

## Lesson 78

# Jonathan Warns David

Jonathan warned his friend David that Saul wanted to kill him.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God to help us with something.

I'll start. Dear God, would you please . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an

opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## **Bible Truths**

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who should we worship? The one true God.  
When can we trust God? All the time.  
What should we do if we love God? Obey him.  
What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? Wise.

## **Bible Treasure Hunt**

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell

students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

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### **Review**

Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, 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 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.

Have printed instructions for Friendly Four Corners ready.

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.

The Bible says Jonathan loved David as his own soul. This means they were loyal, trustworthy, and devoted like best friends; 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, but when he gave his royal robe and weapons to David, he was showing that he knew God chose David to be the next king instead of him. And Jonathan 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.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Remember that King Saul had a harmful spirit that would trouble him, so David would play his lyre (like a small harp) to help him feel better. One day while David played his lyre, the troubling spirit rushed upon Saul. Suddenly King Saul was very angry and jealous of David. So he took his long, pointed spear and hurled it at David! Yikes! Saul tried two times to kill David with the spear! But David dodged and got away.

Saul's jealousy grew and grew, and he commanded his servants and his son Jonathan to kill David. Of course, Jonathan didn't want to kill his best friend, so he spoke to his father and reminded him that David had done nothing wrong and that Saul would be sinning if he killed David.

Do you think it was hard for Jonathan to tell his father he was wrong? Allow discussion.

It probably was hard for him to speak to his father that way. But he cared enough about his friend David to talk 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! He kept running from Saul and finally met up with Jonathan again. They came up with a plan to find out for sure what Saul was up to. Instead of coming to a special dinner, David would hide out in a field. Jonathan would go to the meal and find out if Saul still wanted to kill David.

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 mean things to him! Guess what Saul did next—he grabbed his spear and threw it at Jonathan! 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 for Jonathan to tell him if it was safe or not. Saul's servants were all around, so Jonathan had to warn David secretly. If he got caught talking to David, he would be in deep trouble. 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 secretly 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. Whatever Jonathan said to the boy who chased the 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 was Jonathan giving David: was he safe or in danger? In danger.

Yes. Jonathan warned David that Saul was still angry, and David 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 such close friends that they cried as they said goodbye to each other.

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.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **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.

Have printed instructions for Friendly Four Corners ready.

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.

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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.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
Two beanbags  
Three laundry baskets or boxes  
Masking tape

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets

with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

## **Bible Baseball**

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

### **Materials**

Review Questions (included in lesson)

Three chairs set out for bases

Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will

have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

## Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

## Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Game Board
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

## Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

## Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set

out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

## Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

### Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
White board or chalkboard  
Markers/chalk

Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

# Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards  
One beanbag  
Masking tape  
Two baskets or containers for cards

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.



Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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