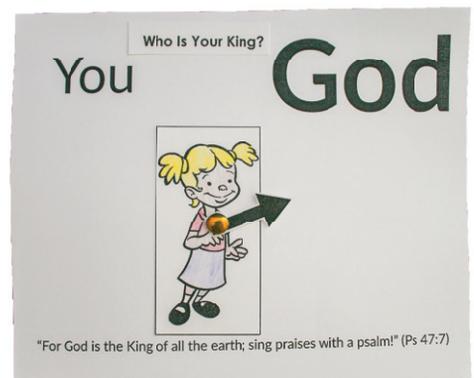
WHO IS YOUR KING?

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, brads, and crayons.

Directions: Have the children color and cut out the pieces. Glue the picture to the middle of the craft sheet. Attach the arrow with a brad. Glue a strip that says "Who Is Your King" to the top of the craft sheet.

Who Is Your King?
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

Have you ever wanted something because everyone else has it? Many people think that if they could have a particular thing, they would be happy. This wrong belief was a problem in Samuel's day, too. Israel wanted to be like everyone else. They wanted a king just like the other nations. They thought that having a human king would be better than having God as their leader. Today, we often think that we are better leaders of ourselves than God, just as Israel did.

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

Ask the children whether they have heard the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover." This means that we shouldn't decide whether the inside of a book is good based on the picture or title on the cover. This applies to people, too. But just because the outside is impressive doesn't mean that the inside is, too. And the inside is what counts; it is what God cares about. The people of Israel saw Saul and thought that because he was tall and handsome, he would make a good leader. They judged the book by the cover and didn't ask the truly important questions.



ILLUSTRATE

THE EVERLASTING KING

Ask the children if the lights are on in the classroom. Then put a blindfold over your eyes, blocking out all light. Again, ask the children if the lights are on. When they say "yes," respond with "no." Continue to do this, trying to convince the children that the lights are not on because you can't see them through your blindfold. Finally, tell the children that God exists and rules over all men whether they accept Him as king or not.

WHAT IS YOUR WISDOM IQ?

A person with an IQ of 130 is considered smart. A genius has an IQ above 150. Einstein's IQ was 230. But the IQ of man does not compare with the wisdom of God. God always knows what is best in every situation. As you grow older, you will encounter many tough situations where people will give you their opinions of what you should do. That is what we call human wisdom. That does not compare with the wisdom that God gives us through His Word. List some life situations and what human wisdom would tell us to do. Then, discuss what God's wisdom would have us do .



APPLY

WHO RULES YOUR HEART?

Have the children write down what they did this week. Ask them how much television they watched throughout the week, how many hours of sports they played, and how long they spent on the phone with friends. After asking them about the activities they did for themselves, ask them how much time they spent serving God in ministry and spending time in prayer and Bible study. Discuss how a person would determine who their king is. Finally ask them to take a look at their own heart to determine who rules it.



LESSON 16

Saul disobeys God

1 SAMUEL 13:1-15:35



God rejects those who reject His word.



“And Samuel said, ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams . . . Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king’” (1 Sam 15:22–23).

Supporting Truths

1. Disobedience is not doing all that God says.
2. Disobedience comes from a heart that despises God’s word.
3. Disobedience comes from an idolatrous heart.
4. Doing good things does not excuse disobedience.
5. Disobedience without repentance leads to trouble and rejection by God.

Objectives

1. List two examples of Saul not doing all that God said.
2. List three examples of Saul despising God’s word.
3. Identify what Saul most valued, feared, and trusted in his heart.
4. Explain Samuel’s response to Saul’s “sacrifice.”
5. Describe the troubles Saul faced and the privilege he lost by his disobedience.



Lesson Summary

God had warned Israel that a human king was not the answer to their problems. Saul's failure as king proved this. He repeatedly ignored and disobeyed God's word. He feared man instead of God, trusted himself instead of God, valued wealth more than God, and loved his own fame more than God's glory. He was an idolater at heart. He defied God, worshiped himself, and refused to repent. Because he disobeyed God's clear instructions, God rejected him and his descendants as king.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The story of Saul's failure shows that God has a plan to save. He had already chosen David as a king after His own heart, and through David He would send the Messiah. Unlike Saul, the Messiah would perfectly obey God's word. By His obedient life, death, and resurrection, the Messiah is able to give a new to those whom He chooses so that they can trust in Him and obey Him. Those who trust in Jesus will never be rejected.

LAST WEEK



Israel rejects God as King
1 Samuel 8:1–12:25

THIS WEEK



Saul disobeys God
1 Samuel 13:1–15:35

NEXT WEEK



God sees David's heart
1 Samuel 16:1–23

Lesson Commentary

God rejects those who reject His word.

Israel sinned by trusting a human king instead of trusting God. So God gave them the king they deserved, a physically impressive but spiritually shallow man. Saul never valued God's word or submitted to it. Instead, he disobeyed repeatedly. By rejecting God's word, Saul rejected God. And because Saul rejected God, God rejected Saul.

Saul rejected God's word about the sacrifice (13:1–23)

Though Saul enjoyed initial success in his struggle against the Philistines, there are hints of trouble in his first victory. First, it was Jonathan who took the initiative to attack Geba, not Saul (1 Sam 13:3). But Saul took the credit for it in his official report (13:4). Second, despite Saul's posturing, his troops quickly began leaving him when the Philistines sent a massive army in retaliation for Jonathan's raid on the garrison at Geba (13:4–7). Now would have been a good time to cry out to God.

But Saul did not cry out to God. Instead, he took matters into his own hand. Because he feared man rather than God (Jer 17:5–8), he impatiently offered

the sacrifice himself (1 Sam 13:9). When Samuel confronted him, Saul said he forced himself to offer the sacrifice because there was no other option (13:12).

Saul's actions show that he did not value God's word spoken through Samuel. He also despised the sacrifices of the LORD. The sacrifices were a mere ritual to him—a hoop to jump through in order to get the blessing he wanted (13:12). But God never rewards disobedience with blessing (Deut 28). Finally, rather than confess his sin, Saul blamed everyone but himself. Samuel was late, his troops were disloyal, and the Philistines were threatening (13:11). In his eyes, he was the victim.

In reality, Saul was himself to blame. The consequences of his rejection were severe. He could have had an eternal dynasty (13:13). Instead, he got trouble. Samuel left him, and his own forces were overwhelmed by the Philistines. Outnumbered and under supplied, the Israelites were incapable of stopping Philistine raiding parties from roaming wherever they pleased (13:16–22).

Saul is a warning to all who will listen. We have God's word, the Bible, but do we hear and obey it? When pressure mounts and anxiety builds, do we trust and wait upon God (Isa 40:31)? Or do we take matters into our own hands, disobeying the command of God? At the heart of obedience is godly *fear*, *reverential awe* and *respect*. The question is: Who do we fear most? God or man?

Saul rejected God's word in battle (14:1–52)

As the Philistines closed in, it was again Jonathan, not Saul, who took action. Jonathan's faith emphasizes Saul's lack of faith. Jonathan believed God could save by many or by few, but he also left the matter up to God (1 Sam 14:6–10). Through his faith God saved Israel that day (14:10, 15, 23). In contrast, Saul did not entrust the battle to God, nor did he leave the matter in God's hands. He called the priest to seek God's guidance, but in his impatience, Saul stopped the priest (14:18–19). Later, Saul did not even bother calling the priest. This time it was the priest who interrupted Saul, reminding him to seek God's approval regarding his plans (14:36).

Because of Saul's *disobedience*, *rejecting God's commands to follow his own desires*, Israel's victory was not what it might have been had he obeyed. While despising God's perfect word, Saul required everyone to follow his own foolish words (14:24). He even vowed to kill his own son, who was a model of what a king should be (14:44). However, Saul's own people defied him, rescuing Jonathan from his hands (14:45). In the end, Saul gave up his pursuit of the Philistines, allowing them to continue their retreat unhindered.



THINK ABOUT IT

We disobey when we fear man rather than God.



THINK ABOUT IT

We disobey when we are too impatient to seek God's will.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

Saul disobeys God • 1 Samuel 13:1–15:35



So Israel got what they asked for, a king like all the other nations (8:20). Though successful in battle, Saul was spiritually blind (14:47–48). He was not fit to lead God's people. With his lips he praised God, but his foolish actions revealed a heart that was far from God. Similarly, all who ignore God's word are foolish, because they live as if God does not exist (Ps 14:1).

Saul rejected God's word about the Amalekites (15:1–35)

God gave Saul another opportunity to obey when Samuel told him, "Listen to the words of the LORD" (1 Sam 15:1). His mission: to kill all the Amalekites—every man, woman, child, and animal. The Amalekites became a doomed people when they attacked Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt (Deut 25:18). Despite 300 years of God's patience, the Amalekites had not changed (1 Sam 15:33). Because God loves His people, He severely judges those who try to destroy His people (2 Thess 1:6). So He called Saul to carry out this judgment.

Sadly, Saul did not obey. Motivated by greed and fear of man, He spared Agag and the best of the animals (1 Sam 15:9, 19, 24). Like Achan before him (Josh 7:21), he kept back some of what was devoted to destruction.

Saul even had the audacity to tell Samuel that he had obeyed, and when confronted by Samuel, he continued to maintain his innocence (1 Sam 15:13, 20).

Saul made an excuse that the animals were taken in order to be sacrificed to God (15:21). However, Samuel responded: "To obey is better than sacrifice" (15:22; Ps 51:15–17; Isa 1:11–17; 1 John 2:3–4). While sacrifice was a part of worship, it could never be a substitute for obedience from the heart. God desires heartfelt obedience, not ritual sacrifice. Even Saul's excuse was insincere. He had already shown that he cared more about his own glory than God's (1 Sam 15:12). He even referred to God as Samuel's God, not his own (15:21).

Because Saul rejected God's word, God rejected Saul as king. Despite his rejection as king, Saul could still have repented. But he did not. He acted as if a quick confession could return everything back to normal immediately (15:25), showing that he still did not understand just how terrible disobedience is. His fake repentance was focused on his own honor, not on God's glory (15:30). So the story ends with both God and Samuel grieving over Saul's failure (15:35).

Because of Saul's sin, God regretted making him king (15:11, 35). God loves His creation, and He grieves deeply when He sees mankind dishonoring Him and turning from their greatest good (Gen 6:6). However, this does not mean that God made a mistake or was caught by surprise (1 Sam 15:29). God does not change either His nature or His predetermined plan (Num 23:19). God was sad to see Saul's hard heart, but all along God had planned to give Israel the king they deserved. And all along God had in mind a king after His own heart (1 Sam 13:14; 15:28; 16:1).

Saul's failure warns us of the deadly reality of disobedience. But it also shows a deeper problem: disobedience flows from the **heart**, the center of our thoughts, desires, and emotions (Prov 4:23; Matt 15:19). Disobedience flows from a heart that does not love God (John 14:24); a heart that fears man and trusts man instead of God; a heart that values one's own opinion more than God's word; a heart that is greedy for selfish gain; a heart that worships self as an idol in God's place and arrogantly defies God (1 Sam 15:23).

Disobedience grieves God, leads to greater trouble, forfeits God's blessing, and ultimately leads to rejection by God. Unless there is repentance, no amount of good works or sacrifices can make up for disobedience. So repent quickly. Admit your sin and be humbled by how serious disobedience is. Turn from sin for the sake of God's glory. Look to Jesus to give you a new heart, one that is capable of obedience (Ps 51:10; John 3:3–5; 2 Cor 5:17).

THINK ABOUT IT
Repentance
longs to honor
God above all.



THINK ABOUT IT
Partial
obedience is
disobedience.

Lesson Outline

God rejects those who reject His word.



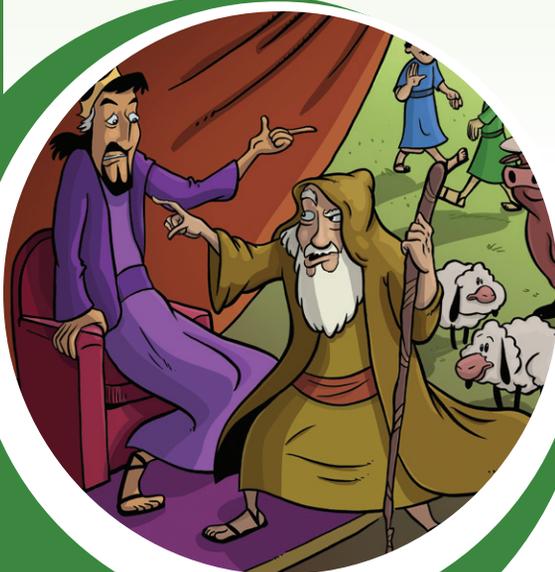
AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Saul disobeyed God by not waiting for Samuel (13:1–23).
2. Saul disobeyed God by not waiting for God's instructions (14:1–52).
3. Saul disobeyed God by not killing all the Amalekites (15:1–22).
4. Because Saul disobeyed, God rejected Saul (15:23–35).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Saul rejected God's word about the sacrifice (13:1–23).
 - Saul's army was fleeing because they feared the huge Philistine army (3:1–7).
 - Saul disobeyed God's word and offered the sacrifice without Samuel (13:8–9).
 - God rejected Saul's descendants as kings after Saul (13:13–15).
 - Saul and Israel were helpless against the Philistines (13:16–22).
2. Saul rejected God's word in battle (14:1–52).
 - God used Jonathan to defeat the Philistines (14:1–15).
 - Saul stopped the priest from seeking God's word (14:16–19).
 - God saved Israel from the Philistines (14:20–23).
 - Saul brought trouble to Israel by His foolish words (14:24–46).
3. Saul rejected God's word about the Amalekites (15:1–35).
 - Saul disobeyed God's command to kill all the Amalekites (15:1–9).
 - Saul refused to confess when Samuel confronted him (15:10–21).
 - Samuel explained that disobedience is a terrible sin (15:22).
 - The LORD rejected Saul as king (15:23–35).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Did Saul obey and wait for Samuel to come offer the sacrifice?**
No. He was impatient. He disobeyed God's word.
- 2. Did Saul want to hear God's word during the battle with the Philistines?**
No. He did not think God's word was important.
- 3. Did Saul obey God's word when God told him to kill all the Amalekites?**
No. He did not obey completely.
- 4. Because Saul disobeyed, what did God do?**
God rejected Saul and his descendants as kings.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did Saul offer the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel?**
He feared man (the Philistines) more than he feared God.
- 2. Why was Saul's reason for offering the sacrifice foolish?**
He said he offered the sacrifice to seek God's favor, but disobedience never pleases God.
- 3. How did Saul dishonor God's word during the battle with the Philistines?**
Saul interrupted the priest because he was in a hurry. Later, Saul did not even ask the priest to seek God's guidance.
- 4. How did Saul hurt his own troops during the battle?**
He made an oath that they should not eat any food that day. He wanted people to obey his foolish words, but he wasn't willing to obey God's perfect word.
- 5. Why did God tell Saul to kill all the Amalekites?**
God wanted to punish them for their cruelty to His people, Israel.
- 6. Did Saul repent when Samuel confronted him about his disobedience?**
No. Saul made excuses.
- 7. How did Samuel respond when Saul kept making excuses?**
Samuel said, "To obey is better than sacrifice." Samuel explained that disobedience is like worshiping idols and trying to talk with demons.
- 8. How did Samuel and God respond when Saul pretended to repent?**
They rejected Saul as king, but they grieved over him.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

SIMON SAYS

Those who do not obey exactly get “rejected.” Tell the children that today’s lesson is about a man who didn’t obey God completely.

WAIT SEVEN SLEEPS

Bring in a pillow, sleeping bag, stuffed animal, or any other item that represents sleep. Tell the children that in today’s lesson, King Saul was instructed to wait seven sleeps for Samuel to come give a sacrifice.



ILLUSTRATE

FROM THE HEART

Bring two containers (preferably heart-shaped). Have one filled with mud, the other with small candies or toys. Reach into the muddy one and get out some mud. Show the children. Ask, “Why is there mud in my hand?” Because there was mud in the “heart.” After cleaning hands, reach into the other “heart” and pick out something nice. Why is there something nice in my hand? Because there were nice things in the second “heart.” So Saul’s disobedience came out of a disobedient heart (Prov 4:23).

THE CLOCK

As you begin to teach about Saul’s first rebellion in 1 Samuel 13:1–12, show the children an alarm clock or timer. Set the timer, and tell them to wait for it to go off before doing something (such as eating the snack you have already handed them, or talking). Talk about Samuel’s instructions to Saul, referred to in verse 8. Also talk about how long Saul did wait but in the end took matters into his own hands.



APPLY

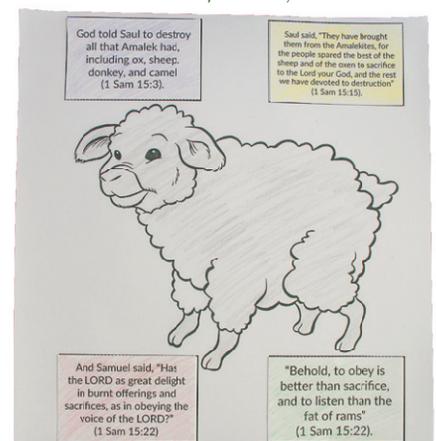
SAUL’S INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheets, scissors, glue, cotton balls (optional), and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut rectangles with verses from craft sheet. Have the children color the rectangles and glue them to the craft sheet with the sheep. Children can color or decorate the sheep with cotton balls.

Saul's Incomplete Obedience See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

Saul disobeys God • 1 Samuel 13:1–15:35



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

JUSTIFYING SIN

This week's lesson is a good example of a man's attempt to justify his sin. We justify sin when we try to make excuses for it or blame someone else. Ask the children for some excuses they sometimes make for their sin. You may have to help them recognize this practice ("I was not listening because Mary was talking to me"; "My sister started the fight"; "I did not clean up because I forgot"; etc.) Explain that we make our sin even worse when we try to justify it (1 John 1:8–9).

CAN YOU WAIT?

Give each child a piece of candy as they enter the classroom. Give them specific instructions (only once) not to eat it until they are given permission. You may want to teach a part of the lesson and then highlight for the children how difficult it was for them not to eat their candy. Some may have failed to obey completely. This is exactly what happened to Saul. He disobeyed God when he became impatient waiting for Samuel. It is important to realize that every time we choose to sin, it is very serious to God



ILLUSTRATE

A CLEAN CUP

Use two cups to illustrate the importance of truly doing what is right, not just appearing to do what is right. One cup should be dirty on the outside but clean on the inside. The other should be clean on the outside but dirty on the inside. Ask the children which is more important, for a cup to be clean on the outside or the inside. When you come to the point of the lesson where Saul did one thing God required but did not obey in other ways, explain that Saul was like the cup that was clean on the outside but not the inside. (Also see Matthew 23:25.)

WHICH ONE IS REPENTANCE?

Act out two scenarios of a child apologizing for taking another child's toy. Scenario 1: "I'm sorry. But he took my toy yesterday, and you are always harder on me. Besides, I was going to give him my old broken toy to play with." Scenario 2: "I'm sorry. I was wrong because I took something that wasn't mine. I was selfish. I was not loving, and I did not honor God. Here's your toy back. Will you please forgive me?"



APPLY

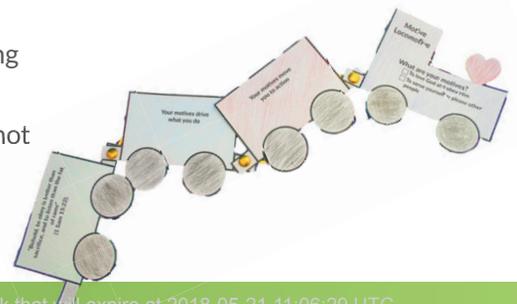
MOTIVE LOCOMOTIVE

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheets, scissors, brads, and crayons.

Directions: Have students color each of the train pieces. Next, have them cut out the pieces and assemble the train using brads.

Motive Locomotive
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11

**SKIT: SOMEWHAT OBEYING**

Tell your child (volunteer from class) to wear a certain outfit to school, wash his face, and comb his hair. When the child comes out, he is wearing the pants he was told but not the shirt; it is similar, but not the one he was told to wear. He also washed his face but only ran his hands through his hair; he did not comb it, so it still looks a little messy. Explain to the children that today's story is similar. Saul obeyed, somewhat. Explain that obedience is doing completely what is asked of you.

INSIDE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUTSIDE

Actors are paid to convince people that they are someone other than who they actually are. If you were to meet them in person, they probably would be very different from who they portray in the movies. This should lead to a discussion about how people sometimes are very different on the outside from how they are on the inside. In today's lesson, we see that Saul did what he thought looked right on the outside, but it actually was not what God wanted. God wants obedience, not just an outward appearance of obedience.

**PERFECT OBEDIENCE**

To illustrate perfect obedience, tell the following story: A young son of a missionary couple in Zaire was playing in the yard. Suddenly the voice of the boy's father rang out from the porch, "Philip, obey me instantly! Drop to your stomach!" Immediately he did as his father commanded. "Now crawl toward me as fast as you can!" The boy obeyed. "Stand up and run to me!" Philip responded unquestioningly and ran to his father's arms. As he turned to look at the tree by which he had been playing, he saw a large deadly snake hanging from one of the branches! At the first command of his father, Philip could have hesitated and asked, "Why do you want me to do that?" Or he could have casually replied, "In a minute." But his instant obedience without questioning saved his life! (Donald Grey Barnhouse [1895–1960].)

DOING IT JUST RIGHT

Bake three kinds of cookies: one that contains wrong ingredients, one that was not left in the oven long enough, and one that is just right. Explain what is wrong with each of the cookies. God requires us to follow His "recipe" book very carefully.

**PATIENCE ON THE LORD**

Being patient can be a difficult. Discuss with the children times when they have had to be patient. Explain that God's timing is always best, even when we think that we know best. Saul was not patient for the Lord's timing. He felt it was better to be disobedient in one area in order to do what he thought was right. During the Practice time, make this lesson practical to the children by discussing ways that they can be patient when they know they must wait on the Lord rather than trusting in their own intellect.



LESSON 17

God sees David's heart

1 SAMUEL 16:1-23



God sees the heart and desires hearts loyal to Him.



“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart’” (1 Sam 16:7).

Supporting Truths

1. God does not see as man sees.
2. God sees the heart.
3. God chose a king with a loyal heart.
4. God supports those whose hearts are completely His.
5. Jesus is the perfect king with a heart perfectly loyal to God.

Objectives

1. Discuss what people think is important when they look at a person.
2. Explain what God sees and desires in our hearts.
3. Explain why God chose David to replace Saul as king.
4. Describe how God equipped David and gave him success in Saul’s court.
5. Explain how Jesus is the ultimate Davidic King, and how He can give us new hearts.



Lesson Summary

Because Saul rejected God, God chose a new king for Israel. This new king was God's plan from long ago, so He sent Samuel to anoint him. Samuel was looking for a tall and handsome king like Saul, but God corrected Samuel. God sees the heart, and He wanted a king whose heart belonged to Him. So He chose David, Jesse's youngest son. He also filled David with His Spirit and gave David success in Saul's court.

Spotlight on the Gospel

God was gracious in giving Israel a godly king, but He is even more gracious in giving us the King of kings. David was a man after God's own heart, but Jesus was supremely a man after the heart of God. Because Jesus is the perfect and eternal King, we should trust and serve Him as our King. He paid the price of sin and conquered death, so all who come to Him become new creations, with new hearts pleasing to God.

LAST WEEK



Saul disobeys God
1 Samuel 13:1–15:35

THIS WEEK



God sees David's heart
1 Samuel 16:1–23

NEXT WEEK



David fights for God's honor
1 Samuel 17:1–58

Lesson Commentary

God sees the heart and desires hearts loyal to Him.

Saul led the nation in battle, but he was spiritually bankrupt. He was not loyal to God, so God rejected him and ripped his kingship from him. But Israel would have another king, and this time, God would give Israel a king of His own choosing. God's choice was not like the kings of other nations. God chose David because David's heart was loyal to Him.

The Plan: The LORD sent Samuel to anoint the next king (16:1-5)

Samuel was still mourning for Saul because he cared deeply about Israel's leader. This is a hallmark of spiritual leadership: God's leaders care deeply about those they serve (Acts 20:31) and the lost (Rom 9:2). But it was time for Samuel to remember that while Saul was lost, God's plan for a king was not.

Samuel's new mission was according to the LORD's old plan. About 800 years earlier, Jacob had prophesied that kingship would belong to the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10), not to Saul's tribe of Benjamin. Nearly 400 years after this prophesy, God rescued Rahab the Canaanite by granting her true faith and making her an Israelite (Josh 2:8-14; 6:25). Rahab's son was Boaz, who married Ruth the Moabitess. Boaz and Ruth

lived in Bethlehem and had a grandson named Jesse, and now God was sending Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint Jesse's son (Ruth 4:17).

So when it seems like all is lost, as it did to Samuel, we can have hope in God's sovereignty and faithfulness. He is **sovereign** because *God plans what will happen and His plan never fails*. He is **faithful** because *God never abandons His people*, despite their sin and the failure of their leaders. Samuel could press on in hope, because God was raising up a faithful king. And we can press on in hope, because through that king God has sent

the King of kings, who will one day return and make everything right (Rev 19:16).

Not only is God sovereign and faithful, but He also guides His people with wisdom.

Saul knew God had chosen to replace him and was likely on the lookout. He would have been watching Samuel to see if he went out of his ordinary judging circuit, and he may have tried to kill Samuel or the one Samuel came to anoint. So God instructed Samuel how to keep the mission secret from Saul, protecting both Samuel and Israel's future king (1 Sam 16:2-3).

The Person: The LORD chose a king loyal to Him (16:6-13)

When Samuel arrived, he looked for a king based on external appearance. Eliab was tall and good-looking, like Saul (16:6-7). But Saul's failure shows how foolish it is to judge a person based on externals. God does not judge as man judges. God looks straight into the heart (1 Kgs 8:39; Ps 44:21). This means He sees even our innermost thoughts, motivations, and desires. He sees what we truly love and value. He sees where our true loyalty lies.

After rejecting the next six sons of Jesse, God chose the youngest. No one thought it would be David. He was not even invited to the feast. He was watching the sheep, a job given to the least important. But God often chooses the younger. Seth, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Ephraim, Moses, and Gideon were all younger sons chosen by God. He often chooses the unexpected, as he had when he chose barren Hannah to be the mother of Israel's last judge. He chooses the lowly so that no one can boast in themselves, but only in the Lord (1 Cor 1:27-31).

THINK ABOUT IT

In the midst of loss, hope in God's plan encourages us to persevere in serving God (Rom 8:24-29; Jas 1:12).



THINK ABOUT IT

The heart is what matters, because it is the control center of our lives (Prov 4:23).



THINK ABOUT IT

God works according to His plans formed long ago (Isa 25:1).

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God sees David's heart • 1 Samuel 16:1–23



Samuel *anointed* David, an external symbol of God's choice and affirmation of David as king, and the Spirit of the LORD took control of David from then on (1 Sam 16:13). The Spirit of the LORD would empower David to do God's work in much the same way God's Spirit had empowered Israel's Judges for service. God both chooses and equips those He calls to lead (Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 3:17). This equipping was essential to David's ministry, as even before becoming king, David endured years of trouble, living as a fugitive betrayed by his own king.

The world has many ideas of what makes a good leader. It crowns the strong and athletic; the smart and good-looking; the rich and successful. While these things aren't bad—even David was healthy and handsome (1 Sam 16:12)—these mean very little to God. God is most interested in the *heart*, who we are on the inside: our emotions, will, intellect, and desires. He desires those who love Him with heart, soul, and might (Deut 6:5), who treasure His word in their heart (Deut 6:6; Ps 119:11), and whose hearts are completely loyal to Him (2 Chr 16:9). This is the kind of leader we should follow, and this is who we should strive to be. But this is only possible through a new heart (John 3:3; Gal 6:15). So as we strive to have a heart pleasing to God, we first need God to give us a new heart so that we can trust and please Him (1 Pet 1:3).

The Placement: The LORD brought David to Saul (16:14–23)

The LORD's presence with David quickly became clear. As Saul grew worse, David earned favor in Saul's court. Because Saul had forsaken God, God took His Spirit away from Saul. God sent an evil spirit to torture Saul, perhaps as punishment, or

perhaps to provoke Saul to repent (1 Cor 5:5). God is able to do this because even Satan cannot act without God's permission (Job 1–2).

God used this evil spirit, along with a servant who had heard of David, to bring David into Saul's court. One of the things the servant had heard about David was that the LORD was with David (1 Sam 16:18). Just as God was with Joseph to give him success in difficult situations (Gen 39:2, 3, 23), so God was with David and would give him success through the many difficulties to come. So under God's direction, David came to serve the king he had been anointed to replace.

The story of David's anointing is a reminder of Hannah's song. Her song sets the tone for the entire book, a story of God's grace to the humble and His care of His people through the leadership of a godly king. Hannah praised God for giving power to His king and lifting up the strength of His anointed one (1 Sam 2:10), and this is what God did for David. God would continue to do so throughout David's life.

But David was just the beginning of something much greater. As a humble shepherd and a godly king, David pointed forward to the great Shepherd (Heb 13:20) and eternal King (Rev 19:16). Unlike any other human, Jesus, the Son of David, was truly a man after God's own heart. No matter the temptation or pain, Jesus prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Matt 26:39). His will was the Father's will, and His words were the Father's words (John 6:38; 12:49). Jesus' heart was devoted to the Father even to the point of death (Phil 2:8). Because of that, in Christ we may become new creations (2 Cor 5:17), with hearts that are pleasing to God.



THINK ABOUT IT
Saul's misery is contrasted with David's growing success, a good reminder that it is much easier to walk with God than to rebel against Him.

Lesson Outline

God sees the heart and desires hearts loyal to Him.



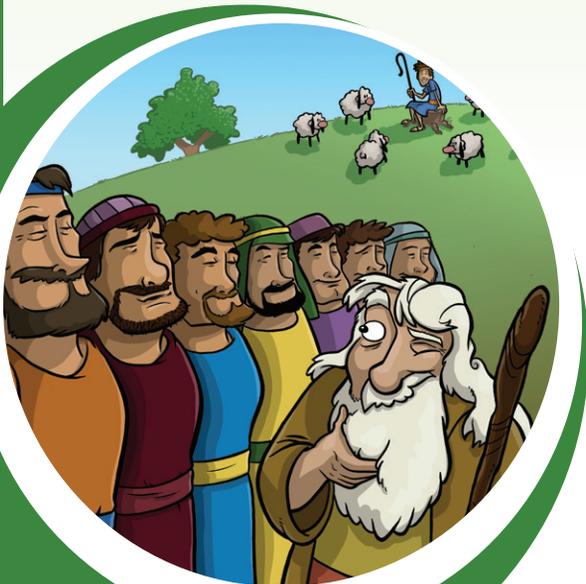
AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. God had a plan for a king after His own heart (16:1–5).
2. God chose a king after His own heart (16:6–13).
3. God gave success to the king after His own heart (16:14–23).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Plan: The LORD sent Samuel to anoint the next king (16:1–5).**
 - Samuel mourned for Saul (16:1).
 - The LORD had already chosen a king to replace Saul (16:1).
 - The LORD sent Samuel on a secret mission to anoint the next king (16:1–3).
 - Samuel obeyed and came to Jesse in Bethlehem (16:4–5).
2. **The Person: The LORD chose a king loyal to Him (16:6–13).**
 - Man judges based on what he can see (16:6–7).
 - The LORD sees and evaluates the heart, not the appearance (16:7).
 - The LORD rejected seven sons of Jesse (16:8–10).
 - The LORD chose the youngest son, David (16:11–12).
 - Samuel anointed David, and the Spirit took control of David (16:13).
3. **The Placement: The LORD brought David to Saul (16:14–23).**
 - The Spirit of the LORD left Saul, and an evil spirit tortured Saul (16:14).
 - Saul called David to come play the lyre for him (16:15–19).
 - David pleased Saul (16:20–23).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did God tell Samuel to do?**
God told him to anoint a new king.
- 2. Who did Samuel want to anoint?**
Samuel wanted to anoint Eliab, because he was good-looking and tall.
- 3. God does not care if someone is good-looking and tall. What does God care about?**
God looks at the heart.
- 4. What did David do for Saul?**
David played the lyre for Saul to stop the evil spirit from tormenting him.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why was Samuel sad?**
Samuel was sad that Saul had rejected God.
- 2. What hope did God give Samuel to encourage him to keep serving God?**
God told Samuel He had chosen a new king. God never stops providing for the salvation of His people.
- 3. What is the difference between how man sees and how God sees?**
Man looks a person's appearance, but God looks at the heart. He knows even the secret thoughts and desires.
- 4. Why wasn't David with his brothers?**
David was the youngest, so he was away watching the sheep. God likes to choose those who are valued less in order to show His grace and glory.
- 5. What kind of people does God want?**
God wants people whose hearts are loyal to Him.
- 6. When Samuel anointed David, who took control of David?**
The Spirit of the LORD took control of David.
- 7. What happened to Saul?**
The Holy Spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit tormented him. It is much better to be loyal to God!
- 8. Who is David's descendant, the perfect King after God's own heart?**
Jesus is the perfect King, and He can give us hearts pleasing to God.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

THINGS WE CAN'T SEE

Begin this activity by talking with the children about things that we can see. We can see parts of our body, such as the face, arms, and legs. Next, discuss parts of our body that are inside and that we can't see, such as the stomach, liver, and brain. Explain that there is another part of us that we can't see but that God can see. That is our heart. Discuss what the heart is. Explain that it is not our physical heart but it is the part of us that makes decisions and that knows right and wrong. God knows our heart, and that is what He cares about.

A NEW HEART

Hard boil an egg. Then, dye or color the shell black. Use this to introduce the concept of a new heart (Ezek 36:26). The black shell represents the hard, stubborn heart. Peel away the shell to reveal the soft, tender heart.



ILLUSTRATE

SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF GOD

Bring in two different pairs of glasses, one labeled "Man's View" and the other labeled "God's View." Alternate wearing the glasses throughout the lesson when talking about people who saw David with a worldly perspective and others who saw him with God's eyes.

GIFT-WRAPPED BOXES

Bring to class seven empty boxes nicely wrapped as gifts. Each should look slightly different, and one should look particularly nice. Also bring an eighth wrapped gift; it should be fairly average-looking, but inside it should be a large red heart. During the lesson, as each of Jesse's sons is presented to Samuel, allow various children to open the first seven boxes. The first brother, Eliab, stood out to Samuel as likely to be God's anointed. Use the especially nice-looking gift to illustrate him. When you reach the part of the lesson where David comes before Samuel, have a child open the average looking gift. Reveal the red heart to the class. Explain that even though men look at the outside to determine who is best for a job, God looks at the heart.



APPLY

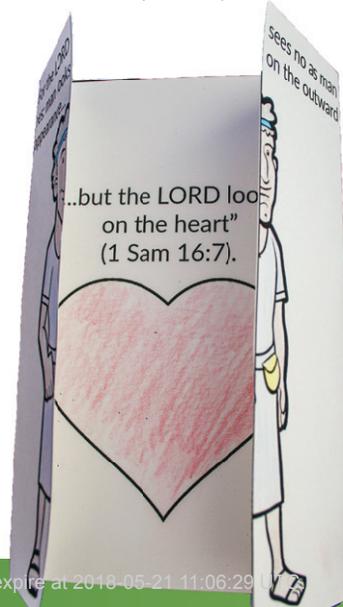
GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Have students cut out the pictures along the dark lines. Color the heart and David. Fold the paper in on the dotted lines to bring the ends together, forming a tri-fold card. Glue the heart behind the picture of David in the center section of the tri-fold (as shown below).

God Looks at the Heart
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God sees David's heart • 1 Samuel 16:1–23



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

PICK BY APPEARANCE

Talk with the children about how they are chosen for games. Who usually is chosen first? Tell the children that in today's lesson, David, the youngest of Jesse's sons and the most unlikely to be chosen, is selected by God to be the new king of Israel.

HEART X-RAY

Each day people fall and get hurt. Sometimes these people are taken to the hospital, and a picture called an X-ray is taken to see whether any of their bones are broken. This X-ray sees part of us that can't be seen with human eyes. But God can see things that not even an X-ray can see. He sees our hearts. He knows what our motives are—why we do what we do. He knows us and requires obedience from the heart. In today's lesson, we will see that God took a look at David's heart and liked what He saw. David desired the same things as God and had a spirit of repentance when he sinned. This pleased God.



ILLUSTRATE

GOD'S PLAN

Make many folds in a large piece of paper. Then, draw a straight line across the folds. During the lesson, show the children the paper unfolded, with random line segments on it without any design. Then refold the paper to how it was when you drew the line, revealing the straight line. Compare this to the way God brought about His plan to choose David as King, even though the kingship seemed a disaster to Samuel.

GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE

Bring two containers, preferably heart-shaped. One should have good stuff in it (like candy) and the other should have bad stuff in it (like garbage). Either both containers should appear the same on the outside, or the one with the good stuff in it should look less attractive. Ask for volunteers to choose which container they would like to receive a prize from. Talk about why the children chose the less attractive container over the more attractive one.

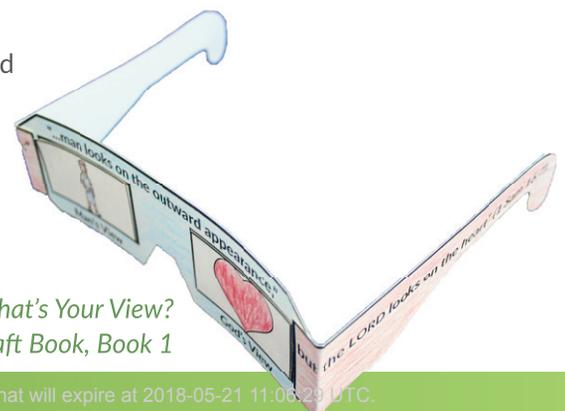


APPLY

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

Materials: Paper plates with eye-holes precut, wooden craft sticks, yarn, markers or crayons, glue.

Directions: Have students color and cut out the pieces for the glasses from the craft sheet. Instruct the students to put the pieces together with glue. Place the pictures in the appropriate places (as shown below).



What's Your View?
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1

AGES 9–11



WHAT MAKES A LEADER?

Discuss with children what it means to be a leader. Ask them what a leader looks like. Explain that many of us look at a person's outward appearance to determine whether he is a leader. Explain that this was true in Samuel's time, too. People think that leaders should be good looking and smart, but they fail to look at what God finds important: the heart. Ask the children how their hearts measure up. Discuss characteristics of David, and determine what God looks for in a leader (living for God's glory, defending His name, repenting of sin, loving God's Word, etc.)

CHOICES

Ask the children how they choose particular things. For example, how would they choose a dog, a book, or a friend? Now ask them how they would choose a king. In today's lesson we will see that God uses Samuel to anoint the next king. Samuel thought he knew who the next king would be just by looking at him, but Samuel was wrong. God did not use the methods of choosing a king that we would choose, but instead, He chose a king with a special kind of heart.



LOYALTY

Bring in various items that represent loyalty. Some items might be: apparel from your favorite sports team, the flag of your country of birth, the logo of your favorite type of clothing, car, or shoes, etc. Use these items to talk about the concept of loyalty and how we display it. Then, ask the children how we display the loyalty of our hearts. Do we have hearts totally committed to God? Are our hearts divided?

A ROTTEN HEART

Bring in some spoiled milk, moldy bread, or rotten fruit. Ask the children how to make this food fresh and edible again. Explain that you cannot. The food is spoiled and new food must be purchased. Use this activity to discuss every man's need for a new heart (Ezek 36:26), purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ.



GLADYS AYLWARD

Tell the story of Gladys Aylward (February 24, 1902 – January 3, 1970), a British missionary to China. This short, plain looking housemaid was used by God to bring thousands in China and Taiwan to Christ. She also saved the lives of over a hundred orphans in China during World War II. Her story is told in the book, *The Small Woman*, by Alan Burgess, and in the children's book *Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime* by Janet and Geoff Benge.



LESSON 18

David fights for God's honor

1 SAMUEL 17:1-58



God's people live for His glory and depend on His strength.



"Then David said to the Philistine, '...I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand'" (1 Sam 17:45-47).

Supporting Truths

1. God's glory is the reason for everything.
2. God fights for His glory.
3. God's people are jealous for God's glory.
4. A right view of God's glory provides a right view of the world around us.
5. God glorifies Himself by helping the humble and crushing the proud.

Objectives

1. State David's reason for fighting Goliath.
2. Explain who really won the victory over Goliath.
3. Contrast David's reaction to Goliath with the rest of the army's reaction.
4. List the characters who saw the situation only in terms of outward appearances.
5. Explain how this story illustrates Hannah's song (1 Sam 2:1-10).

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

David fights for God's honor • 1 Samuel 17:1-58



Lesson Summary

Saul, his army, and the army of the Philistines were mesmerized by Goliath's gigantic size and impressive armor. But David wasn't. He saw the whole battle in terms of God's glory. His heart was so devoted to God that he could not stand idly by while Goliath insulted the living God. So David risked his life for the sake of God's glory, and God gave David success, because God fights for His glory and gives strength to those whose hearts are His.

Spotlight on the Gospel

David is another link in the line from Adam to Christ. By giving David victory over Goliath, God preserved the line of Christ and kept His promise to send a Messiah. Even more than David, Jesus lived for God's glory and trusted God for victory. As a result, He conquered sin, Satan, and death. Because He did, we can trust in Him to save us. And when He saves, we are to follow in His steps, living for God's glory and trusting God for the victory.

LAST WEEK



God sees David's heart
1 Samuel 16:1-23

THIS WEEK



David fights for God's
honor
1 Samuel 17:1-58

NEXT WEEK



God gives David a
friend
1 Samuel 18:1-20:42

UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson Commentary

God's people live for His glory and depend on His strength.

God had always planned to graciously bless Israel, and one day the whole world, through a king. Unfortunately, Israel's sinful motives left them with a king with a rebellious heart. Saul cared more about his own plans than about God's honor, so God rejected him and chose David in his place. Unlike Saul, David was a man after God's own heart. Because David honored God from the heart, he was quick to fight for God's glory, even against gigantic Goliath.

Goliath attacked God's glory (17:1–11)

The Philistines had returned to their favorite pastime—invading Judah (1 Sam 17:1–3). And like so many times before, God's people were powerless before their enemies.

This time the Philistines brought a champion of terrifying proportions. Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall, at a time when 6 feet was unusually tall. Also, at a time when Israelite soldiers did not have metal weapons or armor (13:22), Goliath's armament was stunning. His bronze scale armor weighed 125 pounds, over twice as heavy as even a large soldier would wear. Goliath also wore a helmet on his head and greaves on his shins, and he had a massive shield carried by his armor-bearer. He was loaded with weapons—a straight sword, a javelin, and a massive spear. His spearhead alone weighed 15 pounds, compared to about 1 pound for a typical spearhead. By all outward appearances, this warrior was unbeatable.

But appearance matters very little. What matters is a heart for God. The book of First Samuel repeatedly shows the disappointment of those who trust in externals. Israel trusted in the symbol of God's presence—the ark—and not in God Himself, so they were utterly defeated (4:3–11). The nation trusted in a tall, impressive-looking king, so they got a foolish leader who brought hardship to his own people (14:24). Saul trusted in outward ritual, so God rejected him as king (13:8–14). But God showed favor to those devoted to Him from the heart. Hannah appeared

barren, but through her God raised up Samuel (1:19–20). Jonathan appeared powerless, but God used him to slaughter the Philistines (14:6–23). David appeared unimportant, but God chose him to be king (16:7–11).

However, appearance was everything to Goliath, Saul, and their armies. Goliath trusted in his own strength and defied Israel. No Israelite—not even their tall king who was

supposed to fight their battles for them (8:20)—was brave enough to accept Goliath's challenge. Although Goliath had defied God by defying God's people (17:26), neither Saul nor Israel cared enough for God to risk their lives for His glory. Nor did they believe that God could use them to win the victory. They remained paralyzed by fear, overwhelmed by externals.

David was jealous for God's glory (17:12–30)

What David saw didn't scare him. It angered him. Goliath was just an uncircumcised man, godless. By defying and insulting the army of the living God, he was defying and insulting God Himself—not a dead, lifeless idol, but the living God who is alive and present with His people (17:26). This simple shepherd from Bethlehem was *jealous* for God's glory. He was so in love with God's honor that he became angry against those who dishonored God. What mattered to David was not Goliath's size but God's *glory*, God's *honor, greatness, and praise*. After all, God's glory is the reason for everything (Isa 43:7; Rom 1:21–23; 9:17; 1 Cor 10:31).

David's older brother didn't see things as David did (1 Sam 17:28). Perhaps Eliab was still angry at having his little brother chosen over him (16:6–7), or maybe, like the rest of Israel, Eliab saw only the outside and misjudged David's heart. Either way, Eliab shows once again how radically different David was. We are tempted to see things like the world around us, according to human judgment and outward appearance, but we must instead see things from

THINK ABOUT IT

Israel still hadn't learned what Hannah sang about years before (2:1–10)—that God shatters the mighty but strengthens the humble (2:4).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

David fights for God's honor • 1 Samuel 17:1–58



the perspective of God's glory. Our hearts must be so jealous for His glory that we cannot remain silent when His glory is at stake (2 Cor 5:9; 1 Pet 4:16).

David prepared to defend God's glory (17:31–40)

Like Eliab, Saul also judged David by his appearance (1 Sam 17:33). Despite his health and good looks, David was not a trained warrior. But David did not back down. Instead, he gave his own king a lesson in *theology*, in *truth about God* (17:34–37). Pointing to his victories over lions and bears, David claimed that God had given these victories. He saw God at work, and gave God the credit. He trusted in God, believing that Goliath would be just like all the other wild animals. Some trust in chariots, or in big giants encased in armor, but we trust in our God (Ps 20:7; Ps 33:16–19; Ps 147:10–11).



THINK ABOUT IT

The battle is the LORD's (Deut 31:6; 20:1–4), and He fights for His glory (Josh 4:24).

Still consumed with externals, Saul offered David his armor (1 Sam 17:38). The king, who was supposed to fight Israel's battles, sent his armor-bearer in

his place. While Saul acted as armor-bearer, David played the part of king. In the end, David rejected Saul's armor and any outward appearance of the kingship. Instead, he armed himself like a shepherd (17:40), and as a shepherd, he went out to protect his people.

David fought for God's glory (17:41–58)

Goliath was offended by David's appearance. "Am I a dog?" he asked (17:43). Goliath then cursed David by his gods. The battle of David and Goliath was more than a battle between two men, or even two armies. It was a battle between two opposing worldviews. Is the LORD God, or are Goliath's gods the true gods? Goliath should have kept silent. When he spoke that curse, he announced his own defeat. Long ago the LORD announced that those who curse His people will be cursed (Gen 12:3).

Two truths motivated David's fearless attack. First, David was jealous for God's glory (1 Sam 17:45). He could not sit idly by while godless men trampled underfoot the name of God. He had to take action, despite the risk. His desire was that all men—Philistine and Israelite—would know that the LORD is God (17:46–47). Second, David trusted in God's power. He believed he would be victorious because the victory would be the LORD's, not his own (17:47). David fought for God's glory with confidence because he knew God also fights for His glory.

With a run and a whirl, David hurled the stone into Goliath's skull (17:48–49). Goliath died appropriately—death by stoning as a blasphemer of God's great name (Lev 24:16).

The stone delivered the deadly blow, then as Goliath faded into death, David used Goliath's own sword to remove his head (1 Sam 17:50–51). Just as Hannah predicted, God gave strength to His anointed king (2:10).

Two things happen after the victory. First, Saul asked who David's father was in order to grant the reward (17:25, 55). So until now Saul did not know the family of one of his favorite servants. Saul's ineptitude again contrasts with David, a king after God's own heart.

Second, the story ends by repeating yet again David's hometown, Bethlehem (17:58). One thousand years later, another would be born in Bethlehem—another humble shepherd of God's people (Matt 2:6); another David jealous for the glory of the Father to the point of death (John 21:19); another King conquering invincible enemies in the power of God (Col 2:15; Luke 23:46). God saved Israel from the Philistines through David, and He delivers believers from death through Jesus (Rom 6:6–8). Why does He do this? In order that those He saves will go on to live by faith in God (2 Cor 5:7, 9) for the glory of God (1 Pet 2:9–11), just as David did.

THINK ABOUT IT

God always acts for the sake of His glory (Isa 48:11).



Lesson Outline

God's people live for His glory and depend on His strength.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Goliath spoke badly about God's glory (17:1–11).
2. David was angry because he loved God's glory (17:12–30).
3. David killed Goliath for God's glory (17:31–58).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Goliath attacked God's glory (17:1–11).**
 - Goliath and the Philistines invaded Judah (17:1–3).
 - Goliath was a gigantic champion (17:4–7).
 - Goliath defied and terrified Israel (17:8–11).
2. **David was jealous for God's glory (17:12–30).**
 - David brought supplies to his brothers (17:12–22).
 - David was angry because Goliath defied the living God (17:23–27).
 - David was scolded by his brother Eliab (17:28–30).
3. **David prepared to defend God's glory (17:31–40).**
 - David seemed too young to Saul (17:31–32).
 - David said the LORD would rescue him from Goliath (17:33–37).
 - David took a staff, a sling, and five stones instead of Saul's armor (17:38–40).
4. **David fought for God's glory (17:41–58).**
 - David said he would kill Goliath with God's help for God's glory (17:45–47).
 - David killed Goliath and cut off his head (17:48–51).
 - Israel defeated the Philistines (17:52–54).
 - Saul asked who David's father was (17:55–58).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who was the big, scary giant?**
Goliath.
- 2. How did Saul and Israel feel when they saw Goliath?**
They were very afraid.
- 3. How did David feel when he heard Goliath?**
He was angry because Goliath was dishonoring God.
- 4. What did David do to honor God?**
David fought Goliath and killed him with his sling and stone.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why were Saul and Israel so afraid of Goliath?**
They were afraid because they focused only on Goliath's terrifying appearance.
- 2. What was so bad about Goliath defying the army of Israel?**
By belittling the army of Israel, Goliath was also belittling the living God of Israel.
- 3. What was different about the way David responded to Goliath?**
Instead of being afraid of Goliath's appearance, David was jealous for God's glory.
- 4. Why did David expect to beat Goliath?**
David knew God had delivered him in the past. David expected God to do it again for the sake of His glory. God always acts for His glory.
- 5. What does the arming scene show about David?**
It shows that David will be a true shepherd of his people, and Saul is not.
- 6. After Goliath cursed David, what did David say?**
David said he came in the name of the LORD, and he would kill Goliath so that everyone would know that the LORD is the true God.
- 7. Who actually won the victory that day?**
God did. David knew that the battle belonged to God. God is the one who fights for those who trust in Him.
- 8. What town is mentioned at the end of the story?**
Bethlehem, David's home, is mentioned. Bethlehem was small and seemed unimportant, but it is important because Jesus, the Son of David, was born there.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

WORK GLOVES

Bring in a variety of gloves. Ask the children what purpose each type of glove is used for. Ask them if a glove can do work on its own. Explain that gloves are simply tools to accomplish work. On the outside, it looked as if David was doing the work, but he was merely a glove through which God could do His work. In today's lesson, children will see how David was used by God to defend His honor.

CONFLICT

Have you ever seen people arguing? Sometimes when people argue they call each other mean names or say bad things about each other's family. In today's lesson, we will learn about a giant man who was doing this to Israel. He was saying bad things about Israel and Israel's God. He did this to make Israel mad and cause them to send one of their soldiers out to fight him. But Israel was afraid of such a big man. Would anyone go out to defend Israel and the name of their God? Let's see what happens in today's story.



ILLUSTRATE

BATTLE ILLUSTRATED

Help make the lesson come alive by using visuals as you teach. Cut out a silhouette of a man (9 feet 9 inches tall) and tape it to the wall. Talk about the massive weight of Goliath's armor by bringing in plastic armor and then explaining how much Goliath's armor weighed. Use five quarter-size river rocks to illustrate David reaching down into the stream to pick up five smooth stones. Use an empty sling to illustrate David swinging his sling.

HONORING THE GOD'S NAME

Talk with the children about they can honor God's name. Tell the children that we honor God with our hands by using them to help, not hurt, or siblings and friends. We honor God with our mouth when we say nice things, not mean things. We honor God with our eyes when we pay attention to our parents and teachers. And, finally, we honor God with our feet when we come to our parents as soon as they call.



APPLY

DAVID, SAUL, AND JONATHAN

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, craft sticks, tape, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures from craft sheet. Have children color the pictures. Help them to tape the pictures to craft sticks.



David, Saul, and Jonathan
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

David fights for God's honor • 1 Samuel 17:1–58



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

HONOR ASSAULTED

Discuss what it means to dishonor someone. Explain that to dishonor someone is to mock their abilities, character, or intellect. How would they feel if someone mocked their mom, dad, brother, or sister? It is likely that they would want to defend their family member by having that person take back what they said. In today's lesson, we will see how God's honor was assaulted by the Philistines' representative, Goliath. David realized that what Goliath was saying about God was not true and needed to be defended. David realized that it wasn't he who was defending God but that God would use him as a tool to defend Himself.

DEFEATING A GIANT

Goliath was about as tall as a basketball hoop (9 feet 9 inches). He also had armor all over his body and enormous weapons. Bring in 15 pound weight and ask the children to imagine this on the end of a spear. Could they throw it? What about Goliath's scale armor? It weighed 125 pounds. Could they lift it off the ground? How could anyone defeat him? Yet God used a youth and a rock to defeat the giant, defending His honor and glory.



ILLUSTRATE

GOD'S EYES OR MAN'S EYES?

Bring in a pair of binoculars. Talk to the children about perspective—a point of view, or understanding an object's dimensions in relation to other things. Show what happens when you look at something through binoculars. It gets bigger. That is how the Israelites were looking at Goliath. But what happens when you look at the same object through the other end of the binoculars? It gets smaller. Israel saw Goliath as a threat, David saw Goliath as an opportunity to defend and display God's glory.

JIM ELLIOT

Jim Elliot was one of five missionaries killed while attempting to evangelize the Huaorani people of Ecuador. After making initial contact with the Huaorani, Elliot and his four companions—Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, and their pilot, Nate Saint—made plans to visit the Huaorani. However, their desire was never fulfilled. Sadly, a group of Huaorani warriors killed Elliot and his friends on January 8, 1956. Elliot's journal entry for October 28, 1949 reveals his singular devotion to God's glory: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."



APPLY

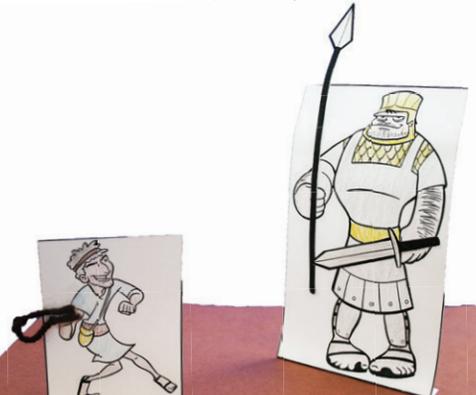
DAVID AND GOLIATH

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, construction paper, brown yarn, tape, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Have children color and cut out pictures from craft sheet. Glue the pictures to a sheet of construction paper, as shown below. Tape a piece of brown yarn to the hand of David (as a sling shot) and the spear and sword to Goliath's hands.

David and Goliath
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11

**WHY?**

It's important to ask ourselves why we do or say the things we do. This reveals the motivation behind our words and actions. Ask the children to think of 5 things they have said or done today. Then ask them to consider "why" they said or did each of these things. Was it for their glory, or God's? 1 Corinthians 10:31 says we are to do all things for the glory of God. In today's lesson we're going to see a man totally committed to speaking and serving for God's glory.

ERIC LIDDELL

At the 1924 Sumer Olympics, Eric Liddell refused to race on Sunday and was forced to withdraw from the 100 meter race, his best event. However, he could still compete in the 400 meter race, and though it was far from his best event, he won the gold medal. Just before the race a trainer from the American team slipped a piece of paper into this hand with a quotation from 1 Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor." In today's lesson, we will see another young man who chose to honor God.

**SPUD WEBB**

As 5'7" Spud Webb was the shortest ever contestant in the NBA Slam Dunk contest, yet he won the event in 1986. In this contest, Spud became the first person shorter than 5'8" to slam dunk in the NBA. He was known for not allowing his small stature limit what he wanted to do. David, like Spud Webb, would not let his appearance stand in the way of protecting the name of his Lord. David didn't focus on externals. Sure, Goliath was a giant and he was a youth, but David knew that God would be with him.

SO THAT NONE MAY BOAST

Ask the children why they think God used David to defeat Goliath? Remind the children that there wasn't much about David to draw attention. Sure, he was healthy and good-looking, but he was a youth and inexperienced in combat. He didn't even have the right equipment. God chose David because he was humble. This is the type of man or woman that God chooses to defend His honor. God uses the weak to shame the strong so that no man may boast in the presence of God (1 Cor 1:27, 29).

**JEALOUS FOR GOD'S GLORY**

Most people are jealous for their own honor and glory. When they are mocked, they are quick to respond, defending the honor of their name. But how do most people respond when they hear someone take the Lord's name in vain? Does it bother them? Do they ask them to stop, or do they say nothing? Ask the children how they respond. Do they ask them to stop? Do they continue to hang out with these children, knowing that they do not honor and respect God? When David heard Goliath taunting God's people he could hardly contain himself. He was quick to defend God's honor and gave all the glory to God for Israel's deliverance. God does not want us to throw stones at people who speak badly about Him, but what we say or don't say when God's name is dishonored reveals much about our devotion to God and His honor.



LESSON 19

God gives David a friend

1 SAMUEL 18:1-20:42



We honor God by loving others in true, selfless, loyal friendship.



“Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam 18:3).

Supporting Truths

1. God used Jonathan’s friendship to protect and encourage David.
2. Friends love each other because they love God.
3. A true friend is loyal to his friend even in great danger.
4. A true friend gives up his rights for the sake of his friend and for the glory of God.
5. Jesus is the greatest Friend.

Objectives

1. List three things Jonathan did for David.
2. Explain why Jonathan’s soul was knit to David’s.
3. Define “covenant,” and explain whether Jonathan was faithful to his covenant.
4. Contrast the responses of Saul and Jonathan toward David and God’s glory.
5. List three ways Jesus proved to be the greatest Friend.



Lesson Summary

As God gave David success, Saul became jealous. But God was kind to David and provided him with a true friend—Saul's own son, Jonathan. Jonathan and David were united in faithful love for God. Jonathan made a covenant with David, willingly giving up his right to be king so that David could be king instead. This covenant friendship protected and encouraged David when he had to flee from Saul.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Jonathan's friendship reminds us of a much greater Friend, one who, like Jonathan, willingly gave up His claim to glory in order to honor the Father. Because Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death, we may become His friends and friends of God. Then, as those loved by God, we can honor God by following His example, as we love others in true, selfless, loyal friendship.

LAST WEEK



David fights for God's honor

1 Samuel 17:1–58

THIS WEEK



God gives David a friend

1 Samuel 18:1–20:42

NEXT WEEK



God judges between David and Saul

1 Samuel 24:1–22

UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson Commentary

We honor God by loving others in true, selfless, loyal friendship.

When Samuel anointed David, God also filled David with His Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit God gave David victory over Goliath, and through the Spirit God continued to be with David. David needed God's presence, because those God calls to special service are also called to special suffering. In 1 Samuel 18–20, David suffered because of Saul's hatred, but God did not leave David on his own. God encouraged David through the covenant friendship of Saul's son Jonathan.

Jonathan faithfully loved David (18:1–4)

Immediately following David's victory over Goliath, Jonathan's soul "was knit to the soul of David" (1 Sam 18:1). This is no surprise. David and Jonathan shared the same faith, the same love for God's glory, and the same courage in battle (13:3; 14:4–14). In a similar way, believers are united in one Spirit. They share the same faith, the same love, and the same Lord, so they ought to love each other and sacrifice their own interests for the sake of others (Eph 4:1–6; Phil 2:1–4).

Because Jonathan loved David, he made a covenant with him (1 Sam 18:3). A **covenant** is an unbreakable promise that unites two people or groups. Jonathan was imitating God's covenant love. Because God loved Israel, He swore an oath to them that will never be broken (Deut 7:7–8; Rom 11:28–29). We, like Jonathan, should imitate God's love in the way we love others (1 John 4:19).

Jonathan loved David with a selfless love. He took off his princely robe and military gear and gave them to David (1 Sam 18:4). By doing that, Jonathan gave up his right to be king and instead supported David's kingship. From a

human perspective, Jonathan should have been the next king. He was the oldest son of Saul, a famous warrior, and a godly man. But Jonathan was **humble**, willing to give up his own rights to put God's kingdom first.

Saul tried to kill David (18:5–19:24)

Saul was nothing like Jonathan. Like a selfish child, he complained, "David has more than me!" (1 Sam 18:8). He used David instead of loving him, seeking his own interests rather than God's (18:2, 5). As a result, he lived in dread of David. Instead of rejoicing in what God was doing through David to bless Israel, he considered David his enemy (18:12, 15, 29). His bitter jealousy is a reminder of sin's destructive power (Prov 27:4).

Saul's jealousy led him to seek David's life several times. First, he tried to kill David privately. Terrorized by a harmful spirit, he hurled his spear at David (1 Sam 18:10–11). Then he plotted David's death at the hands of the Philistines (18:12–30). When these schemes failed, he openly called for David's death (19:1–21). Finally, he went out to kill David himself (19:22). But Saul abandoned his chase, overpowered and put to shame by the Spirit of God (19:24). God shatters those who oppose his anointed king (1 Sam 2:10; Ps 2).

However, God is with His godly ones, especially in suffering. As God's presence gave Joseph success in slavery and in prison (Gen 39:2–3, 21), so now God's presence protected David (1 Sam 18:12, 14, 28). God is present to give success to all who keep His words (Deut 29:9; Josh 1:8–9). God guarded David in battle, used Jonathan to save David's life (19:1–7), and directly intervened to save his life again (19:23). Not surprisingly, David could look back on this dangerous time and sing praise to God (Ps 59).



THINK ABOUT IT

Do you cling to your rights, or do you love God's glory enough to selflessly love others (1 Cor 10:24; 13:5)?

THINK ABOUT IT

God opposes those who live for their own glory (Isa 2:11–12).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God gives David a friend • 1 Samuel 18:1–20:42



Jonathan remained faithful to David (20:1–42)

As Saul's rage increased, David fled to Jonathan. How could David trust the one whose father was trying to kill him? By helping David, Jonathan forfeited his right to the kingship, became an enemy of his father, and risked joining David as an object of Saul's violent, unpredictable anger. But David came to him because Jonathan had made a covenant. He was a true friend, a like-minded companion who loves loyally and selflessly (Prov 17:17; 18:24; John 15:13; 1 Cor 13:4–8). We also, when we are in trouble, should fly to the Friend who has made a covenant with us (Matt 26:28).

David's first words to Jonathan concerned his own guilt. He wanted to know if he had done anything wrong (1 Sam 20:1). Had he done so, he was willing to accept the penalty (20:8). In this way David shows how to respond to opposition. He did not ignore Saul's accusations, as wild and baseless as they appeared to be.

Instead, he first examined his own life to see if there was any truth to Saul's allegations. David was a man of integrity, willing to be corrected when wrong (Prov 9:8–9).



THINK ABOUT IT

Do you view your trials as an opportunity to learn and grow (Jas 1:2–4)?

Jonathan confirmed David's innocence (1 Sam 20:9). He responded by making another covenant with David, even greater than the one before. This covenant was with the entire house of David—a lasting agreement between David's family and Jonathan's family (20:15–16). Jonathan knew that his decision to support David jeopardized the lives of his children. It was not uncommon for a new king to kill all the descendants of the former king to eliminate any threat to the new dynasty. But out of love for David (20:17), Jonathan was willing to put himself and his descendants in a position of weakness. He simply asked David to remember this and be kind to his children, and David did (2 Sam 9).

Even though Jonathan believed his father's anger for David had passed, he helped David investigate his suspicions (1 Sam 20:18–29). Then, when Saul became angry, Jonathan proved himself faithful, loyal, true, and trustworthy. He stood up for David, at great cost to himself (20:30–34). He was furious with his father, but not for his own sake. His concern was for David and his honor (20:34). After communicating the bad news (20:35–40), Jonathan sent David away in peace (20:42)—peace he endured in the midst of trouble because it was rooted in covenant friendship and trust in God (23:16).

At times we may find ourselves in David's shoes, called to suffer. If so, we should thank God if He chooses to bless us with friends like Jonathan (Eccl 4:9–10). At other times, we may find ourselves in the shoes of Jonathan, sacrificing our rights and privileges for the benefit of another. If so, may we decrease in order that another would increase, just like Jonathan and many other godly men (John 1:40–42; 3:30; Acts 11:25–26; 13:9). By putting others first out of love for God (Rom 12:1, 10), we humbly magnify God as Christ did (Phil 2:1–5).

It is amazing that even the Son of God emptied Himself in order to glorify the Father (Phil 2:7–8). So when we find it hard to empty ourselves, we must look to Him. By His humble death our sins may be forgiven, the power of sin in our lives broken, and peace with God restored. Through His humble death He was gloriously raised and will ultimately reign victorious (Phil 2:9–11). In His life we have life (Rom 6:5), and in His reign we will reign (Rev 5:5). So even when life is hard, even when we must let our ambitions go, we have peace, because He emptied Himself to become our covenant friend.

THINK ABOUT IT

Friendship is not about meeting our needs but faithfully meeting the needs of others.



Lesson Outline

We honor God by loving others in true, selfless, loyal friendship.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Jonathan was David's friend:

1. Because he loved God like David did (18:1).
2. Because he loved David (18:1; 20:41).
3. Because he kept his promise to David (18:3; 20:11–17).
4. Because he gave up his spot as king for David (18:4; 19:1–7; 20:11–34).
5. Because he risked his life for David (19:1–7; 20:11–42).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jonathan faithfully loved David (18:1–9).
 - Jonathan knitted his soul to David's (18:1).
 - Jonathan loved David as much as his own life (18:1).
 - Jonathan made a covenant with David (18:3).
 - Jonathan gave up his kingship so that David could be king (18:4).
2. Saul tried to kill David (18:10–19:24).
 - Saul was jealous because David was more popular than he was (18:5–9).
 - Saul tried to spear David (18:10–11).
 - Saul tried to get David killed by the Philistines (18:12–30).
 - Saul ordered Jonathan and his servants to kill David (19:1–21).
 - Saul tried to kill David himself (19:22–24).
3. Jonathan remained faithful to David (20:1–42).
 - Jonathan was trusted by David (20:1–10).
 - Jonathan made a covenant with the family of David (20:11–17).
 - Jonathan confirmed Saul's hatred for David (20:18–29).
 - Jonathan stood up for David at great personal cost (20:30–34).
 - Jonathan wept with David and sent him away in lasting peace (20:35–42).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who was David's close friend?**
Jonathan.
- 2. What did Jonathan give David?**
Jonathan gave David his royal clothes. Jonathan should have been king after Saul, but he let David be king instead.
- 3. What did Jonathan make with David?**
A covenant—a very important promise to be his friend for life.
- 4. Did Jonathan stay David's friend when Saul got very angry?**
Yes. Jonathan risked his own life for David. He was a true friend.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did Jonathan love David so much?**
When Jonathan saw David fight Goliath, he realized that they both loved God's honor and trusted God completely.
- 2. How did Saul feel when people liked David more than Saul?**
Saul was jealous. He loved himself more than David. He loved his own glory more than God's glory.
- 3. What did Saul try to do to David?**
Saul tried to kill David several times in different ways.
- 4. When Saul could not kill David, how did Saul feel?**
Saul was very afraid of David. He should have rejoiced that God was blessing Israel through David.
- 5. Who did David go to when he was in trouble with Saul?**
David went to Jonathan because they had made a covenant and were true friends.
- 6. When Jonathan told David to flee, what was the last thing he said?**
After they wept together, Jonathan told David to go in peace, knowing that they had made a covenant in the LORD's name.
- 7. Who is the greatest friend?**
Jesus is the greatest friend. He gave up the glory He had in heaven in order to honor God and give His life for sinners. He is a friend to the very end. We should run to Him and find peace.
- 8. How can we be true friends?**
We can be true friends only when we first accept Christ's love for us. Then after that we can love with His love—selflessly, sacrificially, faithfully, encouraging others in the Lord for the glory of God.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

WHO IS YOUR FRIEND?

Bring in a picture of one of your friends. Or, better yet, bring your friend to class with you. Talk about why this person is your friend. Ask the children who their friends are. Why are they friends? What do they do together?

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

To play, one child should stand as the "signal" at one end of the room, while all the other children stand at the other end of the room. When the "signal" faces the children and says, "Red light!" the children must freeze in place. When the signal turns his back to the children and says, "Green light!" the children can approach him. If a child moves during a red light, he must go back to the starting point. The first child to reach the signal wins the game. After playing, talk with the children about how signals work. Tell them that in today's lesson, they will learn about a signal between David and Jonathan. This signal helped David to know whether to go or stop.



ILLUSTRATE

RIGHT AND WRONG ACTIONS

In today's story, David, Saul, and Jonathan demonstrate good and bad responses to the people God brings into their lives. The narrative itself doesn't always tell us which responses are good and which are bad, but the rest of the Bible does. Hand out green and red cards, and as the story progresses, ask the children to vote as to whether a particular action was right or wrong. For example:

- 1 Samuel 18:1–4—Jonathan loved David: Righteous (1 John 3:11)
- 1 Samuel 18:6–11—Saul was jealous, angry: Unrighteous (Eph 4:26, 31–32)
- 1 Samuel 19:1–4—Saul wanted to kill David: Unrighteous (Exod 20:13).

JEALOUSY

Ask the children what jealousy is. Explain that it is wanting something that belongs to someone else. Give one child a small gift in front of all the other children. Ask them how they feel. Do they feel that it's not fair? Do they want to take the gift from them? Explain that in today's lesson Saul is jealous of David, and because of that jealousy, he tries to kill David.



APPLY

GOD GIVES RELATIONSHIPS

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheet, cardstock, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures and phrase strips from the craft sheet. Have students color pictures. Glue pictures and phrase strips on a sheet of cardstock, as shown below.

God Gives Relationships
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God gives David a friend • 1 Samuel 18:1–20:42



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

PRIDE

In today's lesson, Saul's pride is insulted when he hears the women singing, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David has killed his ten thousands." Ask them why Saul was upset when he heard the women singing. The women were singing about him. Explain that he was upset because David was praised more than him. That's pride. The proud are not satisfied unless they are first, the biggest hero.

A GOOD FRIEND

Ask the children to name qualities they look for in a good friend. Write these on a dry-erase board or chalkboard, and discuss the answers as a class. In today's lesson we will learn about David and Jonathan's friendship.



ILLUSTRATE

ENEMY

Bring a "Most Wanted" poster to class. Discuss with the children what an enemy is and what it might be like to have an enemy. Explain that an enemy is a person who feels hatred for or is hostile toward another person. Ask the children whether anyone has ever hated them or wanted to be their enemy. Help them to understand what it may have been like for David to have Saul as his enemy and yet not feel hatred back toward him. He did not want to hurt the Lord's anointed king, yet he wanted to stay alive. This was a difficult position for David to be in.

WILLING TO DIE

The story is told of a young woman in desperate need of a blood transfusion. Her brother appeared to be the only available donor. As the doctor began to draw his blood, the boy asked grimly, "How long until I start to die?" The doctor was puzzled. "What do you mean?" he asked. "I mean," said the boy, "how long until my sister has all my blood, and I have none?" At once the doctor understood. The boy mistakenly believed that his sister needed all his blood.



APPLY

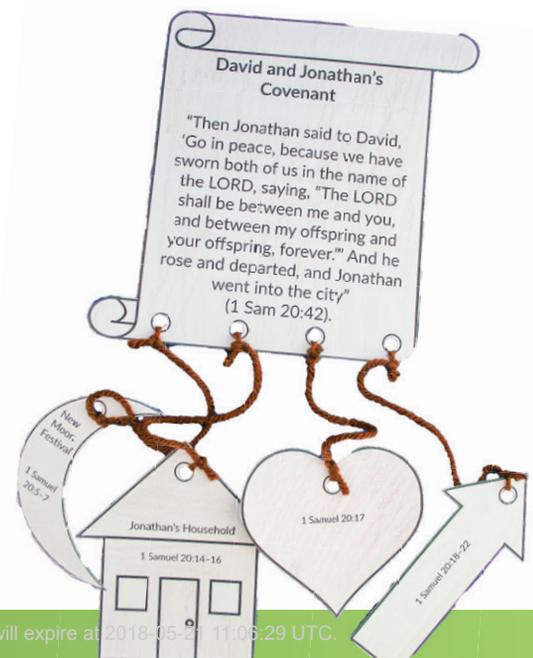
COVENANT OF LOVE

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheet, yarn, hole punch, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Have children color and cut out all pieces from the craft sheet. Hole punch in the indicated places. Attach the moon, house, heart, and arrow to the scroll with yarn.

Covenant of Love
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*



AGES 9–11



GOOD FOR YOU

In today's lesson, the children will learn about both good and bad relationships. Bring some common medicines and vitamins to class. Ask the children which ones taste good and which ones taste bad. Explain that although some medicines taste better than others, they all are designed to make you healthy. In the same way, God brings some people into our lives who are fun to be with and others who are not very nice to us. God uses both good and bad relationships to help us become like Him.

A GOOD FRIEND, PART ONE

Draw three columns on a piece of paper. Title the first column: "What qualities do you look for in a friend?" Title the second column: "Qualities David & Jonathan demonstrated as friends." Title the third column: "Biblical teaching on relationships." Before the lesson, ask the children to list qualities they look for in a good friend in the first column. Talk about some of the qualities the children listed.



LOVE THY ENEMY

Scripture tells us to love our enemies. Have the children compare how they feel toward a brother, sister, or friend with how they feel toward a person they don't get along with. Do they love both people? Does God love both people? Talk about how if God treated us the way we treat our enemies, we all would be dead. God loves us; therefore He loves what His perfection cannot love. Are we like that toward others? Do we desire the best for all people or just the ones we like? Do we desire salvation for all people? How did David "love his enemy?"

THE GEOMETRY OF FRIENDSHIP

As friends grow closer to Christ, they grow closer together. Illustrate this with a triangle. The two points on the base of the triangle represent two friends. The single point at the top of the triangle represents Christ. As the two friends move closer to Christ they also move closer together.



A GOOD FRIEND, PART TWO

After the lesson, guide the children in listing qualities of covenantal friendship demonstrated by David and Jonathan in the middle column. List the cross-references provided from additional passages in the third column to reinforce God's instructions on friendship.

- Loves others as self; deep affection (18:1–3; 20:17); Cross References: Matt 22:39; Mark 12:33; Rom 12:10
- Keeps promises; faithfulness (18:3); Cross References: 1 Sam 22:14; Prov 28:20
- Submits to God's will (18:4); Cross Reference: Ps 40:8
- Honors others more than one's own family (19:2); Cross References: Prov 18:24b; 27:10; Luke 14:26
- Speaks well of friend (19:4–5); Cross Reference: Prov 16:13
- Loyalty (20); Cross Reference: Prov 17:17
- Believes the best (20:1–4); Cross Reference: 1 Cor 13:7
- Accountability for sin (20:14–15); Cross References: Prov 27:6,9,17
- Kindness (20:14–15); Cross References: 1 Cor 13:4; Gal 5:22; 2 Peter 1:7
- Humility (20:41); Cross References: 1 Chr 29:14; Prov 15:33; 16:19; 18:12; 22:4; 29:23; Col 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5



LESSON 20

God judges between David and Saul

1 SAMUEL 24:1-22



God blesses those who trust His plan and leave vengeance to Him.



“Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, ‘I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’s anointed’” (1 Sam 24:10).

Supporting Truths

1. Honor authority.
2. Do not take your own vengeance.
3. Trust God to take vengeance.
4. Be blameless before God.
5. Trust God’s plan.

Objectives

1. Count the number of times David called Saul “the LORD’s anointed.”
2. Explain how easily David could have killed Saul.
3. Describe what David did instead of killing Saul.
4. Show how David proved his innocence.
5. Decide if it was worth it for David to trust God’s plan.



Lesson Summary

David was Saul's faithful servant, but Saul sought David again to kill him. This time, David had a chance to kill Saul. Would he take this opportunity? Saul deserved it, and it seemed like this would fulfill God's promise to make David king. But David left vengeance to God. Instead of killing Saul, he honored and protected him. As a result, God encouraged David. He affirmed David's innocence and confirmed His promise once again that David would be king.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Because David trusted God and left vengeance to Him, God confirmed David as king. David started an eternal dynasty that led to Jesus, the Son of David. Like David, Jesus trusted God instead of taking revenge or looking for a shortcut. Like David, Jesus will reign as king to bless His people. But Jesus is greater than David, for one day He will take vengeance on the wicked and reign forever. So those who hope in Jesus can leave vengeance to Him.

LAST WEEK



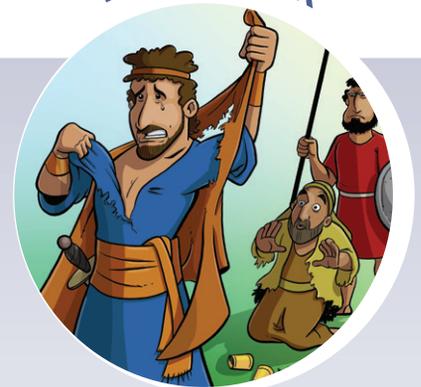
God gives David a friend
1 Samuel 18:1–20:42

THIS WEEK



God judges between
David and Saul
1 Samuel 24:1–22

NEXT WEEK



God makes David king
2 Samuel 1:1–2:7

Lesson Commentary

God blesses those who trust His plan and leave vengeance to Him.

God chose David for a magnificent calling as Israel's greatest king. But before becoming king, God allowed David to experience great suffering. This suffering was designed to purify David's faith, preparing him for the demands of leading God's people. During this time, God used Jonathan as a godly friend to encourage and protect David (1 Sam 18–20; 23:15–17), and David learned to trust God. Even when he had the chance to kill Saul, David trusted God's plan, not his own. As a result, God encouraged David again, this time by the words of David's greatest enemy! God strengthens and delivers those who trust His plan and leave vengeance to Him.

David trusted God for vengeance (24:1–7)

When Saul left to fight the Philistines (23:19–29), David went to En-gedi, an oasis on the shores of the Dead Sea. This seaside retreat was bordered by massive cliffs full of caves—a good place to rest and hide out. But as soon as Saul defeated the Philistines, he started pursuing David again (24:1–2).

As David fled from Saul, his life was directed by the word of God (22:5; 23:2, 4, 9–13). In this David became a model for us to follow. It is not for us to direct our own way (Jer 10:23). Rather, we should be diligent

to study God's word and obey it (Luke 11:28). Those who neglect God's word fail (Josh 9:14; Ps 119:21), but those who treasure God's word are blessed (Josh 1:8; Ps 119:1).

Suddenly, Saul appeared before David and his men (1 Sam 24:4). David's men immediately interpreted this as a God-given opportunity for David to kill his enemy. Saul had entered the cave to relieve himself, and he was completely alone and vulnerable (24:3). Staring at his enemy in the darkness, listening to the

whispers of his men, David had a decision to make. Should he wait for God, or seek vengeance himself? Should he trust God's timing, or should he end his troubles in a moment?

What would you do? Do you leave judgment in God's hands? It's tempting to take the easy way out. We may even try to excuse sin because we, like David's men, interpret convenient circumstances as God's will. But favorable circumstances are not proof of God's will. On the contrary, God's will is often extremely inconvenient (Rom 5:3–5; Heb 12:1–13; 1 Pet 2:19). David knew God's promise (1 Sam 20:13–16; 23:16–17), and he also trusted God's process. As a result, David avoided the painful consequences of those who try to obtain God's promises by human schemes (Gen 16; 27).

Instead of cutting Saul, David only cut Saul's robe. But David regretted doing even this much. His conscience bothered him because he knew the law prohibited even speaking badly against a ruler (Exod 22:28). Any action against God's anointed was an action against God Himself (1 Sam 24:6). So when David's men wanted to kill Saul themselves, David stopped them with a strong rebuke. While Saul was hunting David's life, David was the only one protecting Saul's. So we too must love our enemies (Matt 5:44) and submit faithfully to rulers, even unrighteous ones (1 Pet 2:13–18).

David proved his innocence (24:8–15)

David's respect for Saul's kingship did not mean he was powerless to defend himself. So he stood and delivered a powerful defense of his own innocence, urging Saul to give up his unjust pursuit. David began by calling Saul "my lord the king" and bowing down to show **honor** (1 Sam 24:8). David's genuine display of **respect** for Saul's kingship gave weight to his words.

After honoring Saul, David proved he was not Saul's enemy (1 Sam 24:9). First, he provided personal

THINK ABOUT IT
God's word
illuminates our path
(Ps 119:105).



THINK ABOUT IT
David's words,
together with his
actions, show that it
is possible to rebuke
someone without
dishonoring them
(2 Tim 2:25).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God judges between David and Saul • 1 Samuel 24:1–22



testimony and physical evidence of his loyalty to Saul (24:10–11). Second, he used a well-known phrase to say, in effect, “You know I won’t act wickedly against you because I am not a wicked person” (24:13). Finally, he urged Saul to consider how silly it was to waste so much energy chasing someone so unimportant (24:14). David defended his innocence with humility, integrity, wisdom, and respect—demonstrating the proper way to respond to persecution.

In the process, David did not excuse Saul’s wickedness. Saul never truly repented, and his actions prove he was a wicked man (24:13). Instead, David looked to God for judgment. Twice he repeated: “May the LORD judge between you and me” (24:12, 15). David trusted God to avenge him against Saul and deliver him from Saul. David left *vengeance* in God’s hands, trusting God *to punish Saul as payback for harming others*. Asking God for vengeance is not wrong (Ps 54:5; 58:6–9; 139:19–24). Those who pray for God to avenge are able to be gentle and peaceful towards their enemies, since they do not seek their own revenge (Rom 12:19; Deut 32:35–36; Lev 19:18).

This type of response is necessary when responding to all kinds of authority. Though Saul was dishonorable, his position as God’s appointed king was to be honored (1 Sam 24:10), and this is true for all *authority* (Rom 13:1). To rebel against *those whom God has placed in positions of leadership* on earth is to rebel against God (Rom 13:2). So what do we do when we are oppressed by the authority who is supposed to protect us (Rom 13:3–4)? We appeal to God Himself (Pss 57; 142). He hears the prayers of the oppressed and opposes the arrogant oppressor (1 Sam 2:1–10).

Saul confessed David’s innocence (24:16–22)

Saul wept at David’s passionate appeal, but his later actions show that he did not repent (24:16; 26:2). Even so, God used Saul to confirm David’s righteousness (24:17). David had asked God to plead his case, and now

God used wicked Saul to state the verdict: David was innocent.

Saul also confirmed God’s word: David would be king. Saul hinted at this by calling David his son, implying that David was the rightful heir (24:16). Then Saul stated it clearly, adding that David would bless Israel (24:20). Thus God used wicked Saul to confirm His word. David had refused to take the easy way out by killing Saul, and God encouraged David that he had made the right choice.

David trusted God’s word, waited for God’s way, and left vengeance in God’s hand. So too did Jesus, the promised Davidic king. Like David, Jesus knew He would be exalted as King (Ps 2:8–9). He was also tempted to by-pass God’s plan in order to obtain God’s promise (Matt 4:8–9). He too left vengeance in God’s hand (Matt 26:53). Like David, He chose instead do what is right and entrust Himself to God (1 Pet 2:22–23). As a result of His obedience, He, like David, was exalted as King (Phil 2:9–11). And finally, Jesus, like David, brings blessing on those He reigns over (Eph 1:3).

But Jesus is much greater than David. His temptation was greater. His integrity was greater. His exaltation was greater. And the blessing He brings—forgiveness of sins (John 1:29), eternal life (John 3:16), and the restoration of all creation (Rev 21–22)—is greater. One day He will finally execute vengeance on those who persecute believers (2 Thess 1:6–10). Because of that, we can follow in His steps, entrusting ourselves to God and leaving vengeance in His hands.

THINK ABOUT IT

Grief is part of repentance, but grief by itself is not repentance (2 Cor 7:8–11).



Lesson Outline

God blesses those who trust His plan and leave vengeance to Him.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David had a chance to kill Saul (24:1–4).
2. David cut off the corner of Saul's robe (24:4).
3. David knew it was wrong to cut Saul's robe (24:5–7).
4. David trusted God instead of hurting Saul (24:8–15).
5. God encouraged David (24:16–22).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David trusted God for vengeance (24:1–7).
 - Saul came to kill David at En-gedi (24:1–2).
 - David's men told David to kill Saul while he was alone and vulnerable (24:3–4).
 - David cut off the corner of Saul's robe but was sorry he did (24:5–6).
 - David refused to let anyone harm the LORD's anointed (24:6–7).
2. David proved his innocence (24:8–15).
 - David honored Saul (24:8).
 - David defended his innocence with evidence (24:9–11).
 - David left vengeance to the LORD (24:12).
 - David defended his innocence with logic (24:13–14).
 - David left vengeance to the LORD (24:15).
3. Saul confessed David's innocence (24:16–22).
 - Saul wept and called David his son (24:16).
 - Saul admitted David was more righteous than he (24:17–19).
 - Saul confirmed God's word that David would be king (24:20).
 - Saul asked for mercy for his children, and David agreed (24:21–22).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who was chasing David to kill him?**
Saul.
- 2. What did David cut when Saul was alone?**
David cut off the edge of Saul's robe.
- 3. Why did David honor Saul?**
Saul was the king. He was "the LORD's anointed."
- 4. Did David do the easy thing, or did he trust God's plan?**
David waited for God's plan.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What opportunity did David have?**
David had a chance to kill his enemy, Saul, when Saul was alone in the cave.
- 2. What did David's men tell him to do?**
David's men told him to kill Saul. They thought God was giving David the opportunity to become king now.
- 3. Why did David feel bad about cutting off the edge of Saul's robe?**
David knew that this dishonored the one God had put in authority over Israel.
- 4. After Saul left the cave, what did David do?**
David called to him, showed him the corner of the robe, and defended his innocence.
- 5. What did David pray that God would do?**
David prayed that God would take vengeance on Saul but deliver David.
- 6. What did Saul do when he heard David's speech?**
Saul wept, but he did not truly repent.
- 7. How did Saul's response encourage David?**
Saul said that David was innocent; this showed David that he was doing the right thing. Saul also said David would surely be king; this showed that David was right to trust God to make it happen instead of trying to take a shortcut.
- 8. Who else refused to take a shortcut on the way to becoming king?**
Jesus. He waited for God's plan and did not seek sinful vengeance. Because of His obedience, He became the sinless sacrifice to pay for our sins, and He is now exalted with God and will one day return as King over the whole earth.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

TIE THIEF!

Bring an inexpensive tie and scissors to class. Instruct an adult classroom assistant to sneak up while you are introducing today's lesson, cut off the bottom part of your tie, and sneak away unnoticed (you should pretend not to notice). Tell the children that in today's lesson David snuck up while Saul wasn't looking and cut off a piece of his robe.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIN

In this week's lesson, David has the perfect opportunity to kill Saul, who is himself seeking to kill David. David does not take the opportunity because he does not want to sin. This is a very difficult choice to make and yet a very wise one. Give the children instructions to sit still and not to talk, no matter what happens. Then have a volunteer shut off the lights momentarily. Did all the children obey? Did some use the darkness as an opportunity to sin? Explain to the children that David faced an even harder test but chose to be obedient.



ILLUSTRATE

LEAVE ROOM FOR GOD

Ask the children how they respond when someone is mean to them or hurts them. Do they immediately respond by trying to hurt the person themselves? Do they use mean words or try to hit them? Explain that this is called "revenge," punishing someone by returning evil for evil. Tell them that we, like David, must let God take revenge; don't hit your sibling or friend.

GOD IS JUDGE

Tell the class that we don't need to seek revenge because God is judge. We must leave judgment to Him. Illustrate this by wearing a black robe and swinging a judge's gavel during the lesson when David says: "May the LORD judge between you and me" (1 Sam 24:12, 15). Explain that judges are people who settle disagreements between people.



APPLY

SAUL CHASES DAVID

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheet, cardstock, paperclips, magnets, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures from craft sheet. Create a large-scale map of Israel from a sheet of cardstock (one per student). Color in the Jordan River, Dead Sea, and a dotted line indicating where Saul chased David (as shown below). Have children color and glue the two-sided pictures. Place a paperclip on the bottom of each figure. Move Saul and David on the map by using a magnet underneath the cardstock.



Saul Chases David
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God judges between David and Saul • 1 Samuel 24:1–22



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

WHO WE ARE IN THE DARK

Without warning, turn off the lights. After a few seconds, turn the lights back on. Tell the class that D.L. Moody once said that “character is what we are in the dark.” Another person has said that “character is what we are when nobody is looking, in the secret chambers of our hearts.” How did the children behave when the lights were off? Tell the class that in today’s lesson we will see what happened when David met his enemy in the dark. Will he wait for God, or seek revenge on his own?

OPPORTUNITY IS NOT PERMISSION

Discuss with the children the difference between opportunity and permission. Place a piece of candy on a desk and walk away from it. Explain to the children that just because they have an opportunity to take the candy does not mean that they have permission to do so. Explain that in today’s lesson, David will have an opportunity to do something that would be great for him but that he did not have permission to do.



ILLUSTRATE

SAUL CHASES DAVID

Create a map of Israel on poster board, labeling key locations where Saul chased David (Philistine Territory, Moab, Keilah, and the caves of En Gedi). Create two cardstock standalones of Saul and David in the shape of a triangle, allowing them to stand on the map. Place a paperclip on the bottom of each figure. As you teach through the lesson, point out the significant locations on the map. Demonstrate the movement of Saul and David by moving the magnet underneath the poster board (moving the two standalones).

MONEY IN THE CEILING

Tell this real story to illustrate David’s blameless character before God. One afternoon a young boy was working with his father. As they pulled down the ceiling tiles in the house they were remodeling, numerous thick envelopes stuffed with money fell down to the floor below. More ceiling tiles revealed additional envelopes. The young boy asked his father what they were going to do. Ask the class what they would do. Tell the class that the father immediately returned the money to the owner of the home. The owner had forgotten about the money and desperately needed it to continue renovations on the home.



APPLY

DAVID’S HEART AND SAUL’S HEART

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, red paper, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Have the students color and cut out the pictures, seeds, and rocks from the craft sheet. Glue the pictures towards the top of a sheet of red paper. Draw a heart under each picture. Glue the seeds inside the heart under David and the rocks inside the heart under Saul. Write the title “David’s Heart and Saul’s Heart” on the top.

David’s Heart and Saul’s Heart
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD

There is no authority, except that which has been established by God (Rom 13:1). Identify numerous local and national leaders by name and ask the children if all these leaders honor God in everything they do. Explain that all these leaders, whether they are God honoring or not, have been placed in positions of authority by God. Then, as a class, read 1 Timothy 2:1–2 and pray for these officials by name.

CAN VERSUS SHOULD

Bring in a tray of brownies. Talk to the children about eating one brownie. Then talk about eating the whole pan of brownies! What would happen? Just because we can do something does not mean that we should do it. In today's lesson, we'll talk about how David had the opportunity to do something but had to decide whether or not he should do it.



ILLUSTRATE

THE PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES OF IMPATIENCE

Sadly, not everyone we read about in the Bible waited for God's plan. Abraham and Sarah trusted God's promise concerning a son, but they did not trust in God's process of providing a son. Read portions of Genesis 16 and 21, highlighting the painful consequences of not waiting upon God.

VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD

David refused to take his own revenge (1 Sam 24:6–7). Instead, he prayed that God would take vengeance on Saul (1 Sam 24:12). In fact, David often asked God to take vengeance on the wicked. Read Psalms 54:5; 58:6–9; and 139:19–22 together as a class. Note how David took his complaint to God and left it with God. He did not pursue his own vengeance.



APPLY

GOD'S WORD RULES

After the lesson, play a game with the class. Prepare easy questions that give a choice between right and wrong actions. Each question should be matched with a specific command from God's Word. The focus should be on applying Scripture to situations the children will face. For example, ask the children whether they should hurt someone who hurts them. After they answer, talk about Matthew 5:44, which says that we should love our enemies. Make the game competitive by allowing each child who answers correctly to move forward on a game board, earn points for his team, etc.



LESSON 21

God makes David king

2 SAMUEL 1:1-2:7



God supports those who act with integrity.



“Then David...mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword” (2 Sam 1:11–12).

Supporting Truths

1. Those who act with integrity love others.
2. Those who act with integrity grieve deeply for others.
3. Those who act with integrity honor their own leaders.
4. Those who act with integrity oppose evil schemes.
5. These who act with integrity set an example for others.

Objectives

1. List the people David loved.
2. List those David grieved for, and describe how David grieved.
3. Give two examples of how David honored Saul.
4. Explain why David was right to execute the Amalekite messenger.
5. Describe what Israel should have learned from David's example.



Lesson Summary

David's joy and relief when he finally became king were mixed with grief over the deaths of Saul, Jonathan, and countless Israelites. An Amalekite messenger thought the news of Saul's death would be welcomed by David, but David executed him for claiming to have killed Saul, the Lord's anointed. Instead, David wrote a sad song to remember Israel's defeat and the deaths of two of Israel's greatest warriors. Even then, with his enemy removed, David patiently waited upon God to solidify his kingship.

Spotlight on the Gospel

God chose David to be the beginning of a line of kings that would eventually culminate in the arrival of the Messiah. David followed God's plan with integrity, and God established him as king. However, even more than David, the Messiah would live with integrity, love God's people, and be an example for all to follow. But the Messiah did what David could never do. While David grieved for the dead, the Messiah died and rose again in order to raise the dead and conquer death itself.

LAST WEEK



God judges between
David and Saul
1 Samuel 24:1-22

THIS WEEK



God makes David king
2 Samuel 1:1-2:7

NEXT WEEK



God makes a covenant
with David
2 Samuel 7:1-29

Lesson Commentary

God supports those who act with integrity.

David was a king after God's own heart. Instead of killing Saul when he had the chance, David left vengeance to God and patiently endured (1 Sam 24). Then, when Saul was killed in battle against the Philistines (1 Sam 31), David again responded righteously. Instead of rejoicing at the death of his enemy, David grieved deeply for Saul, for Jonathan, and for all Israel. David's actions reveal a man of **integrity**—a man of honesty and sincerity who was blessed by God and who became a blessing to God's people.

David mourned and avenged Saul's death (1:1–16)

David had recently returned from defeating the Amalekites (1 Sam 30:1–20) when a messenger arrived with bad news: Saul and Jonathan were dead, and Israel's army was badly beaten (2 Sam 1:1–4). The messenger thought that David would interpret this as good news, so he invented a story about helping Saul take his own life (1:6–10; 1 Sam 31:3–5). He probably thought David would be happy that Saul was dead, and he hoped to gain a reward for bringing David Saul's crown and bracelet.

But David did not rejoice. He wept all day and did not eat anything. All his men wept and fasted with him (2 Sam 1:11–12). A few chapters earlier, David had prayed for God to take vengeance against Saul (1 Sam 24:12), but this did not stop David from weeping for him. He mourned for the Lord's anointed, who came to such a miserable end as a result of his own disobedience. He mourned also for Jonathan, his close friend and fellow soldier. He mourned for all those who had died in battle, as well as for the rest of Israel, now kingless and cowering before the Philistines.

David's grief was good. He was right to grieve over the dead, as Jeremiah also did (Jer 9:1). Death is real, being part of the curse (Gen 2:17). It is the result of sin (Rom 6:23), the final enemy to be destroyed (1 Cor 15:26). So it is fitting to mourn when people die. One day Christ will conquer death (1 Cor 15:54), but until that day, we mourn for those who have died.

While it seems obvious that David would grieve over the death of Jonathan, his best friend, David's grief went far beyond the memory of Jonathan. David grieved also for God's people and for all of Israel. It is good to grieve when God's people suffer loss (Amos 6:6). If we love God, then we will also love His people and weep with those who weep (Rom 12:15; 2 Cor 11:29).

Even more amazing, David grieved over Saul, his life-long enemy. Rather than rejoice over the destruction of our enemies (Prov 24:17), we ought to grieve over the fate of the wicked. Samuel and David both wept for Saul (1 Sam 15:35), Jesus wept for unrepentant Jerusalem (Luke 19:41), and Paul wept for faithless Israel (Rom 9:2–3). God Himself takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek 18:32).

It is good to consider death and sorrow, since it awakens us from the here and now and reminds us of things eternal (Eccl 7:2). Grief drives us to God for healing (Ps 147:3). It also teaches us how to comfort others (2 Cor 1:3–4). Grief trains our eyes on heaven where Jesus will one day put an end to all sin and death and wipe away every tear (Rev 21:4).

David's loyal love for God and God's people also produced a healthy fear. David was shocked that the Amalekite messenger had not been afraid to harm Saul, the LORD's anointed king (2 Sam 1:14). The Amalekite's lack of fear caused him to act foolishly, and David executed him based on his own testimony (1:16).

By his grief and his vengeance, David proved that his love for Israel and its king was genuine. And by his loyal love he would eventually win the trust of the people (5:1–5). When we are going through difficulty, it is easy to focus on ourselves and ignore the hardship of those around us. But David grieved, even for his enemy.

THINK ABOUT IT
Christian grief mingles sadness with hope (1 Thess 4:13).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes David king • 2 Samuel 1:1–2:7



David commemorated the dead (1:17–27)

David then wrote a song to *commemorate*, *to honor and remember*, Saul and Jonathan. He even taught this *lament*, this *song of sorrow*, to his troops.

The song has three main themes. First, David lamented Israel's shame, showing once again David's deep love for God's people (1:19–21). This also shows his continuing commitment to God's glory, since enemies of God's

people are also enemies of God (1 Sam 17:26, 45–47). Second, David honored Saul and Jonathan (1:22–23). He never mentioned any of Saul's failures. Instead, he remembered how Saul and Jonathan bravely defended Israel together. Third, David mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1:24).



THINK ABOUT IT

David's lament, along with Lamentations and many of the Psalms, shows the value of thoughtfully expressing and remembering sorrow.

The bond between David and Jonathan was noble, loyal, and selfless. Their union was stronger than anything either of them had experienced with women. Yet their devotion to one another was pure—there is no hint of inappropriate behavior, despite what some may say. Both David and Jonathan were committed to God's law, and God's law is very clear concerning homosexuality (Lev 20:13; Rom 1:26–28).

With this song David again proved his righteous character as he ascended to the kingship. He showed all Israel that he loved Israel, that he was not a traitor, and that the kingship was sacred. By honoring Saul, David secured the honor of the kingship that would soon be his.

David honored God and man (2:1–7)

After grieving, David still refused to rush ahead with his own plans. All along he refused to take the kingdom for himself. He waited for God to give the kingdom as a gift of His grace. As before, David sought God's word and

obeyed it (2 Sam 2:1). As a result, David was made king of Judah at Hebron (2:2–4).

David was not yet king of all Israel, but he continued to act with integrity instead of selfish ambition. He heard that the men of Jabesh-gilead had marched all night and risked their lives to give Saul and Jonathan a proper burial (1 Sam 31:11–13). It was a debt of gratitude to Saul, who had once saved the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead from brutal mutilation at the hands of Nahash the Ammonite (1 Sam 11). Incoming kings would often punish the supporters of the previous king, but David honored the people of Jabesh-gilead, showing once again his loyalty to God's anointed, to God's people, and to God Himself.

David would continue to act righteously and wisely as he worked to gain the support of the rest of Israel. Ishbosheth and his general, Abner, challenged David's right to be king, but this did not stop David from publicly mourning Abner's death (3:31–39) or from executing Ishbosheth's assassins (4:5–12). Finally, all Israel welcomed him as king (5:1–3).

David's descendant possesses integrity and righteousness that far surpasses even that of David. Jesus refused to take His rightful place as King in the wrong way (Matt 4:8–10). He grieved for His people and for the fate of the wicked (Luke 19:41). His kingdom also begins small (Isa 11:1). But one day He will return and reign on the throne of David over the whole world (Ps 2:9; Rev 19:5). We also will reign with Him, if we will hold fast to love, faith, service, and endurance to the end (Rev 2:19–26). Until then, we should weep with those who weep, walk by God's word, and live with integrity.

THINK ABOUT IT

People of integrity have nothing to do with evil schemes.



Lesson Outline

God supports those who act with integrity.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David honored Saul by killing the Amalekite messenger (1:1–16).
2. David was sad that Saul and Jonathan were dead (1:17–27).
3. David obeyed God's word and became king (2:1–4).
4. David honored Saul by honoring the men of Jabesh-gilead (2:4–7).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David mourned and avenged Saul's death (1:1–16).
 - David returned from defeating the Amalekites (1:1).
 - An Amalekite said he had killed Saul (1:2–10).
 - David wept for Saul, Jonathan, the LORD's people, and all Israel (1:11–12).
 - David executed the Amalekite for killing the LORD's anointed (1:13–16)
2. David commemorated the dead (1:17–27).
 - David taught his troops a song of lament (1:17–18).
 - David grieved over Israel's shame and loss (1:19–21, 27).
 - David remembered Saul and Jonathan's honor (1:22–23).
 - David called the daughters of Israel to weep for Saul (1:24).
 - David himself grieved for Jonathan (1:25–26).
3. David honored God and man (2:1–7; 3:31–39; 4:5–12; 5:1–3).
 - David sought and obeyed God's word (2:1–3).
 - David was anointed king of Judah (2:4).
 - David honored the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul (2:5–7).
 - David patiently gained the trust of all Israel (3:31–39; 4:5–12; 5:1–3).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who brought David bad news?**
The Amalekite.
- 2. What did the Amalekite say he had done to Saul?**
He said he killed Saul.
- 3. What did David do when he heard this bad news?**
David cried and wrote a sad song. David also executed the Amalekite.
- 4. When David did what God said, what happened to David?**
David became king.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who died?**
Saul, Jonathan, and many Israelite soldiers died fighting the Philistines.
- 2. Why did David kill the Amalekite?**
David killed him because he said he killed Saul, God's anointed.
- 3. Who did David weep for?**
He wept for Saul, for Jonathan, for God's people, and for all Israel. He was a good leader because he loved his friends, his enemies, and all God's people.
- 4. After David wept and fasted, how did he keep grieving?**
He wrote a lament, a sad song, so that Israel would not forget.
- 5. Why was it important for Israel to remember this sad day?**
It would motivate them to fight the Philistines. It would also remind them that David was a worthy leader who loved his people.
- 6. How did David know what to do next?**
David asked God. David was very careful to obey what God said.
- 7. Why did David honor the men of Jabesh-gilead?**
He honored them because they had heroically rescued the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. David again showed his loyalty to Israel.
- 8. What did David do when his enemies Abner and Ishbosheth were murdered?**
He mourned for Abner publicly. He executed the men who murdered Ishbosheth. David was a leader with integrity, so he wanted nothing to do with evil actions, even if it helped him defeat his enemies.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Today's lesson covers the death of both Saul and Jonathan. Ask the children why people die. Explain that God warned Adam and Eve that if they sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, they would die (Gen 2:16–17). Since that time, all people have sinned and so all people die (Rom 3:23; 1 Cor 15:22). You can review some of the great characters of the Bible who all died: Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David, for example.

INTEGRITY

Today's lesson is about David, a man of "integrity." Illustrate this concept by wearing one or more dirty clothing items along with your fresh, clean clothes. For example, underneath your clean dress pants could be a pair of filthy socks. Or you might choose to wear a dirty, smelly hat with your freshly pressed suit. Explain that integrity means that every part of your life is pleasing to God.



ILLUSTRATE

PUPPET SKIT

Present to the class a skit involving three puppets. Single out one puppet as "evil." While participating in an activity, this "evil" puppet injures himself. The other two puppets then rejoice over his injury, saying that he got what he deserved because he is wicked. Discuss with the children why rejoicing in the suffering of the wicked is wrong. Also discuss what the right response would have been in this situation.

FALSE REPORT

Materials: Crown; bracelet; additional objects that may enhance the lesson, such as torn clothes, dust (or flour), and weapons of war (sword, spear, shield, bow).

Directions: Instruct a child or another teacher to interrupt the beginning of the lesson by bringing a crown and bracelet to you in front of the class. Have him tell you the news of Saul's death, as the Amalekite did in 2 Samuel 1:1–16.



APPLY

DAVID BECOMES KING TIMELINE

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheets, yarn, hole punch, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures from craft sheets and punch holes in designated places. Have children color the pictures. Assist them in putting them on the string in the correct order, as shown below.

David Becomes King Timeline
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes David king • 2 Samuel 1:1–2:7



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

FUTURE REUNION

Show the class a picture of a beloved family member who has passed away and is now in the presence of the Lord. Share with the class your joy over the thought of one day being reunited with this individual in the presence of Jesus (2 Cor 5:8).

JUST ONE DROP

Open a bottle of water and ask if anyone in the class is thirsty. Set the water bottle down and pull out a small water dropper. Tell the class that it is filled with water you collected from the toilet (don't actually fill the dropper with toilet water!). Put one drop of "toilet water" from the dropper in the water bottle and ask again if anyone is thirsty. Use this illustration to explain the concept of "integrity." Explain that integrity is being whole and undivided (like an "integer" in math). There is not even one drop of deceit or trickery. A person with integrity is honest and sincere in every part of their life. Tell the class that today's lesson is about a man with integrity.



ILLUSTRATE

A SAMARITAN'S LOVE

Read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). After the story, identify similarities between the Samaritan's love for the injured Israelite and David's love for wicked Saul.

WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP

Ask the class to identify things that are commonly associated with funerals (flowers, black clothing, eulogies, tissues, etc.). Tell the class that almost every funeral or tragedy is attended by other people who desire to pay their respects to the dead and comfort the family. Explain that gathering together during times of hardship is a great encouragement to those who sorrow. Read Romans 12:15 to the class and talk about the need to be sensitive to the situations of others—whether they be rejoicing or weeping.



APPLY

DAVID REPLACES SAUL AS KING

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.
Materials: Craft sheets, brads, cardstock, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Have children color and cut out the pieces from the craft sheet. Connect the pictures of Saul and David with a brad, as shown below. Glue the crowns in the appropriate places, according to where each king's head comes to when the pictures pivot.

David Replaces Saul as King
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*



AGES 9–11



OBITUARIES

Ask the children if they know what an obituary is. Bring in some obituaries from a local newspaper and read them to the class. Make sure that at least one of the obituaries expresses the hope of a Christian who has passed into eternal glory through faith in Jesus Christ. Ask the children what happens when a Christian dies. Then ask them what happens when a non-Christian dies. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and talk about the hope that Christians have even as they grieve over beloved friends and family who have died.

ABOVE REPROACH

The overarching requirement of a church leader is that he be “above reproach” (1 Tim 3:2). This does not mean that he is sinless; it means that no one can legitimately accuse him of any wrongdoing. In other words, there is no obvious, deliberate sin that can be seen in his life. In today’s lesson we’re going to see a man who (at this point in his life) was above reproach. David refused to tolerate evil, even going so far as to punish those who did evil in order to please him (2 Sam 1:13–16).



CLARIFYING TERMS: THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

The Old Testament uses the terms “righteous” and “wicked” in more general terms than the New Testament. Noah (Gen 6:9) and Abraham (Gen 15:6) are both said to be righteous, although we know they still sinned. To be righteous is to be in a right relationship with God and includes both faith and obedience toward God. The wicked are those who reject God’s means of relating correctly to Him—in the Old Testament, via the law, the priests, the prophets, and the sacrifices. No one is righteous in the absolute sense of being perfectly sinless before God (Isa 64:6). However, in Jesus Christ we can become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21)

OBITUARY FOR KING SAUL

Write a pretend obituary for King Saul and share it with the class. Emphasize David’s faithful love for Saul in spite of his wicked behavior.



LIFE CHECKPOINT

An obituary summarizes the life of a person after their death. But what would others say about our life right now? Ask the children to write a personal “checkpoint” summarizing the content of their lives up to this point. Ask the children to finish their life summary by explaining the direction they want their lives to go from here. After the activity, ask if there are any children who would like to share what they have written with the class. You might consider writing one for yourself and sharing it with the class.



LESSON 22

God makes a covenant with David

2 SAMUEL 7:1-29



God's promises are gracious and unchanging.



“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Sam 7:16).

Supporting Truths

1. God's promises are gracious.
2. God's promises are unchanging.
3. God's plan is best.
4. God's promises are the basis of our praises and requests.
5. Jesus fulfills the Davidic Covenant as the Son of David.

Objectives

1. List the things God had done and promised to do for David and Israel.
2. Count how many times God says His promise is “forever.”
3. Explain why God's promises far exceeded David's desire.
4. Identify the basis of David's praises and requests.
5. Explain how Jesus fulfills the Davidic covenant.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1-29



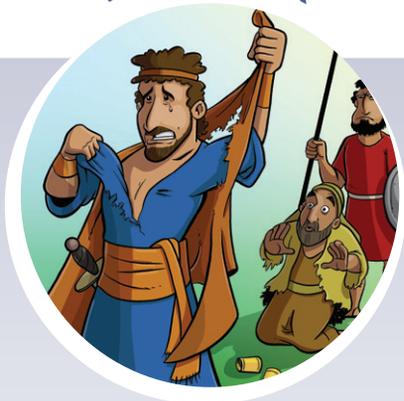
Lesson Summary

Out of gratitude for what God had done, David wanted to build a house (temple) for God. But God had something much greater in mind. He would build a house (dynasty) for David. David's descendants would be kings after him, and his kingdom would never end. By this promise God would provide a ruler to bring peace to Israel. David responded with prayer, expressing humility, wonder, praise for God's unchanging grace, and faith in asking God to do as He had promised.

Spotlight on the Gospel

God's covenant with David comes true in Jesus. He is the Son of God, and His reign will last forever. Israel rejected Him, but their rejection led to His death and the forgiveness of sins to all who believe. His reign as the Son of David will occur when He returns to rule over Israel with righteousness and peace. Those who make Him their King now will reign with Him without sin when Christ returns to reign upon and over the earth (Rev 20:4-6).

LAST WEEK



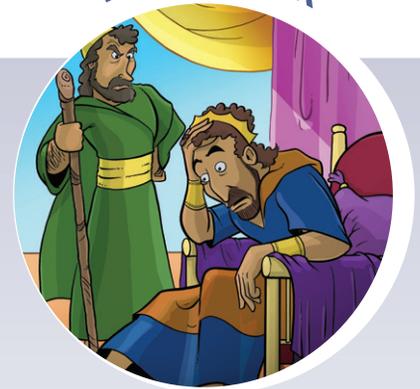
God makes David king
2 Samuel 1:1-2:7

THIS WEEK



God makes a covenant
with David
2 Samuel 7:1-29

NEXT WEEK



God forgives David
2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson Commentary

God's promises are gracious and unchanging.

The Bible is about God's glory, especially His glory in rescuing sinners and making a people for Himself. This rescue plan began when God promised that Eve's descendant would crush Satan (Gen 3:15). Then it focused on Abraham and God's promise of a nation (12:2-3). Now it focuses even more, this time to David and God's promise of a ruler for His nation. Through this ruler—King Jesus—God will fulfill His promises to Israel and also bless people from all nations. This is the climax of 1-2 Samuel, since the entire book has been about God's grace in giving His people a righteous ruler. In doing so, God is glorified as we see that His promises are wise, gracious, and faithful.

David wanted to build a house for God (7:1-7)

David had been very patient, waiting for God to give him the kingdom. And the wait was worth it. God not only made David king (2 Sam 5:3), but also gave him victory and success. David conquered Jerusalem, which had resisted capture since the days of Joshua (5:6-10). He also defeated the Philistines (5:17-25) and built his palace in Jerusalem (5:11), returning the ark to the nation's capital (2 Sam 6). How was

David able to accomplish so much? The LORD was with him (5:10), and David knew it (5:12). By His presence the LORD gave David and the people of Israel rest from all their enemies (7:1).

Yet David was troubled. How could he, the LORD's servant, live in a nicer house than the LORD (2 Sam 7:2)? Nathan affirmed David's desire to build God a temple (7:3), but neither Nathan nor David had bothered to check with God first. There would be a temple, but not now and not built by David (1 Chr 22:8). God decides how and when His people worship

Him. Only God is perfectly *wise*, *understanding what is best*. So we must be careful to live according to His word (Ps 119:6).

God reminded David through Nathan that He had not lived in a house since the day He rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt. Nor did God ever tell any of Israel's leaders to build Him a temple (2 Sam 7:6-7). In all their trouble, in all their sin, in all their wandering, God remained in the midst of His people. God was willing to dwell with His people in a humble, lowly way. Is it any surprise, then, that God became flesh and dwelt among us (Phil 2:5-8)?

The LORD promised to build a house for David (7:8-17)

God had already poured out His grace upon David, demonstrating His kindness, mercy, and undeserved favor by promoting David from lowly shepherd to victorious king (2 Sam 7:8-9). But God was not finished blessing David. First, the LORD promised to make David's name great (7:9), a special promise He had not made to anyone except Abraham (Gen 12:2). Second, the LORD promised a place and peace to His people Israel (2 Sam 7:10-11). This promise will be finally realized when Jesus, the Son of David, returns to reign on earth (Jer 23:6; 33:16-26; Rev 20:4). Third, the LORD promised to build for David a house, a *dynasty, a line of kings from the same family* (2 Sam 7:11).

Not only was God gracious in His promise, He was also *faithful, constant and unchanging*. God's *covenant* is unbreakable. His *promise* of a throne to David is unchanging. It cannot be broken by David's death, for his descendants will reign after him (7:12). It cannot be broken by time, for his dynasty will last forever (7:13, 16). It cannot be broken even by sin. God knows that David's descendants will sin, and He will punish them for their sin (7:14-15). But He will do so as a Father who patiently loves his children.



THINK ABOUT IT

God's presence is our greatest delight (Ps 27:4; Matt 28:20).

THINK ABOUT IT

David wanted to build a house for God, but God would build a house for David.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1–29



Though any individual king in David's line may be removed for his sin, God will never destroy the line of David. Three times the word "forever" emphasizes God's unbreakable covenant (7:13, 16). Even after tremendous sin, the destruction of the temple, and exile, David's line lived on (2 Kgs 25:27; 2 Chr 21:7). Even when the Son of David died and hope seemed lost, Jesus rose again, defeated death, and will never die again (Rom 6:9).

The covenant was immediately realized in part in David's son Solomon. Solomon built the temple, was like a son to God, and had a lasting dynasty (1 Chr 22:7–10). Solomon also sinned and was disciplined, but he was not forsaken (1 Kgs 11:11–13). Ultimately, however, God's covenant with David comes true in the Messiah, the Son of David. The prophets looked forward to His eternal, righteous reign (Isa 9:6–7), and Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would fulfill the Davidic Covenant (Luke 1:32–33). Jesus is the Son of the Most High (Heb 1:5), He will sit on David's throne and reign over Israel (Luke 1:32), and His kingdom will never end (Luke 1:33). Israel rejected their Messiah, delaying Christ's earthly reign over His people (Matt 23:39). But one day Jesus will return to begin His Davidic reign over Israel and over all the earth, exactly as God promised (Isa 24:23; Ezek 37:24–25; Zech 14; Matt 25:31; Rev 19).

David praised God and prayed that God's promise would come true (7:18–29)

When David heard God's promises, he was overwhelmed with wonder and gratitude (2 Sam 7:18).

God had already done so much for him: (1) God chose him when he was nobody; (2) God saved him from Goliath, from Saul, and from countless Philistine attacks; and (3) God made him a great king. But now God promised to do much

more. David recognized that God's promises would bless not just him or even his nation (7:19), but that through David's line God planned to bless the entire world (Gen 49:10; Num 24:17).

Yet David also recognized God's special blessing on the nation of Israel, rehearsing Israel's unique place as the people of God (2 Sam 7:22–24). Israel was a special nation, chosen and redeemed to be God's people (Exod 19:4–5). Just as God's covenant with David was permanent, so God's commitment to the nation of Israel is permanent (2 Sam 7:24; Lev 26:44–45; Deut 30:1–6; Rom 11:26–28). God established Israel to be His people forever.

After praising God, David prayed for the fulfillment of God's promises (2 Sam 7:25–29). He prayed with faith, asking for the very same things that God had just promised. His prayer is a model for us. David prayed: (1) According to God's purpose and kingdom (7:25); (2) for God to be glorified (7:26); and (3) on the basis of God's merit (7:27). May we also pray with the same confidence and fervency, asking for all things in the name of Jesus (John 14:13).

God's promise to David is the fourth of five unbreakable covenants from God. This covenant, along with the previous three—Noahic (Gen 9:8–17), Abrahamic (Gen 15:12–21), and Levitic (Num 3:1–18; 18:1–20; 25:10–13)—reveals God's gracious and faithful nature (2 Sam 7:26–28). These four covenants would come true through the fifth one, the New Covenant (Jer 31:31–34). This fifth and final covenant provides forgiveness of sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of David promised in 2 Samuel 7 (Matt 26:28).



THINK ABOUT IT

God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20).

Lesson Outline

God's promises are gracious and unchanging.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David wanted to build a house for God (7:1–7).
2. The LORD promised that David's kingdom would last forever (7:8–17).
3. David was amazed, thanked God, and trusted God's promise (7:18–29).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David wanted to build a house for God (7:1–7).
 - God gave David rest from all his enemies (7:1).
 - The ark of God was still in a tent (7:2).
 - Nathan said David could build a house for God (7:3).
 - The LORD corrected Nathan: He had not asked for a house (7:4–7).
2. The LORD promised to build a house for David (7:8–17).
 - For David: The LORD promised a great name and rest from enemies (7:8–9, 11).
 - For Israel: The LORD promised to give Israel land and peace (7:10–11).
 - For David's son: The LORD would allow him to build a temple for God (7:13).
 - For David's son: The LORD promised to be a loving father (7:14–15).
 - For David's descendants: The LORD promised David's dynasty would last forever (7:16).
3. David praised God and prayed that God's promise would come true (7:18–29).
 - David said he had done nothing to deserve the LORD's blessing (7:18–21).
 - David praised the LORD for making Israel His people forever (7:22–24).
 - David prayed that the LORD would do what He had promised (7:25–29).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did David want to build for God?**
A house (temple).
- 2. What did God promise to build for David?**
A house (dynasty). A line of kings from David's family forever.
- 3. Who is the eternal king from David's line?**
Jesus is the eternal king. He will come again to reign forever.
- 4. What did David do when he heard God's promise?**
David prayed. He praised God for His grace and asked that God's promise come true.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. How was David able to become king and have victory and peace?**
God was present with him.
- 2. Why did David want to build a house for God?**
David didn't think it was right for him to live in a nice house while the ark of God was still in a tent. He wanted to honor God.
- 3. Did God need David to build Him a house?**
No. God needs nothing from man.
- 4. What did God promise for David?**
God promised to make his name great in all the earth.
- 5. What did God promise for Israel?**
God promised that through the Davidic reign Israel would live in their land in peace.
- 6. What did God promise about David's descendants?**
David's son would build a temple for God and be like a son to God. David's dynasty—a line of kings from his family—would last forever.
- 7. How would God keep His promise about David's dynasty?**
God kept His promise through Jesus, the Son of David, whose reign will last forever.
- 8. What motivated David to pray?**
God's promises motivated David. David praised God for His unchanging promises and prayed on the basis of God's promises.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3-5



TABERNACLE VERSUS TEMPLE

In today's lesson David wants to build a special building for God. David realized that God had blessed him greatly, and he wanted to build a beautiful temple for Him. What are the differences between a tabernacle and a temple? Show the children pictures of tents and houses to help illustrate the differences. Talk about the different materials needed to build each structure, the costs of each structure, the strength of each structure, and the beauty of each structure.

DYNASTY

A dynasty is a house, family line, or reign over a kingdom. This concept can be illustrated by giving each child either a red or blue piece of yarn. Choose one child to be the leader for each color. Help each child, in turn, join his yarn to the line of the appropriate color. Use this to explain to the children that a dynasty is a line of descendants. The more people, the longer the line gets. God promised David that he would be the first in a long line of kings who would come from His descendants. Ultimately, even Jesus would come through David's line.



UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT

A covenant is a very special promise from God. Tell the children that some covenants are unconditional while others are conditional. This means that some covenants are dependent on God (unconditional) and others are dependent on man (conditional). Illustrate the difference with a bird house. Ask a child to hold the bird house above his head. Explain that a bird will only come to the bird house if it remains above the child's head. Then hold the bird house above your head. The promise is no longer dependent on the child's obedience.

GENERATION

To help younger children understand the concept of a generation, ask a few of them to give the names of their grandparents and parents. Draw a family chart on the board, and explain how God had promised David that even his children's children would rule over Israel.



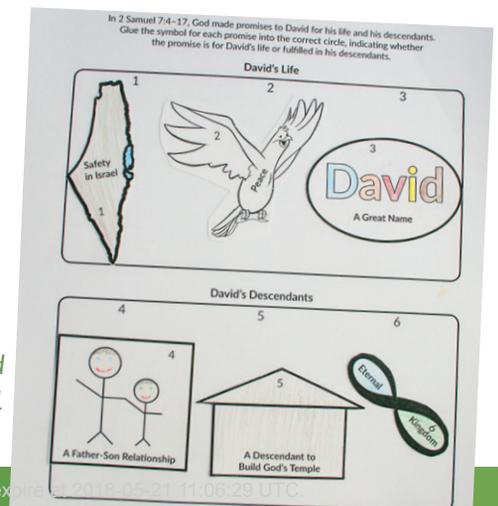
GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft Sheets, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut all pieces from craft sheet. Have the children color the pieces. Glue the pieces to the appropriate locations onto the second craft sheet.

God's Promises to David
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1–29



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

CLASS COVENANT

Illustrate the difference between unconditional and conditional covenants by making a covenant with the class. Some examples of unconditional promises include: (1) “I will teach you God’s Word”; (2) “I will discipline you when you break the rules,” and (3) “I will give you a snack at break.” Some examples of conditional promises include: (1) “If I have to tell no one to be quiet in class today, I will send home a piece of candy with each child” or (2) “If half the class learns their Bible verse next week, I will have a special surprise for the whole class.”

PROMISE KEEPER

Show the class a picture of a rainbow. Or, using a prism, create a miniature rainbow. Ask the children why God told Noah He would set a rainbow in the sky. Review God’s covenant with creation after the flood (Gen 9:11–17) and ask the children if God has kept His promise. Tell the children that today we’re going to learn about another one of God’s promises: His covenant with David.



ILLUSTRATE

GOD’S GIFT TO US

The lesson teaches not only about David’s desire to build a house for God and God’s promise to David, but also about how that gift to David was also a gift to us. Discuss the ramifications of David’s family being blessed with the coming of Christ and how Christ’s work and reign is a gift to each of us. To illustrate this point, bring in a wrapped gift. The gift can contain various visual aids to help illustrate the following gifts: David’s gift to God, God’s gift to David, God’s gift to David’s family, and God’s gift to us.

GOD’S UNBREAKABLE PROMISE

Bring in a number of materials, such as thread, yarn, and rope. Select a few children to try to break each material. Some will break and some will not. Ask the children if they ever have broken a promise or had someone break a promise to them. A promise is only as strong as the person who makes it. That’s why God’s promises can never be broken. In today’s lesson, we will learn about the special promise God made with King David. This promise would last for years and years.



APPLY

AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheets, paper plates, scissors, tape, and crayons.

Directions: Have children color and cut out the map and the chair template from the craft sheets. Tape the map to the bottom of the paper plate. Fold the chair template into a chair. Cut a slit in the top of the paper plate large enough to the chair to sit in and tape the chair to that spot. Explain that the chair is a throne and that this craft represents the Messiah’s eternal reign over the entire world.

An Everlasting Kingdom
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

I HAVE A PLAN

Ask the children whether they have ever done anything that required a plan. Ask them how they executed the plan. Ask them whether their plans included a time in which they prayed and asked God for His guidance. Talk about how important it is to consider how our plans measure up to Scripture and what we know God requires of us. Tell the children about David's plan to build a temple and what God said in response. In the upcoming lesson, the children will learn about David's plan and his reaction when God told him not to build the temple.

I WANT TO BUY YOU A MANSION!

Pretend you are a real estate agent. Tell the children that an extremely wealthy friend has offered to purchase each of them a home as a token of their friendship. Show the children pictures of large houses and ask them which ones are their favorites. Use this activity to introduce today's lesson, where David desires to build God a temple to dwell in (2 Sam 7:1–3).



ILLUSTRATE

“DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH?”

Repeat the following to the class: “Do you solemnly swear that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” Explain that this is an oath used in court to ensure that witnesses tell the truth. However, it's important to tell the truth at all times. Making a promise is not something that should be taken lightly. We should be gracious and thankful to have a God who is not like us but always keeps His promises.

“BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!”

It's common for salesmen on television to end their sales pitch by exclaiming, “But wait, there's more!” These salesmen hope the inclusion of additional products or services will entice buyers to order whatever product they're promoting. Sadly, these additional items rarely add any real value. However, it is not this way with God. When David heard God's promises, he was overwhelmed with wonder and gratitude (2 Sam 7:18). God had already done so much to bless him, but now God promised to do so much more. God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20).



APPLY

GOD'S DESIRE IN YOUR LIFE

After looking at what God did in David's life by graciously blessing him, talk to the children about what God desires in their lives. First ask them whether it is possible to know what God desires in their lives, and if so, how? Help them to start thinking about how God worked through David's life because David desired to do God's will. David did not live a perfect life, just as we cannot live a perfect life. Talk to the children about how reading Scripture and praying allows us to know what God desires in our lives. Also talk about how God's desire may not always be easy and may not always be what we desire to do, but obedience is what God expects from us.



LESSON 23

God forgives David

2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:25



God forgives those who repent.



“David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die’” (2 Sam 12:13).

Supporting Truths

1. God forgives sin.
2. God forgives those who repent.
3. God is gracious in the midst of sin.
4. Sin is deadly.
5. Sin leads to more sin.

Objectives

1. State the sins God forgave.
2. Describe David's repentance.
3. List all the ways God showed grace to David.
4. List all the bad things that happened because of David's sin.
5. Describe how David sinned more in an attempt to cover up his first sin.



Lesson Summary

David committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of his own elite soldiers. Then to cover up, he planned Uriah's murder. Although David thought he had gotten away with it, God knew his sin. God responded with grace that was both painful and kind. God painfully exposed David's sin and disciplined him with many tragic consequences. But this pain was kind, driving David to repent and find forgiveness. God also kindly gave David another son, Solomon, through whom the Messiah would come.

Spotlight on the Gospel

David's sin reminds us that no one is free from sin. So instead of hiding our sin, we should confess it, repent, and seek forgiveness. God will forgive those who repent, because He sent Jesus Christ as the one promised in the Davidic Covenant. Jesus lived a sinless life, died for sins, rose victorious, and will one day return to reign as the perfect King. He will save all those who submit to Him as Lord and trust Him as Savior.

LAST WEEK



God makes a covenant
with David
2 Samuel 7:1–29

THIS WEEK



God forgives David
2 Samuel 11:1–12:25

NEXT WEEK



God gives Solomon
wisdom
1 Kings 2:1–4; 3:3–15

Lesson Commentary

God forgives those who repent.

David had everything—God’s favor, God’s presence, wives, and children. He also had the kingdom and the unbreakable promise of an everlasting dynasty. He had victory over his enemies and prosperity in Israel. What more could he want? For years David had stayed loyal to God, faithfully following God’s word, and enjoying the blessings that come through obedience (Deut 28:1–14; Ps 1). But one afternoon all that changed. Yet David’s sin, and God’s forgiveness of it, reveals the marvelous forgiveness God lavishes on those who repent.

David sinned and sinned some more (11:1–27)

From the roof of his house, David saw a beautiful woman taking a bath (2 Sam 11:2). So David sent to find out more about this woman (11:3). His servant reported that she was Bathsheba, the granddaughter of David’s most trusted counselor (16:23; 23:34), the daughter of one of David’s elite soldiers (23:34), and the wife of another of David’s elite soldiers (23:39). David had a decision to make: He could turn his eyes away (Job 31:1) and flee sin’s temptation, or let his eyes linger and allow lust to master him. Sadly, instead of fleeing from temptation (2 Tim 2:22), David pursued it (2 Sam 11:3). His lust blinded his judgment. He was *tempted, lured into sin by his own desire*. Then, when he pursued that desire, he committed *adultery, loving another married woman like his own wife* (11:4).

Beware! If God’s chosen king, a man after God’s own heart, can fall so quickly, then anyone can (1 Cor 10:12). But that does not mean that we are doomed to fail. The Bible says that we will never be tempted beyond what we are able to handle, because God is faithful to provide the way for us to escape sin and overcome temptation (1 Cor 10:13). We must be sober-minded and watchful (1 Pet 5:8), devoted to prayer (Col 4:2), and firm in faith (1 Pet 5:9). David’s failure reminds us to put our trust in the God of the Davidic Covenant, in His grace, and in His unbreakable promise of an eternal king (2 Sam 7).

As a result of David’s sin, Bathsheba became pregnant (11:5). However, instead of confessing his sin, David tried to hide it. He was ashamed of what he had done, so he tried to make it seem like Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, had fathered the child (11:6–13). But David’s first two attempts to hide his sin failed when Uriah acted honorably and refused his offers. When David’s first two attempts failed, he plunged even deeper into sin by sending Uriah and several other soldiers to their deaths at the hands of the Ammonites (11:14–27). David told Uriah not to let this “displease” him, because so long as his affair stayed secret, David cared little for the destruction he caused (11:25).

But it did “displease” God (11:27). David may have thought that everything was fine. He had even managed to make himself look like the good guy by marrying Bathsheba—it looked like he was taking care of the widow of one of his fallen soldiers. But the true nature of David’s crime was not hidden from God. God sees all, and everyone must give an account to Him (Heb 4:13; Ps 11:4).

God responded to David with gracious discipline (12:1–25)

God did not remain silent concerning David’s sin (2 Sam 12:1). He sent Nathan to confront the king, bringing pain but also overwhelming grace. God graciously pursued David by sending Nathan. While we might want to hide our sin, afraid of the shame, God graciously pursues us, convicting us of sin and exposing our sin in order to set us free from sin and restore us to God. Instead of hiding from Him, let us pray that He search every nook and cranny of our lives (Ps 139:23–24)!

THINK ABOUT IT
When sin is kept secret, it grows and harms those around us.



THINK ABOUT IT
It is painful to have our sin exposed, but Jesus seeks sinners in order to save them (Luke 19:10).



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God forgives David • 2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



Nathan used a simple story to confront David's sin (2 Sam 12:1–4). Outraged by the actions of the rich man, David unwittingly condemned his own sin (12:5–6). David, like the fictional rich man in Nathan's story, had everything. God had piled upon David grace upon grace, and He would have given more (12:7–8). David's sin shows us that immorality and impurity are just another expression of greed and ingratitude (Eph 5:3–5). When we sin, we despise what God has given us and fuel our greedy desires.

Like the rich man, David broke God's law (2 Sam 12:9; Exod 20:13–14). David demanded that the rich man pay the appropriate penalty, four lambs in exchange for one (Exod 22:1). So too would David pay the just penalty for his sin—four sons in exchange for one (2 Sam 12:18; 13:29; 18:14–15; 1 Kgs 2:25). Also, since he had violated a man's daughter, so his own daughter would be violated (2 Sam 13). He had taken a man's wife in secret, but his own wives would be taken in public (16:20–22). God's discipline is *just: the punishment fits the crime* (12:10–12; Job 34:10–12).

By despising God's law, David despised God Himself (2 Sam 12:9–10). Instead of loving God, David scorned God as Hophni and Phinehas had (1 Sam 2:17). Also, like the rich man who ruthlessly killed the poor man's pet lamb, David ruthlessly violated Bathsheba and murdered her husband, Uriah. David's sin revealed ugly cruelty and contempt in his heart. David was furious with the rich man, and God was furious with David. Yet even in this God was gracious, for His righteous anger teaches us to fear Him. The fear of the LORD is good, for it turns us from sin and leads us to life (Prov 16:6; 19:23).

This godly fear led David to repentance (Ps 51). Unlike Saul, David's repentance was genuine (2 Sam 12:13; cf. 1 Sam 15:24). David depended on God's mercy (Ps 51:1) and pled for cleansing (51:2),

knowing that only God could wash His sin away (51:7, 9–10). He confessed that his sin was primarily against God (51:4), that his sin reflected his sinful heart (51:5), and that he could do nothing to earn restoration (51:1–3). He longed to glorify God once again (51:12–15). This is the heart God pardons—a broken and humble heart (51:17). But how could God forgive David when God's own law said he must die (Lev 20:10; 24:17)? Because one day the Son of David would bear the sin of David in his place. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us (2 Cor 5:21).

Yet, as a result of his sin, David's newborn son would die (2 Sam 12:14, 18). This is a painful reminder of sin's consequences. God had graciously forgiven David's sin, but God's forgiveness does not always remove the painful consequences of sin in this life. Although the child died, God used this tragedy to continue to draw David to Himself. David was no longer separated from God by sin (Isa 59:2), but was once again depending on God's grace (2 Sam 12:22) and worshiping in God's house (12:20). God is able to bring peace and restoration in the midst of sin's painful consequences.

In fact, out of David's sin God worked grace for the entire world. David and Bathsheba had another son, named Solomon, which means "His peace" or "His restoration" (12:24). God loved this son (12:24), even choosing him to be king after David. This is a remarkable example of God's grace considering the sinful nature of David's marriage to Bathsheba. Through this son came the Messiah, whose death spared David from the death he deserved. This same forgiveness is available to all who, like David, repent of their sins and throw themselves upon the mercy of God.

THINK ABOUT IT
Godly people are not perfect, but they are repentant.



Lesson Outline

God forgives those who repent.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David sinned by treating Bathsheba as his own wife (11:1–5).
2. David tried to hide his sin by having Bathsheba's husband killed (11:6–27).
3. God told David He would punish him for his sin (12:1–12).
4. God forgave David and gave him another son, Solomon (12:13–25).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. David sinned and sinned some more (11:1–27).
 - David was tempted when he saw Bathsheba (11:1–2).
 - David pursued his temptation (11:3).
 - David sinned with Bathsheba (11:4–5).
 - David tried to hide his sin by planning Uriah's murder (11:6–27).
 - David's sin displeased the LORD (11:27).
2. God responded to David with gracious discipline (12:1–25).
 - The LORD graciously sent Nathan to expose David's sin (12:1–9).
 - The LORD graciously warned of the consequences of David's sin (12:10–12, 14).
 - The LORD graciously forgave when David repented (12:13; cf. Ps 51).
 - The LORD graciously restored David to true worship (12:15–23).
 - The LORD graciously gave David another son, whom the LORD loved (12:24–25).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. How did David sin?**
He treated someone else's wife as if she was his own wife. Then he got her husband killed.
- 2. Did God know David had sinned?**
Yes. God knows everything.
- 3. What did David do when God showed him his sin?**
David repented.
- 4. What did God do when David repented?**
God forgave David.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. When David was tempted, did he turn away from the temptation?**
No. David pursued the temptation and sinned.
- 2. How did David cover up his sin?**
He planned for Uriah to be killed, then he married Bathsheba.
- 3. Did God leave David in his sin?**
No. God sent Nathan to expose David's sin.
- 4. How did Nathan get David to realize that he had sinned?**
Nathan told David a story about a rich man taking a poor man's lamb. David got angry and said the rich man should die and pay back the poor man.
- 5. What did David's sin show about his heart?**
David's family would be full of violence and sin, and David's newborn son would die.
- 6. What happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?**
God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah—nothing in them remained alive.
- 7. Was God still good to David?**
Yes. God did not let David stay in his sin. God forgave David. God used the painful consequences to bring David back to Him.
- 8. What was special about David's second son with Bathsheba?**
This son, Solomon, was loved by God, showing that God still loved David. Also, the Messiah would be Solomon's descendant.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

THE WEIGHT OF SIN

Today's lesson provides a good picture of the effect and consequences of not dealing with sin. The longer a person fails to confess and repent of sin, the greater his burden becomes. Bring a bag to class. As you relate each stage of David's sin, pick up another object representing David's sin and carry it in the bag to demonstrate the growing burden of sin. Turning from sin to God in repentance will remove the burden of sin.

NATHAN'S STORY

Before the lesson, read Nathan's story to David from 2 Samuel 12:1–4. Ask the children to identify the rich man's sin. Read Exodus 22:1, which reveals the law about stealing and slaughtering sheep. Talk about the difference between just knowing the law and obeying it (Jas 1:22). In today's lesson, we'll hear about King David's sin, which he lingered in, and how God's prophet Nathan told him this story to help him confess his sin and repent.



ILLUSTRATE

GOD KNOWS

Hide one or more objects under a blanket (don't let the children see what you're hiding). Ask the children to guess what's under the blanket. After revealing the hidden objects, ask the children if it's possible to hide anything from God. Tell them that God sees everything we do—both good and evil (Ps 11:4; Heb 4:13).

THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE

Despite David's sin and its consequences, God demonstrated His grace toward him. God granted him a son by Bathsheba who would be called Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of the LORD." After telling the story, a wrapped box can be brought out as a sign of God's grace toward David. The children will never be able to guess what God gave David to show His great mercy. Open the box and show them a baby inside, explaining the significance of the child's name. This is a wonderful opportunity to relate to the children the gift of God's own Son, who was given in order that we, too, might be restored to God.



APPLY

NATHAN'S REBUKE AND DAVID'S REPENTANCE

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, black construction paper, brads, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut pictures from the craft sheet. Have children color the pictures. Glue the picture of Nathan to the black construction paper. Help them to glue the two pictures of David together and attach it to the black paper with a brad. David will be able to rotate to show his expression both before and after Nathan rebuked him.

Nathan's Rebuke and David's Repentance
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



Nathan said to David, "Why have you despised the word of the LORD?" (2 Sam 12:9)

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God forgives David • 2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

GOD GRACIOUSLY PURSUES SINNERS

In today's lesson, God graciously confronts David's sin through the prophet Nathan (2 Sam 12:1). Read the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Parable of the Lost Coin to the class in preparation for today's lesson (Luke 15:1–10).

A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

Ask the children if they can recite the Ten Commandments from memory. To help explain the seventh commandment (adultery) in an age-appropriate, sensitive manner, begin by giving the children a biblical definition of marriage. Marriage is a special relationship given by God in which a man and a woman leave their parents and make one new family together. David committed adultery when he hurt the family God gave Him by taking another man's wife as his own. God hates this terrible sin.



ILLUSTRATE

GIVING TEMPTATION AN INCH

Ask the children whether they have heard the saying "Give them an inch, and they take a mile." Tell them that sin is the same way; if given a place in their heart, it will grow. What are some ways that they let sin into their lives? Examples: deception when it comes to chores, allowing other things to take a place in their heart above God, lying, etc. To guard their hearts from evil, they need to not give temptation an inch.

REPENTANCE REQUIRED

David's sin provides a vivid picture of the effect of unrepentant sin. God's solution for sin is repentance—turning from sin and turning to God. This can be highlighted by stopping the lesson at various stages and asking the children what David should have done. Each time you stop, you might also hold up a "U-turn" sign to illustrate what David should have done. You can then tell them what he actually did and how this resulted in even more sin and pain. At each point, David could and should have repented, and the downward spiral could have been halted.



APPLY

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART SINS

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, scissors, glue, hole puncher, key ring or paper clip, and crayons.

Directions: Instruct the children to color the hearts according to the directions on the page. Then they can cut out the hearts (not cutting along the broken line of the red heart). Have them cut out the Bible verses and glue each one to the proper heart. Have the students put the hearts in the correct order. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of each heart. Last, instruct the students to slide their hearts onto a key ring or paper clip.

A Man After God's Own Heart Sins
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

GOD GRACIOUSLY RESTORES

God graciously restores repentant sinners. Read the story of the prodigal son to the class in preparation for today's lesson (Luke 15:11–24). Ask the children to listen for how God graciously restored David during the lesson today.

THE NEVER-ENDING SMELL OF SMOKE

Ask the children if they have ever had a camp fire or have been around someone who has been near a fire. When smoke gets into clothes, furniture, or upholstery, it infuses it with its smell. The smell doesn't come out easily. This is just like sin. Once sin is accepted and allowed to reside in our lives, it infuses our lives and becomes very hard to remove. This is like the sin we find in today's lesson about David and Bathsheba. David accepted sin into his life by looking at another man's wife and then continued to sin by killing Uriah so that he could have Bathsheba.



ILLUSTRATE

THE LIFE CYCLE OF SIN

David's temptation, fall, and restoration represent a full cycle in the life of sin. Read James 1:14–15 as a class and identify the different points in the life cycle of David's sin: "tempted by own desire" (1:14; cf. 2 Sam 11:2–3); "then desire gives birth to sin" (1:15; cf. 2 Sam 11:4); "sin when it is fully grown brings forth death" (1:15; cf. 2 Sam 12:7–14). However, David repented and was forgiven by God (2 Sam 12:13).

SIN LOVES DARKNESS

Bring a mushroom to class. Explain that mushrooms are unique in that they grow best in the dark. Tell the class that sin likes darkness too; it hates to be exposed (John 3:19–20). David went to great lengths to hide his sin (2 Sam 11:6–27).



APPLY

THE LOVE OF A FATHER

Talk to the children about how their fathers show that they love them. They probably will come up with many examples, but fail to mention discipline. Talk to them about how when a father disciplines his children, he is loving them by correcting them. His desire is for them to grow into young men and women of integrity, Christian men and women who know God's commandments and truly desire to follow them. Read Hebrews 12:4–11 as a class. Talk to them about how this is God's desire also and that when we all sin He, as our divine Father, corrects us so that we may grow in our faith in and love for Him.