

General Church Education



Saul Hates David and David Flees

1 Samuel 18:1-16; 19:18

Lesson 12

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is Our King

For ages 10-11

Saul Hates David and David Flees

1 Samuel 18:1-6; 19:1-18

Teacher Background

After David killed Goliath Saul brought him into his household and made him a captain over his army. Saul's son Jonathan felt an instant connection with David and they became friends. They made a covenant and promised to protect each other. Jonathan gave David his armor and weapons. But Saul was soon jealous of David's popularity and began to hate him. Despite Saul's attempts to kill him, David behaved wisely. When Saul ordered Jonathan to kill David, Jonathan warned David of the danger he was in. David escaped to his own house. His wife Michal helped him escape through a window. Saul chased David but the Lord protected him.

David and Jonathan's friendship is a rare kind of selfless love that desires the joy of another person above one's own joy. Jonathan's act of giving his weapons and armor to David symbolizes him giving David the right to become king after Saul. Saul's jealousy of David illustrates the opposite of his son's love. Even the joy Saul felt while David played the harp for him was a selfish love, based on what David could do for him. When David gained popularity Saul was unable to feel happy for his success, but plotted his death.

Focus Points

- Saul made David part of his household and a captain over his army.
- Jonathan and David became friends, but David's success made Saul jealous.
- Saul tried to kill David, so David fled.

Readings from the Writings

“Jonathan stripped off the cloak that was upon him and gave it to David, and his garments, and even his sword and his bow and even to his girdle.” (1 Samuel 18:4) This signified that Jonathan, the heir...transferred all his right to David; for all the things that Jonathan gave to David were representative of the kingdom, that is, of the Divine truth of the church, which Saul represented; for...all the kings who were over the sons of Israel represented the Lord in relation to Divine truth, and their kingdom represented the church in relation to Divine truth.” *Apocalypse Explained* 395

“The hallmark of love is not loving ourselves but loving others and being united to them through love. The hallmark of love is also being loved by others because this is how we are united. Truly, the essence of all love is to be found in union, in the life of love that we call joy, delight, pleasure, sweetness, blessedness, contentment, and happiness. The essence of love is that what is ours should belong to someone else. Feeling the joy of someone else as joy within ourselves—that is loving.” *Divine Love and Wisdom* 47

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

“Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
He who walks uprightly...
Speaks the truth in his heart...
Honors those who fear the Lord.” (Psalm 15:1-4 parts)

Projects and Activities (see back of lesson for answers)

Saul, David, and Jonathan Choose the Ending
Choose the best ending for each sentence.

David's Feelings

Imagine how David might have felt at different times in this story. Look at a chart of the story and mark how you think David felt as these difficult events unfolded.

Additional Project and Activity Choices

Saul's Levels of Evil

After David was anointed king Saul became troubled. He became jealous of David and started showing his anger through evil actions. Some of these actions were more evil than others. Rank nine actions Saul did in order of how evil they were. Use the list as a way to think about your own attitudes and behaviors towards others. At <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-sauls-levels-of-evil-1samuel18-19.pdf>

Jonathan's Gifts Prepare David for Battle

Jonathan's gifts armed David for his physical battles. Armor also represent things that prepare us for battle against evil and falsity. Think about one of Jonathan's gifts and how its physical characteristics and uses reflect its spiritual meaning. At <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-jonathans-gifts-prepare-david-for-battle-1-samuel18.pdf>

Compare Saul's and David's Actions towards Each Other

Complete a chart to compare Saul's actions towards David with David's actions towards Saul. Online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-compare-sauls-and-davids-actions-towards-each-other-1samuel18-19.pdf>

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1 Samuel 18:1-16; 19:1-18

knit—bonded together as close friends
slain—killed in battle
pinning—stuck to the wall by his clothes

A Wonderful Friendship

After killing Goliath, David took Goliath’s head to Saul, and Saul asked him who he was. This may seem strange since David had been in Saul’s court for a while and had often played the harp for him when he was distressed. However, Saul did not seem to know David. When David answered, Saul’s son Jonathan heard and instantly felt connected to David.

“And it was so, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.” (1 Samuel 18:1)



Saul Sees David and Jonathan

After David’s battle with Goliath, Saul was very pleased with him and kept him at court. He did not allow David to return home and made him a captain over the soldiers. David went to battle wherever Saul sent him, and was a successful military leader.

During this time, David and Jonathan became close friends. They made a covenant with each other, a promise to help and protect each other. Jonathan even gave David a gift of his clothing, his armor, and his sword and bow. This friendship continued throughout Jonathan’s life.

Saul’s Jealousy

David had done a wonderful deed for Saul. He had saved Saul’s army from the powerful Philistines. For a while it seemed as if Saul was grateful to David

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for saving the Israelites. But something happened to change Saul’s feelings, and make him very jealous of David.

As Saul and his soldiers returned home from a battle against the Philistines, the women came out singing and dancing to meet them. Saul heard the women singing:

“Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” (1 Samuel 18:7)

From that day on Saul looked at David suspiciously. His love soon turned to hatred. He was afraid that David would take the kingdom from him. How much Saul had changed from being the humble person he had been when he was first anointed king!

Saul Tries to Kill David

David behaved wisely in spite of Saul’s hatred. He was a good man who helped the Israelites. However, Saul grew angry over David’s popularity. In fact, he became so jealous of David’s good qualities that he wanted to destroy him and tried to kill him several times.

Once when Saul sent David to fight the Philistines, he promised that David could marry his daughter Michal if he won the battle. What Saul was really hoping was that David would be killed. But David was wise and brave, and returned safely.



Then Saul ordered Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Jonathan warned his friend David about the danger he was in! David hid in a secret place while Jonathan persuaded his father to treat David well because he had done many great things for Saul and his kingdom. Saul let David go home. But as David played the harp to comfort Saul’s troubled spirit, Saul turned on him and threw a spear that pinned him to the wall. David escaped and ran to his house.

Saul Follows After David

So Saul sent messengers to David’s house to watch him. He planned to kill David in the morning. But David’s wife, Michal, helped him to escape by letting him down through a window.

Then she tricked the soldiers into think-

ing David was sick in bed. She dressed up an small statue, an idol, and put it in his bed. She covered its head with a goat's hair blanket, so it looked as if David was sleeping. At first the soldiers believed her. This gave David time to run away to Ramah where the prophet Samuel lived.

Even though David escaped, Saul did not give up. He sent messengers to capture David three times, but each time something amazing happened.

As the messengers searched for David they came close to where he was hiding with Samuel. They saw Samuel leading many prophets in prophesying.

“And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.” (1 Samuel 19:20)



Michal Protects David

Saul decided to go himself, and the same thing happened to him! In fact he was so filled with the spirit of God that people even wondered if Saul was a prophet too.

You might wonder if Saul will leave David alone now after seeing how the Lord is protecting him. But Saul could not forget his anger and continued to hunt for David.

Jealousy

You may sometimes feel angry towards others like Saul did. Your feelings might make you say or do something that is unkind. Perhaps you felt that you deserved the praise that someone else received so you said something mean. Jealous words can harm another person's feelings and reputation, but they will also harm you.

We can often keep jealous feelings to ourselves, but they can still lead us not to like someone. This makes it hard for us to be happy if they are happy. If you feel this way, try to be like Jonathan, who loved David for his wonderful abilities. He could have been jealous, but he was not, and he even gave David gifts to cheer him up.

Next time you feel jealous, ask the Lord for strength to be happy about the special attention or favors someone else is getting. Then the Lord can take away the jealous feelings and help you feel joy instead.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
He who walks uprightly...
Speaks the truth in his heart...
Honors those who fear the Lord.” (Psalm 15:1-4 parts)

Projects and Activities (answers are at the back of this lesson)

Choose one or two.

Saul, David, and Jonathan Choose the Ending

Choose the best ending for each sentence.

David’s Feelings

Imagine how David might have felt at different times in this story. Look at a chart of the story and mark how you think David felt as difficult events unfolded.

Saul, David, and Jonathan Choose the Ending

1 Samuel 18:1-16; 19:1-18

Choose the best ending for each sentence.

1. Saul's son, Jonathan, and David...
 - a. were jealous of each other.
 - b. had nothing in common.
 - c. became best friends.

2. Saul became jealous of David because...
 - a. women liked David better.
 - b. Jonathan liked David better.
 - c. women sang that David had slain more enemies.

3. Saul started to worry that David...
 - a. would take over the kingdom.
 - b. would turn his own son against him.
 - c. would be killed in battle.

4. While David was playing music Saul tried to kill David...
 - a. by shooting at him with a bow and arrow.
 - b. by throwing a spear at him.
 - c. by putting poison in his water goblet.

5. Saul was afraid of David because...
 - a. David behaved wisely and the Lord was with him.
 - b. David had killed Goliath.
 - c. David was plotting to take over the kingdom.

6. Saul sent David off to fight the Philistines promising him...
 - a. great riches and honor.
 - b. a new harp made of gold.
 - c. his daughter, Michal, in marriage.

7. Jonathan convinces Saul not to kill David because...
 - a. David has done nothing wrong.
 - b. bad things will happen to Saul if he kills David.
 - c. David's music is necessary to keep away distressing spirits.

8. David finally escaped and fled from Saul by...
 - a. climbing out a window and going to Samuel.
 - b. running away with Jonathan.
 - c. leaving in the middle of the night to go back to his father.

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David's Feelings

David had many different experiences in this story. Some were happy, but some were not. Imagine how David felt at each point in the story. Draw a line to connect the faces that show best how David felt as each event happened. Notice how much David's feelings changed.

Just as David had good and bad feelings throughout the story, we have good and bad feelings throughout our lives. It's important to remember that the bad times will end, and will be happy again, especially if we trust the Lord!

	Happy, hopeful, eager or content	A little happy, hopeful, eager or content	Neutral or mixed feelings	A little angry, afraid, sad or depressed	Angry, afraid, sad or depressed
David and Jonathan become friends.					
Davis is made captain of Saul's armies.					
David hears women singing that he is greater than Saul.					
Saul throws a spear at David to kill him.					
David marries Saul's daughter, Michal.					
David has to kill 100 Philistines.					
Jonathan warns David that Saul wants to kill him.					
David makes the Philistines flee.					
Saul tries to kill David with his spear again.					
David escapes out the window.					
Michal protects David by hiding an idol in his bed.					
Saul's messengers discover David has gone.					
David tells Samuel what has happened.					

Answers

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Saul, David, and Jonathan Choose the Ending

1. c, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b, 5. b, 6. a, 7. a, 8. a.