



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, war broke out between the Israelites and the Philistines.

- Who was the Philistine champion that dared the Israelites to send someone to fight him? *Goliath.*
- Who gave David courage to fight the giant Goliath? *God.*

David trusted that the battle was the Lord's, and God would help him win.

- How did David defeat Goliath? *He used his sling, and the stone hit Goliath in the forehead.*

All it took was one stone from David's sling, and the giant fell down. Then the Israelites chased the Philistines back to their cities.

In today's lesson, we'll be talking more about David and someone who became a great friend to him. The Bible has a lot to say about friendship and choosing friends. We're going to play a game of Friendly Four Corners to learn more about our friends in this class! Follow the instructions for the game then continue the lesson.

Jonathan and David's Friendship

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out about the friendship in today's lesson from 1 Samuel chapter 18. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

1 Samuel 18:3-4

Listen so you can find out who these two friends were. Read the verses.

- What was the name of David's new friend? *Jonathan.*

- Does anyone want to guess who Jonathan's father was? *Allow guesses.*

Jonathan was King Saul's son, the prince! And he was a brave warrior, like David.

- What do you think it means when it says that Jonathan loved David as his own soul? *Allow answers.*

Jonathan's love for David was not the romantic kind of love. This love was based on being loyal, trustworthy, and devoted like a best friend; they could count on each other.

- How many of you have a best friend that you can trust and count on? *Show of hands.*

- What did Jonathan give David? *His robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.*

These gifts were very special. Jonathan was a prince of Israel. By giving his royal robe and weapons to David, he was showing that he knew David would be the next king instead of him. It seems that he understood that God chose David to be king, and he was okay with that. Wow! That's a great friend!

Saul's Jealousy

Things looked like they were going well for David. He was a hero for killing Goliath, he was best friends with Prince Jonathan, and he fought well in all the battles against the enemies. The women of Israel even sang songs about how great a hero David was! But, King Saul became angry and jealous! Uh oh! That meant trouble.

1 Samuel 18:10-11

Let's read what happened next in 1 Samuel 18. Read the verses.

- Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What was wrong with King Saul? What rushed upon him? *A harmful spirit from God.*

- What was David doing? *Playing the lyre.*

- What did Saul have in his hand? *His spear.*

Normally, when David played the lyre (an instrument like a small harp), it would calm Saul when the harmful spirit troubled him. But on this day, Saul was too angry and jealous.

- What did Saul do with his spear? *He hurled it at David.*

Saul tried two times to kill David with the spear! But David dodged the spear and got away. Soon Saul became afraid when he realized that God was helping David and protecting him.

Saul decided to send David away. So he made David the commander over a thousand soldiers. The Lord helped David to do a great job, and the people loved David, which made Saul more jealous and fearful.

Finally, Saul had enough, so he figured out another plan to get rid of David. This time he commanded his servants and his son Jonathan to kill David.

Jonathan spoke to his father and reminded him that David had done nothing wrong and that Saul would be sinning if he killed David. It was probably hard for Jonathan to tell his father he was wrong. But he cared enough about his friend David to help by talking to his father. Saul listened to Jonathan and allowed David to come back to his house.

Refer to the Flip Chart. But it wasn't long before Saul threw his spear at David again! David dodged and ran, and the spear hit the wall. Then Saul sent messengers to get David so he could kill him. But David's wife helped him escape out a window.

Jonathan's Warning

Poor David feared for his life! He kept running from Saul, and finally met up with Jonathan again. Together they came up with a plan to find out for sure what Saul was up to. Instead of coming to a special meal, David would hide out in a field. Jonathan would go to the meal. If Saul didn't mind that David was gone, they would know he was safe. But if Saul became angry, they would know that he did want to kill David. This was a life-and-death situation. Both friends were worried about each other's safety.

- The first night that David missed the special dinner, Saul didn't say anything. Hmm. How many of you think David was safe now? *Show of hands.*

On the second night at dinner, Saul noticed that David still was not there. He got angry at Jonathan and said rude, mean things to him!

Guess what Saul did next—he grabbed his spear and threw it at Jonathan!

Wow! Saul had thrown a spear at least three times at David, and now he threw one at his own son! Jonathan left the table feeling angry and sad that his father was acting so terribly.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Remember that David was hiding in the field, waiting to hear from Jonathan. Because Saul's servants were all around, Jonathan had to warn David secretly. If he got caught talking to David, he would be in deep trouble. So he set up a special way to give David a message. In the morning, Jonathan went out to the field with a young boy. He took his bow and arrows so it would look like he was going to practice shooting.

1 Samuel 20:36-38

Let's see how Jonathan warned David. Read verse 36.

- What did Jonathan tell the boy to do? What was his job? *To run and find the arrows he shot.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. David and Jonathan had worked out two messages when Jonathan shot his arrows. One would be the signal that it was safe, and the other would be a warning. So, whatever Jonathan called out to the boy chasing arrows was actually a message for David!

Listen to the message Jonathan gave to David. Read verses 37-38.

- What did Jonathan say to the boy? *Is not the arrow beyond you? Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!*

- What message do you think Jonathan was giving David: was he safe or in danger? *In danger.*

Yes. Jonathan warned David that Saul was still angry, and he would have to run for his life.

Jonathan sent the boy back home. Then David came out from his hiding spot to say goodbye to Jonathan. They didn't know if they'd ever see each other again. David and Jonathan were grown men, but because they were such close friends, they cried as they said goodbye to each other—maybe forever.

Jonathan went home, but David had to run away from there. In our next lesson, we'll follow David as he gets chased by King Saul.

