

42. David and Jonathan

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

42. David and Jonathan

- a. This is a great story for showing how good it is to have friends and what friends do for each other.
- b. Let them notice all the things that Jonathan gave to David. Why did he give them? Because David was new to battle, and did not have nice clothes, nor a sword, nor a bow. This is the kind of thing that friends do for each other. Jonathan was the king's son, so he could get these things.
- c. You probably need to tell the children that the Lord had sent Samuel to anoint David as the next king, so Saul, knowing that Samuel was angry with him, was easily jealous. (Maybe you can ask them how easy it is to want to be the best one, and to be jealous).
- d. Jonathan knew that David would be king after Saul. This is not in this part of the story, but Jonathan was not jealous of him. He didn't mind being second to David, and he told him so. Note how different that is from his father Saul.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss
Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt
Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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The Lord Gives David a True Friend

After David killed Goliath, the giant, King Saul was pleased and took David into his house.

King Saul had a boy called Jonathan. David and Jonathan became true friends. They made a promise to look after each other. Jonathan put his own cloak and robe on David and gave him his own sword and his bow and arrows.

And David went out to battle. The king put him in charge of his men, and because David was wise and the Lord was with him, the children of Israel won against the Philistines. When they came home from the battle, the women came out to meet them with songs and dances saying, “Saul is great, but David is greater.”

Then King Saul became very jealous of David and he tried to kill David with his spear. But David slipped away. David escaped into the night. He came to Jonathan and said, “What have I done? What is wrong that your father wants to kill me?”

Then Jonathan said, “I will do whatever you say.” David said to Jonathan, “I shall hide myself in the field. You can find out whether your father still wants to kill me.” And Jonathan promised again to care for David.

Jonathan said to David, “Hide away. After three days I shall come and shoot three arrows towards this side of you as though I am sending them at a target. I shall send a young boy and I shall tell him to go and find the arrows. If I say to the boy the arrows are on the side of you, then come out for there is peace and Saul will not harm you. But if I say to the boy the arrows are farther away, then you must go for the Lord has sent you away.”

So in the morning Jonathan went out and he shot the arrows farther away to tell David he could not come back to Saul’s house again. And David rose up out of his hiding place and went to Jonathan, and they hugged and cried. And Jonathan said, “Go in peace. May the Lord be between you and me forever.”

1 Samuel:18-20

