

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS - DAVID

Lesson 1 - David the Shepherd

Introduction

WELCOME everyone! I am excited to be teaching you this year. We are going to look at David. There is so much recorded about David so we are just going to look at a few stories from his life.

Just a few classroom “rules” to start ...

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

What we are looking at this week

- There is so much about recorded in the Bible about David and the events throughout his life. It was hard to pick just 5 days of stories!
- We are going to look at David's early life as a shepherd and how he was chosen to be king, the defeat of Goliath, how David had to flee from Saul, David as king and also the wonderful promise God gave to David.
- We are going to put together a lapbook throughout the week.

Background

- Time period ... Israel has gone from being slaves in Egypt → wandering in the wilderness → entering the Promised Land → period of the judges → kings.
- Samuel was the last judge in Israel. When he was getting older, he made his sons judges, but they were wicked.
- The people weren't happy and they wanted to be like the nations around them ... they wanted a king! They already had a king though – who was their King? God.
- Saul was chosen as the first king. He was tall and handsome ... just what the people wanted!
- Saul started off well, but then quickly got further away from God.

A New King is Chosen

- Samuel was told to go and anoint a new king that God had chosen ... a man after God's own heart.
- God said to Samuel, *“Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”* (1 Samuel 16v7)
- David was chosen by God to be the next king.
- God had chosen David because of what was in his heart ... he had qualities that would make him a good king.
- He was only young at this time, but God had watched him grow to be faithful, thoughtful and courageous!

- Samuel took his horn of oil and in front of David's family, anointed him as the next king.
- It says the spirit of God came upon David and stayed with him.
- But it wasn't for many years later that David would actually take over from Saul as being king.

David's Early Life (1 Samuel 16)

- We're now going to jump back and look at David's early life and a few things we know about him.
 - Lived at Bethlehem
 - Father - Jesse
 - 8 boys in the family - David was the youngest (1 Samuel 16v10-11)
 - David's great grandmother - Ruth
 - Job - shepherd (looked after his father's sheep)
 - Loved music and played the harp
 - David wrote many of the Psalms we have in our Bible

David the Shepherd

- What does a shepherd do? What does a good shepherd do?
- Being a shepherd may not have been the most exciting job ... may have been dangerous at times too.
- David was brave ... look at 1 Samuel 17v34-35 - *"Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him."*
- David learnt a lot about God while taking care of the sheep. He would have thought about how God was the Good Shepherd.
- What is the Psalm that David wrote about God being his shepherd? Psalm 23
- As David was leading and providing for the sheep, God was preparing him to lead and provide for God's people.
- Who can name another shepherd in the Bible? Abel, Joseph, Moses, Amos.

Main Lessons for Us

- The people of Israel liked the look of Saul (tall and handsome) ... they focussed on what he looked like on the OUTSIDE. But God looks at what is on our heart. He chose David to be the next king because of what was on the INSIDE.
- What is on our heart? Do we think kindly of others, or are we always trying to find ways to hurt others?
- God knows all our thoughts and the reason why we do things. Nothing can be hid from Him! (Psalm 44v21)
- A shepherd may not have been the most exciting job, but David was being prepared for a greater job of leading people!

Activity / Object Lesson

- Hold up 5 or 6 pencils ... some that are plain, some that are fancy on the outside. Ask the kids what is the most important part of the pencil. Is it the wood or plastic on the outside? No! The most important part is the lead inside. Without that, the pencil couldn't do what it is meant to do.
- What is on our inside is the most important thing. No matter where God has placed us – on paper, cardboard, plastic, wood ... He wants us to make a mark ... make a difference for Him!

Lapbook

- Facts about David flap.
- Sheep from cupcake liner.
- Small harp with string – pocket to put it in.
- KEY LESSON – God looks on our heart – inside is more important than outside.

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Lesson 2 - David and Goliath

Introduction and Review of Day 1

- Who did we talk about yesterday? Tell me some things you already know about David?
- Today we are going to look at the battle between David and Goliath ... and look at what fighting a “giant” in our life might be!

A Challenge from Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

- The Philistines had come into the land of Israel ... Saul and his army came to fight them.
- The Philistines were camped on one mountain and the Israelite army was on a mountain on the other side ... a great valley between them.
- The Philistines had a big giant in their army ... Goliath! He was almost twice as tall as everyone else!
- He was six cubits and a span tall (about 289cm ... almost 3m!)
- Every morning and evening for 40 days, Goliath came out and shouted ... “Who will come and fight me! If you kill me, the Philistines will be your servants, but if I kill him, then you will be our servants!”
- How scary! Would you be scared at this booming giant?? No one wanted to fight Goliath!

David Comes to Visit

- Jesse’s three eldest sons were in Saul’s army and Jesse asked David to go take them some food and see how they were going.
- Just as he arrived, he heard Goliath shouting, “WHO WILL COME AND FIGHT ME?!”
- David watched everyone run away in fright!
- “Who is this uncircumcised Philistines that he should defy the armies of the living God like this?” David asked angrily!
- When Saul heard what David had said, he called for him.
- David said to Saul, “Let no one be afraid because of this giant; I will go and fight him!”
- Saul thought David was too young to fight the giant! But David told him about the time he had saved his father’s sheep from a lion and a bear.
- “The same God who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, will save me from this giant!”
- Saul agreed to let David go and fight Goliath ... “Go, and may the Lord be with you!”
- Saul tried to give David his armour but David found it too heavy and awkward – he wasn’t used to it.
- “The LORD is my strength and my shield” – **Psalm 28v7**.

The Battle

- David took his shepherd's staff and went down the mountain into the valley. He chose five smooth stones from the stream.
- David then began to climb up towards Goliath.
- You can imagine what Goliath thought when he saw this boy coming towards him! He laughed and boomed out, "Am I a dog, that you come to fight me with sticks? Come closer and I will give your flesh for the birds of the air and the beasts of the field to eat!"
- David replied, "You come to me with a sword, a spear and a shield. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of armies". His God was bigger than any giant!
- The giant came towards David but he was not afraid ... his trust was in God!
- David ran towards him, he slung a stone and it hit the giant right in the forehead!
- All the Philistines watched in horror as David used Goliath's own sword to cut off the giant's head. Goliath, the giant, was dead!
- David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, as a witness that God is able to defeat the biggest enemies.
- When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they ran for their lives!
- The army of Israel shouted and chased them and killed many of them.

Saul Wants to See David

- After what happened, Saul wanted to know more about David.
- David came to the king with the head of Goliath!
- David told Saul that he was the son of Jesse, from Bethlehem.
- Saul kept David with him and he became very close friends with Saul's son, Jonathan.

Main Lessons for Us

- David was just a boy – not even old enough to be in the army. But David knew that His God was bigger than any giant.
- Sometimes you may feel that you have BIG problems that make us worried or afraid. But no matter how big your problem might be, always remember that your God is BIGGER.
- Faith in the true God has real power!

Activity / Object Lesson?

- Measure in a tree how tall Goliath was ... to give the kids a visual of just how big he really was.
- Use a sling shot to shoot marshmallows at Goliath's head.

Lapbook

- 5 stones + pouch - write on stones, "The battle is the Lord's"
- Accordion flap with David and Goliath crossword.
- KEY LESSON – Our God is bigger than any giant!

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS - DAVID
Lesson 3 - FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Introduction and Review of Day 2

- What did we talk about yesterday? How did David come to fight Goliath? What was our key lesson from the story yesterday?
- Today we are going to look at two special friends ... David and Jonathan. Jonathan was a dear friend of David and they both helped and encouraged each other. We all need friends like Jonathan in our lives!

Jonathan and David Become Friends (1 Samuel 18v1-4)

- After Goliath had been killed and David had finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan could see how much David loved and trusted God. They became very good friends.
- Jonathan was King Saul's son and he would normally have been next in line to be king. But David had already been anointed to be the next king.
- Jonathan never showed any jealousy towards David – instead he grew to love him more.
- We all have friends don't we ... and we like to be friends to others. David and Jonathan were special friends.
- There was quite an age difference between David and Jonathan too ... it shows we can have close friends who are older or younger than us.
- Jonathan gave David his own coat, garments (armour), sword, bow, and belt as a sign of friendship.
- They made a solemn promise to be friends (1 Samuel 18v3).

Saul Hates David (1 Samuel 18v5-16, 19v1-7)

- Saul made David a captain in his army, and all the soldiers and Saul's servants loved David.
- But soon Saul began to get jealous of David's popularity. Saul began to worry that David would steal the kingdom away from him.
- Saul no longer tried to please God, and God was not with him any more. But everyone could see that God was with David.
- Twice, while David played music for King Saul, Saul picked up a spear and tried to spear David to the wall!
- Finally, Saul spoke to his servants and to Jonathan and commanded them that they should kill David. But Jonathan loved David!
- Jonathan told David that his father wanted to kill him. He told David to go and hide and he would talk to his father and try and change his mind.
- Jonathan said, "Father, don't sin against David! He has never done anything but good for you. He took his life in his hands when he killed Goliath and saved all Israel. Don't kill David for no reason!"
- Saul listened to Jonathan, and promised that he would not kill David.
- But it wasn't long before Saul changed his mind again.

David and Jonathan Make a Plan (1 Samuel 20v1-34)

- David ran to Jonathan and asked him what he had done wrong? Why did his father want to kill him again?
- Jonathan thought that if Saul really wanted to kill David, he would have told him.
- Together David and Jonathan decided that Jonathan would go back and find out whether Saul really did want to kill David.
- A feast was to be held the next day and David was expected to be there.
- David planned to hide nearby for three days, until Jonathan returned with news.
- Jonathan was to tell Saul that he had let David go to a yearly sacrifice at Bethlehem.
- If Saul said, "That's all right", then they would know that David could safely return.
- But if Saul got angry, then David must stay away.
- On the first day of the feast Saul didn't say anything. But on the second day when David's seat was still empty, he asked Jonathan where David was.
- When Jonathan told Saul that he had let David go to a sacrifice in Bethlehem, Saul was SO angry with Jonathan ... he threw his javelin at Jonathan, his own son.
- Jonathan left the table in anger and did not return to the feast.
- He felt very sad and worried for his friend David.

Jonathan and David Bid Farewell (1 Samuel 20v35-42)

- The next morning, David could see Jonathan coming towards his hiding place with a servant boy.
- Jonathan brought his bow and arrows, and shot the arrows far away.
- This was Jonathan's secret signal to David that he would have to run far, far away from Saul.
- After the servant boy collected Jonathan's arrows, Jonathan sent him home.
- David sadly crept out of his hiding place and together he and Jonathan cried and said goodbye.
- They were very good friends and now they must leave each other ... all because of Saul.
- Jonathan said these comforting words to David, "Go in peace, for we have promised before the God of Israel that we shall be friends always."
- David then went sadly away to hide from Saul.
- David would spend many years running and hiding from Saul (that's our lesson tomorrow!).
- At one point, Jonathan secretly found David to encourage him and strengthen him.
- That was the last time David saw Jonathan before Jonathan and Saul were killed in a battle.
- David never forgot Jonathan's kindness though, and later when David became king he took special care of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth.

Main Lessons for Us

- It's SO important to have good friends in the Truth, who can help us to the Kingdom ... not pull us away from God.
Proverbs 17v17 ... *"A friend loveth at all times..."*
- **Proverbs 18v24** – *"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."*

- Jonathan and David were faithful, or loyal, friends. Jonathan loved David and gave him his best things ... his robe, garments (armour), sword, bow and belt. Jonathan also risked his life to encourage David to keep trusting in God.
- David loved Jonathan, too, and took special care of his family after he had died. God wants us to take care of our friends and encourage them, especially when they are having a hard time. God wants us to be faithful, loyal to our friends in the truth just like Jonathan and David.

Activity / Object Lesson

- Hold up a salt and pepper shaker and ask what they are used for. To complement / go along with food.
- They don't look the same at all and they don't taste the same either. But despite their differences, they go together perfectly!
- True friendship is like salt and pepper.

Lapbook

- Godly Friends pentagon flap.
- Collage with the 5 things hidden that Jonathan gave to David.
- Friendship arrows made from popsicle sticks (write friendship qualities on them).
- KEY LESSON – Godly friends help us to the Kingdom.

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS - DAVID
Lesson 4 - RUNNING FROM SAUL

Introduction and Review of Day 3

- What did we talk about yesterday? Who was David's very special friend? What were some of the things Jonathan did for David?
- Today we are going to look at a sad time in David's life ... constantly having to run from a mad man! But we are going to see David's great example in not killing Saul, even when he had the opportunity to.

David Runs from Saul

- Saul really wanted to kill David ... he was so jealous of him and thought David wanted to take the kingdom from him.
- Twice, while David played music for King Saul, Saul picked up a spear and tried to spear David to the wall!
- David and Jonathan had become very close friends, but there came a time they had to say a sad farewell to each other. It wasn't safe for David to be around Saul any more.
- David spent many years running and hiding from Saul.

Saul Hunts for David

- Saul constantly hunted for David and chased him from place to place.
- After a while, other men who were tired of Saul's evil ways, gathered around David. There were about 600 of them and David was their captain (**1 Samuel 22v2, 23v13**).
- They moved from one hiding place to another ... always watching out for Saul.
- At one point, Jonathan secretly found David to encourage him and strengthen him. That was the last time David saw Jonathan before Jonathan and Saul were killed by Philistines

David and Saul are in the Same Cave (1 Samuel 24)

- One time, David and his men were hiding in the wilderness of Engedi.
- Saul brought an army of 3,000 men to find David! David and his men were hidden, deep in a cave.
- Suddenly, Saul appeared all alone ... he came to rest in the cave.
- The men who were with David told him to go and kill Saul. "God has delivered Saul into your hands!" the men said! But David refused to kill Saul. Instead he crept quietly behind Saul and cut off the corner of his robe.
- When Saul left the cave, David bowed to the ground and said to him, "My lord, the king! Don't believe the people who say that I am trying to do harm to you. My father, see, I have your robe in my hand—I could have killed you, but I would never do that! You are God's anointed!"
- Saul told David that he was more righteous than he was. He had rewarded Saul with good, when all he had done to David was evil.
- So Saul returned home from chasing David.

David and Saul are in the Same Place (1 Samuel 26)

- After a while, Saul changed his mind AGAIN and decided to go and hunt for David.
- David was in the wilderness of Ziph.
- David saw where Saul and his men were camped.
- It was night time and Saul was asleep in the middle of the camp and Abner (captain of the army) and his other men were around him.
- David and his friend Abishai crept quietly to where Saul slept. Next to Saul was a spear.
- “David,” Abishai whispered, “God is delivering Saul into your hand! Please let me use his spear and pin him to the ground!”
- “No, Abishai! You cannot kill God’s anointed king! Let’s take his spear and the jug of water, and go!” David replied.
- David and Abishai crept out of the camp of sleeping men, and up to the top of a hill. From there, David called out: “Abner!” Abner answered, “Who are you?” “Abner!” David shouted, “You have not guarded your king! Look, the king’s spear and jug of water is missing!”
- Saul recognized David’s voice shouting to Abner. “Is that you, my son David?” “Yes, it is my voice, my lord, O king.” David replied. “Why are you chasing me? What have I done wrong?”
- “I’m sorry, David! I was wrong to try to kill you.” Saul said.
- Once again Saul returned home, but sadly David knew he couldn’t trust Saul.
- David and his men continued to hide until the day that Saul died in a battle with the Philistines.

Main Lessons for Us

- Saul wanted to kill David, even though David had done nothing wrong. Over and over again David had the chance to get revenge and kill Saul, but he refused. David knew that vengeance belonged to God.
- When we are mistreated, we should always respond with kindness and never revenge. When we act kindly towards someone who is mistreating us, we are overcoming evil with good, just like David did.
- **Romans 12v17, 21, 1 Peter 3v9** – “Do not repay evil with evil...”
- David knew years before he became king that he would be the next king. But he had to wait for God’s timing.

Activity / Object Lesson

- Fruit of the Spirit Maze - <https://teachingthem.com/2014/07/11/dont-take-shortcuts-obj-lesson/>.
- Even though God had Samuel tell David he would be king of Israel some day, David let King Saul chase him around the desert for many years.
- This object lesson teaches about what we miss out on when we take shortcuts in reaching God’s will for our life.
- You have to go around the maze and collect all the good characteristics. No shortcuts!

Lapbook

- Saul hunts for David – show the things David took from Saul while he was sleeping.
- David repays good for evil.
- **KEY LESSONS – Don’t take a shortcut out of a problem – trust in God and His timing. Return good for evil!**

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS - DAVID
Lesson 5 - DAVID THE KING and A SPECIAL PROMISE

Introduction and Review of Day 4

- What did we talk about yesterday? How did Saul treat David? How did David treat Saul in return?
- Today we are going to look at the time when David was finally made king and a special promise God gave to David.

David is Made King

- After Saul died in battle, David was made king. He was 30 years old when he became king.
- David had known he was going to be king for a long time though (more than 10 years before).
- David waited patiently through years of trouble and danger, until it was the right time for him to be king.
- David the shepherd boy, became David the king! All those years of shepherding prepared him to be a good king!
- David had also learned many valuable lessons being a soldier and leader of men ... in the wilderness, running away from Saul ... faith, patience, kindness, wise leadership.

The Ark is Brought to Jerusalem

- One of the first things that David wanted to do was bring God's ark to Jerusalem – the new capital city of Israel.
- Rejoicing and happiness filled the air, as David danced in front of the procession of priests carrying the ark.
- David made a special tent for God's ark in Jerusalem.

David Wants to Build a House for God (2 Samuel 7v1-7)

- But the tent for God's ark was not good enough for David. David wanted to build a house for the ark ... a temple for God to dwell in.
- David told Nathan the prophet of his idea. At first Nathan was pleased with the idea, but that night God spoke to Nathan the prophet with a different message for David.
- David had been a man of war and lots of men had died in his battles.
- But David would have a son who would be a man of peace ... Solomon (means "peaceable") ... and Solomon would build a temple for God.

God's Special Promise to David (2 Samuel 7v9-16)

- God was very pleased with David for wanting to serve Him in this way. He made a wonderful promise to him.
- God said that He would build David a "house" ... not a literal house, but from David's family line would come a very special son.
- This is the promise God made to David:

- After David had died, a great, great, great ... Grandson of David's would be king.
 - This special son would build God a house and God would make him king over it forever.
 - This special son of David would also be the son of God.
 - He would suffer pain and sorrow, but God's mercy would always be with him.
 - David himself would be raised from the dead to see his son reign on his throne FOREVER.
- Who was this special son that was promised in the line of David? Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus' mother (Mary) was a descendent of King David.
 - Jesus was the son of God, as well as the son of David (born into David's family).
 - Jesus suffered and died, just as God had told David.
 - But he rose from the dead, so that those who obey God can be raised from the dead too.
 - God's love and mercy was always towards His son, as it is to all those who love Him.
 - Now Jesus is in heaven and is waiting to return to set up his Kingdom on earth ... he will be King FOREVER.
 - David will also be raised from the dead and given eternal life ... and see Jesus reign forever.
 - Jesus will also build God's house (temple) in Jerusalem and all nations will come to worship God there.

David is Humbled by the Great Promise

- After Nathan told David these wonderful words from God, David turned to God in prayer.
- David was overwhelmed and felt he really didn't deserve such amazing blessings!
- David prayed, "And let Thy name be magnified forever ... and let the house of Thy servant David be established before Thee."
- For the rest of his life, David thanked God continually.

Main Lessons for Us

- David was faithful and obedient to God and was given a wonderful promise.
- There were times that David made mistakes in his life, but he turned to God for forgiveness.
- God's promises are sure and certain ... what God says, will happen.
- God's own son, in the line of David, will be king FOREVER. Jesus will be king in the presence of David ... so David will be resurrected to live forever!
- Very soon, Jesus – the great son of David – will return to the earth. He will sit on the throne of his father David, and reign as king... forever.

Lapbook

- God's special promise to David.
- House flap – David's greater house.
- KEY LESSON – Jesus will return soon to set up the Kingdom.