

David's Faithful Friend Jonathan

Theme: Obedience — Recognizing the danger of jealousy



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Have Memory Verse strips face down and out of sequence on the floor in front of the pocket chart. The students unscramble the strips and place them correctly in the pocket chart.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 1 Samuel 18:1-9. Have reading students find and mark 1 Samuel 18:1 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students locate the following places on the map of Israel in the time of David, found on page 71 of this Guide – Ramah, Bethlehem, Nob.
5. Introduce the Lesson Graphics using the “Loving & Working Toolbox”.
6. Tell the story using the *Loving Hearts & Working Hands Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a tambourine for welcoming King Saul and his men, a toy sword, and a toy spear.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - David became King Saul's special servant to live in the palace and sing and play his harp for the king.
 - David and King Saul's son Jonathan became best friends.
 - David was such a good servant that he was made a soldier in Saul's army.
 - After Israel won a battle with the Philistines, the women danced, sang, and played tambourines, but they sang more praises for David than for King Saul.

- Saul's anger and jealousy led him to try to kill David.
 - The Lord left Saul and was with David, making Saul afraid of David.
 - Saul sent David to battle, hoping the Philistines would kill him.
 - David succeeded in everything he did because the Lord was with him.
 - King Saul told Jonathan and others to kill David, but Jonathan helped David escape.
 - David always treated King Saul with respect.
 - God was pleased with David because David did what was right and had a heart for God.
8. Read aloud 1 Samuel 18:1-9. Tell the story of Saul's trying to kill David, and of friendship between Jonathan and David. Lead the students to note what was in Saul's heart that caused him to hate David and try to kill him (jealousy). Have students give examples of reasons we sometimes feel jealousy.



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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Have the Memory Verse strips scrambled in the pocket chart. Have the students straighten them out and arrange them correctly. Talk about the Memory Verse and why it is good to learn it.

Prayer

Starter

Let's imagine playing *Follow the Leader* again. You're the leader of six friends – Allyson, Bill, Calvin, Diana, Ervin, and Francine. You start the game by walking around in a big circle four times. Everyone follows you as you reach down to touch the ground, clap your hands, and jump on one foot. Suddenly, Allyson decides she doesn't want to play and sits down to watch. Bill starts thinking about all he needs to do and leaves to go home. Calvin's Dad calls and he leaves. Diana decides she wants to be the Leader, so she starts going in another direction. Ervin likes Diana, so he drops out and starts following her. Francine realizes she is the only person left, so she sits down with Allyson. You are a good leader and do many fun things, but there's a real problem with this game of *Follow the Leader*. You're a leader but you have no followers! This is no fun, so you quit, too.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 1 Samuel 18:1-9.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** Review the lesson from Sunday morning.

Tell the story from Sunday morning with mistakes. Let the students stop and correct you as you tell the story.

2. **Objective:** Discuss leadership in many areas of life and the qualities required.

Through a discussion with the students, make a list on the marker board of leaders in various areas of life. Talk about authority and other aspects of being a leader, such as

making decisions, giving others instructions, etc. Also, discuss qualities that work against being a good leader. Review serious problems with Saul's leadership in Israel

3. *Objective: Distinguishing between acts of love and acts of jealousy.*

Act out the scene of Saul trying to kill David as he shielded himself with the harp. For props, make a cardboard spear and harp. Prepare folded pieces of paper that may be opened like a greeting card. On the inside of each sheet, describe a scene. Allow each student to open and read a scenario and tell how he would respond to the situation if he acted jealously and how he would respond if he acted lovingly.

Following are examples of scenes you might use:

- Dad bought a new toy for my brother, but not for me.
- The student with the highest grade would receive a prize. I got a 98, but my friend got 100. He got the prize.
- I saw my best friend sharing a secret with another girl.

4. *Objective: Demonstrate jealousy.*

Provide stand-up figures of children. The ones shown in the photo to the right are found on page 67 of this Guide. Glue the figures to clothes pins and then heavy card stock squares are hot glued to the bottom of the clothes pin as a base. Choose one of these "students" to be the object of your praise. Stand him or her in the center of the other students. Heap praise on him: he is always on time and always prepares his lesson, he is so smart and always has the right answers, he is polite and always dressed nicely, etc. Go on with this for a while. Ask the "real" students in the class to speak for the stand-up students, responding to the praise. Talk about the students' feelings, what they are thinking and thought about doing. Were they tempted to bring down the student by disagreeing with your commendation or finding some point of criticism? Discuss with the students how we can be jealous and want to bring someone down to be the same as we are. Lead into a discussion of King Saul's jealousy of David and what this strong emotion led Saul to do.



5. *Objective: Clarify that people of the same sex may be friends without being homosexual.*

Sadly, we may need to address this issue earlier and earlier with our children. David and Jonathan's relationship as close friends, described in 1 Samuel 18:1-5, may present an occasion to discuss proper and improper relationships between people of the same sex.

BIG HEART Display: A spear