



Saul Chases David

Theme: Humility — Trusting in God

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the new Memory Verse for the class. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Continue the display that will eventually feature all Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a hand-print card for each student with his or her name ready to put on the display. A sample wall display is shown on page 11.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 1 Samuel 26:23-24. Have reading students find and mark 1 Samuel 26:23 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 – Gibeah, Ziph, Gath, Ziklag, Mount Gilboa, Beth-shan.
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 the “spear” from Lesson 7, and a pitcher or vase made of clay (for Saul's water jug).
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - David and Abishai could have killed King Saul as he slept with his spear stuck in the ground.

- David took Saul's spear and water jug to show him the next day, proving that he could have killed him, but didn't.
 - David and his men returned to their families in Ziklag, but found that the Amalekites had kidnapped their families and burned down the town.
 - David sought the Lord's will about going after the Amalekites, so God helped David and his men chase them down and bring back their families and all their things to Ziklag.
 - In a battle with the Philistines, King Saul, his son Jonathan, and two other sons were killed.
 - It was now God's time for David to be the next king of Israel.
8. Tell the story of David's taking Saul's spear and jug without harming Saul. Then tell how Saul died. Emphasize David's respect for Saul as king and David's humility in trusting God to bring justice to Saul. At the appropriate time in the lesson, read aloud together 1 Samuel 26:23-24.
 9. Let the students use the Lesson Graphics and props to retell the story. Correct or supplement as needed.



Saul Chases David

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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about God. Genesis 12:1-3 tell of God's promises.

Prayer

Starter

Matt was chosen as the starting quarterback of the Junior Varsity football team. He had worked out all summer and worked hard at practice. Once Matt was chosen, the coach called him into his office. He explained how the other team members would be looking to him for leadership. If he was enthusiastic and focused, the other players would see this and would likely be enthusiastic and focused. If Matt gave up in a game, others would probably stop giving 100%. Matt learned that being the quarterback is more than calling plays and throwing passes. The team needed him to be a strong leader.

David was an effective leader for God's people; he was not a perfect man, but he developed such leadership qualities that he became the standard by which future kings were measured. David was especially effective in difficult situations. Christians should be leaders in being an example and influencing people for good. At times this is not easy. Young people can be leaders at school and will in time be leaders of God's people. It is important to develop qualities of a good leader.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 1 Samuel 26:23-24.

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Illustrate David's respect for the Lord's anointed.*

In a way similar to the reenactment described in Lesson 7, reenact David's taking Saul's spear and water jug as recorded in 1 Samuel 26. Provide a cardboard spear and a water

jug. Choose students to be Saul, Abner, David, Abishai, and Saul's servant. The rest of the students are Saul's soldiers who sleep around him. David and Abishai go into Saul's camp. Abishai tries to get David to allow him to kill Saul. David respects the Lord's anointed. They take Saul's spear and jug and leave. With distance between them, David calls to Abner and shows the spear and jug. Once again, Saul realizes David could have easily killed him and didn't. Saul says he has been wrong and foolish. David says Saul may send a servant to get the spear and jug. David asks Saul to respect his life as David has respected Saul's life. Saul says that David will be successful. The men go separate ways.

2. *Objective: Demonstrate qualities of effective leaders.*

According to age, have students list 5-10 bad qualities and 5-10 good qualities of people they know. For younger students, they can call out qualities and you can write them on the board. Now ask them to circle the qualities that make a good leader.

Have a discussion with the students whether God expects us to be leaders. Acknowledge that some people may have good qualities, but are followers instead of leaders. Whether a leader or a follower, how can we act wisely? Possible answers are:

- We must follow God and Jesus.
- We cannot follow when people want us to do bad things.
- We can be quiet leaders by doing right, no matter what.
- If we are energetic, we need to steer our energy toward God.

So God expects us to follow the leaders in our church, but also lead to the best of our ability. Encourage boys to start now planning to be faithful leaders in the church. Encourage the girls to be leaders in their homes as mothers and Bible class teachers.

 3. *Objective: Discuss and demonstrate qualities of effective leaders.*

Invite an elder and his wife to visit the class. Ask them to talk to the students at their level about important leadership qualities at home and in the church. Ask them to discuss both responsibilities and problems. Allow the students to ask questions.

4. *Objective: To show respect for a position and not necessarily the person.*

Using the figures from Wednesday Night Lesson 6, Activity 4, choose one of the figures to represent the classroom teacher while the others represent her students. The teacher does some things that the students do not like at all. For example, she assigns seats, she decided there would be no recess on Mondays, and she uses words your parents have taught you are not the best. Talk with the class about how the students should deal with this teacher. Make application to the way David had to deal with Saul.

BIG HEART Display: A crown