

General Church Education



David Lives With the Philistines

1 Samuel 27

Lesson 18

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is King of Kings

For ages 10-11

David Lives with the Philistines

1 Samuel 27

Teacher Background

David looked for a place where he would be safe from Saul and chose to live among Israel's enemy, the Philistines. David went to Achish, king of Gath, with his wives and six hundred men. He lived with Achish for a while, but once Saul found out David was there he asked Achish for a place in the country. Achish gave him the city of Ziklag. From there, David fought Israel's enemies. He shared the spoils with Achish, and cleverly told Achish that the treasures were from Israelite cities he had sacked. He was careful to kill all the people so nobody would live to tell the truth. Achish believed David would no longer find favor in Israel because of this and would therefore be his servant for ever.

David was safer among his enemies than he would have been in Israel. While David was in Ziklag he continued to serve Judah. His brutal attacks on Philistine towns weakened the Philistines so that at some point Israel could overcome their enemy. David's actions picture the way our evil loves and false thoughts require constant attention, especially when they surround us. His attacks show the kind of zeal we need to protect children's spiritual welfare.

Focus Points

- David sought refuge from Saul among Israel's enemies, the Philistines.
- King Achish gave David the city of Ziklag and from there David raided Israel's enemies.
- David gained Achish's trust by sharing the spoils and telling him he was raiding Judah.

Readings from the Writings

“The case with the Philistines was the same as with all the nations in the land of Canaan, in that they represented the goods and truths of the church, and also evils and falsities. For while the representative Ancient Church was among them, they represented the celestial things which are of good and the spiritual things which are of truth; but when they turned aside from genuine representative worship, they then began to represent the diabolical things which are of evil and the infernal things which are of falsity.” *Arcana Coelestia* 9340

“That zeal arises from an attack upon the love, is because love is the heat of one's life. Therefore, when the life's love is attacked, the heat of life is enkindled, resists, and breaks out against the assailant. Moreover, it acts as an enemy from its own force and power, which is as a flame of fire bursting out against him who rouses it.” *Conjugal Love* 359.2

“The zeal of a good love harbors in its inner aspects friendship and love; but the zeal of an evil love harbors in its inner aspects hatred and vengeance.” *Conjugal Love* 357.5

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord’s Word by heart.

“The Lord will also be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. and those who know your name will put their trust in You; for You Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.” (Psalm 9:9,10)

Projects and Activities (see back for answers)

Questions

Use several sentences to answer four questions.

Staying Safe

Chameleons stay safe by changing color to blend in with their surroundings. Color a color-changing chameleon as you think about how Saul hid among his enemies, the Philistines.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Run and Hide, an Activity for One or Two People

David constantly ran and hid from Saul. One person pretends to be Saul, the other pretends to be David. Have “Saul” count to fifteen while “David” runs and hides. It won’t be much time, so it will be difficult for “David” to find a good spot. When “Saul” finds “David”, it’s time for “David” to run and hide again. The next time, “Saul” only counts to ten. The following time, “Saul” only counts to five. The “Saul” doesn’t count, but runs after “David” while he tries to hide. To play alone, time yourself while you run and hide, reducing the time between each hiding.

Discussion: Remaining Loyal to Your Country

David was loyal to Israel even when he was living in a foreign land—the land of the Philistines. The Lord tells us that it is important to love our country. Discuss patriotism and encourage students to think and speak well of their country.

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Vocabulary

softened—to feel care for another person

spoils—plunder taken in battle

refuge—a place of safety from danger

Saul Searches for David

Saul hunted David, but David would not harm him because he was the Lord’s anointed. For a while Saul’s heart softened and David felt secure, but he did not believe he would be safe for long. His only hope was to escape from Israel so Saul would stop trying to trap him.

“Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.” (1 Samuel 27:1)

David Flees to Gath

David went to the land of Israel’s enemies, the Philistines, where he had hidden before! Previously when David had tried to hide in Gath Saul’s chief herdsman recognized him and reported him to Saul. David escaped by pretending to be mad.



But this time David was not alone. He arrived with six hundred well-trained soldiers, their wives and children, and all their possessions. Achish, the king of Gath welcomed them. Perhaps Achish thought that David would no longer be loyal to Saul and that David’s soldiers would help the Philistines.

Although David was invited to stay with king Achish, he humbly asked to

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be given a town out in the country and called himself Achish's servant. So Achish gave David the town of Ziklag. David and his followers lived in Ziklag for more than a year.

David's Secret Raids

David had a special reason for wanting a place of his own. He wanted to live far away from Achish where nobody could see what he did. While he was out of sight, David and his men raided the cities and camps of Israel's enemies. They were careful to kill every person so no survivors could report back to Achish.

While you might think that David was being dishonest and cruel it is important to remember that he was raiding the Philistine cities to serve Israel. Although king Saul's wickedness had driven David to live with the Philistines, he still loved his country. He knew that it was important to weaken the Philistines so they would no longer harm the Israelites.

David Fools Achish

David was very clever. After each raid, he took Achish some of the spoils. He gave him valuable sheep, oxen, donkeys, camels and clothing. When Achish asked which town David had raided, he would tell him the name of a town in Judah, his own tribe. So Achish believed David was fighting for the Philistines against his own people! Each time David visited Achish was very pleased. He thought the Israelites must hate David. If so, David would be could never go back to Israel.



David Fools Achish

“He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever.” (1 Samuel 27:12)

But the truth was that David never stopped wanting to serve his country. He had to deceive

Achish into thinking he was willing to fight the Israelites so he could use the land of the Philistines as a refuge from Saul.

Compared to the hard life in the wilderness, Ziklag was a wonderful hideaway. David and his followers lived in houses. They did not have to sleep on the ground or in caves. They could move around freely, without having to worry that someone would recognize them and betray their position. They no longer had to search for food. They could get everything they needed from their raids. And David could serve his country by attacking Israel's enemies.

Taking Refuge

You may never have to flee from an enemy like Saul but you might face dangers from which you need to escape.

Perhaps there is a big dog in that barks when you walk past its house. Maybe some classmates are teasing you. Maybe someone you know is asking you to do things you that could harm you or others. In times like this it is hard to know where to turn.

The Lord wants you to have special places and people you can go to when you feel afraid. It takes courage to tell trusted adults your fears. David should have felt safe with Saul. Saul knew that the Lord wanted David to be the next king, but he ignored the Lord's wishes and wanted to harm David so that he, Saul, could preserve his kingship. David wanted to keep the Lord's commands, but he had to leave Judah to do so.

Sometimes we need to get away from hurtful situations so that we can follow the Lord. The Lord wants to keep us safe all the time, but sometimes He needs special help from others. He gives us our parents and other adults to provide that help. Think of all the people and places you know are safe and remember them if you need to escape from danger. The Lord will help others help you to feel safe and secure.



Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“The Lord will also be a refuge for the
oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.
and those who know your name will
put their trust in You; for You Lord,
have not forsaken those who seek you.” (Psalm 9:9,10)

Projects and Activities (answers at back)

Choose one or two.

Questions

Use several sentences to answer four questions.

Staying Safe

Chameleons stay safe by changing color to blend in with their surroundings. Color a color-changing chameleon as you think about how Saul hid among his enemies, the Philistines.

Questions

Use several sentences to answer the following questions:

1. Why did David flee to the land of the Philistines?
2. Why do you think Achish allowed David to stay and gave him a town to live in?
3. How long did David stay in Ziklag and what did he do while he was there?
4. How did David trick Achish?

Staying Safe

King Saul chased David so much that he needed a safe place to hide. Surprisingly, he found safety among the Philistines, Israel's enemy, by pretending to be like them.

Like David, chameleons change to blend into their surroundings. Some chameleons change color from red to yellow, green and blue. Other chameleons change into different shades of a single color such as brown. Make a chameleon that can change color to hide.

Supplies needed

2 pieces stiff paper
1 split pin
scissors
tape or glue (for eye)
markers or crayons

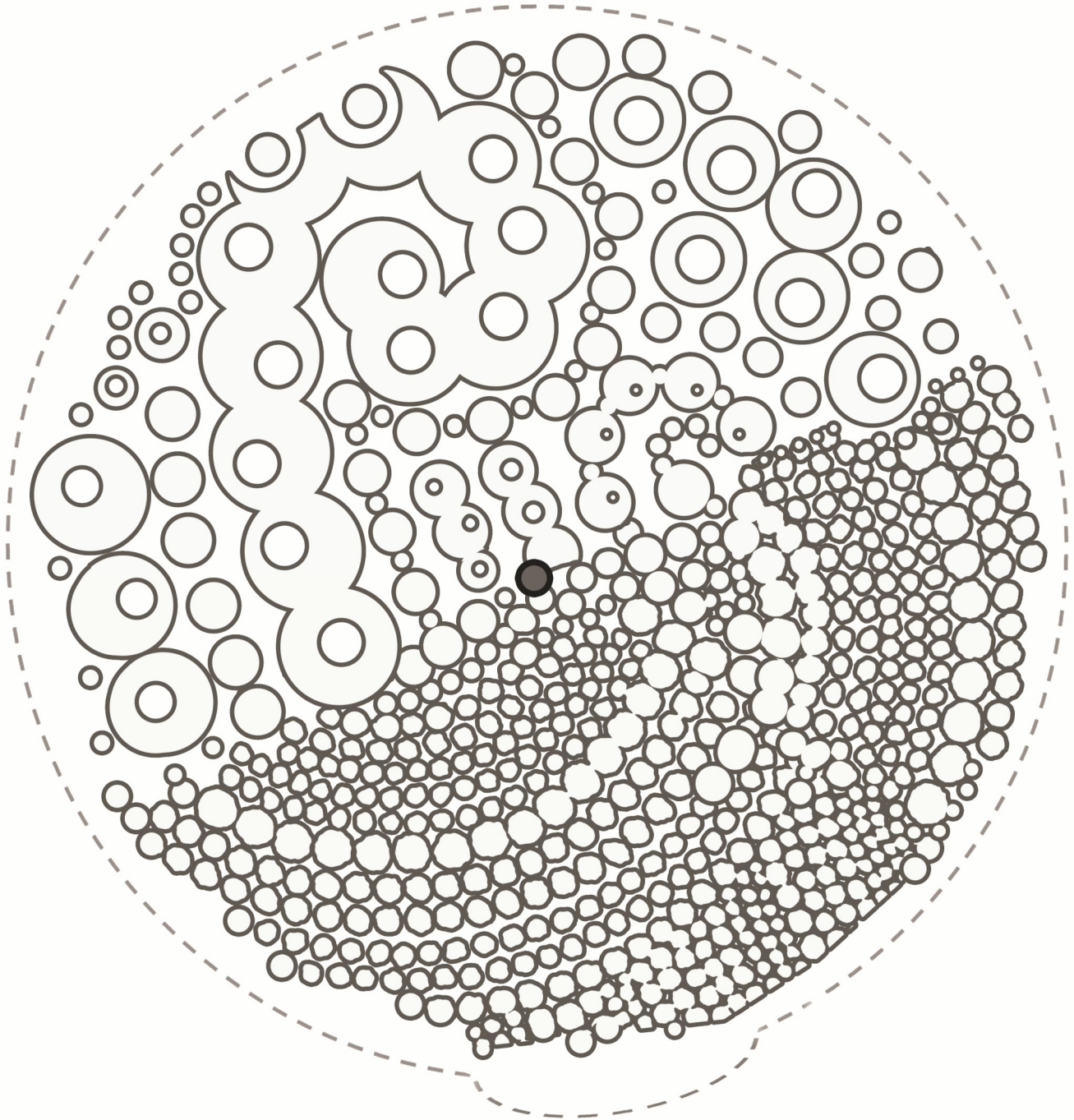
Directions

1. Copy the Color Circle and Chameleon Circle on to stiff paper.
2. Color the Color Circle with lots of colors. Make each half a different color scheme. Cut around the circle on the dashed line. Pierce the center circle.
3. Using the Chameleon Page, cut out the circle on the dashed line. Cut out the chameleon along the black line. Cut out the Eyeball and Spacer Circle.
4. Tape the eyeball next to the ear of the chameleon (see picture on left).



5. Pierce through the center of the Spacer Circle and the large circle on the dots.
6. To assemble the chameleon, pierce the center of the Chameleon Page with a split pin. Next, thread the pin through the Spacer Circle. Finally, thread the pin through the Color Circle.
7. When the chameleon is assembled, hold the tabs and turn the chameleon to watch it change color. Think about the ways king David adapted to survive King Saul chasing him.

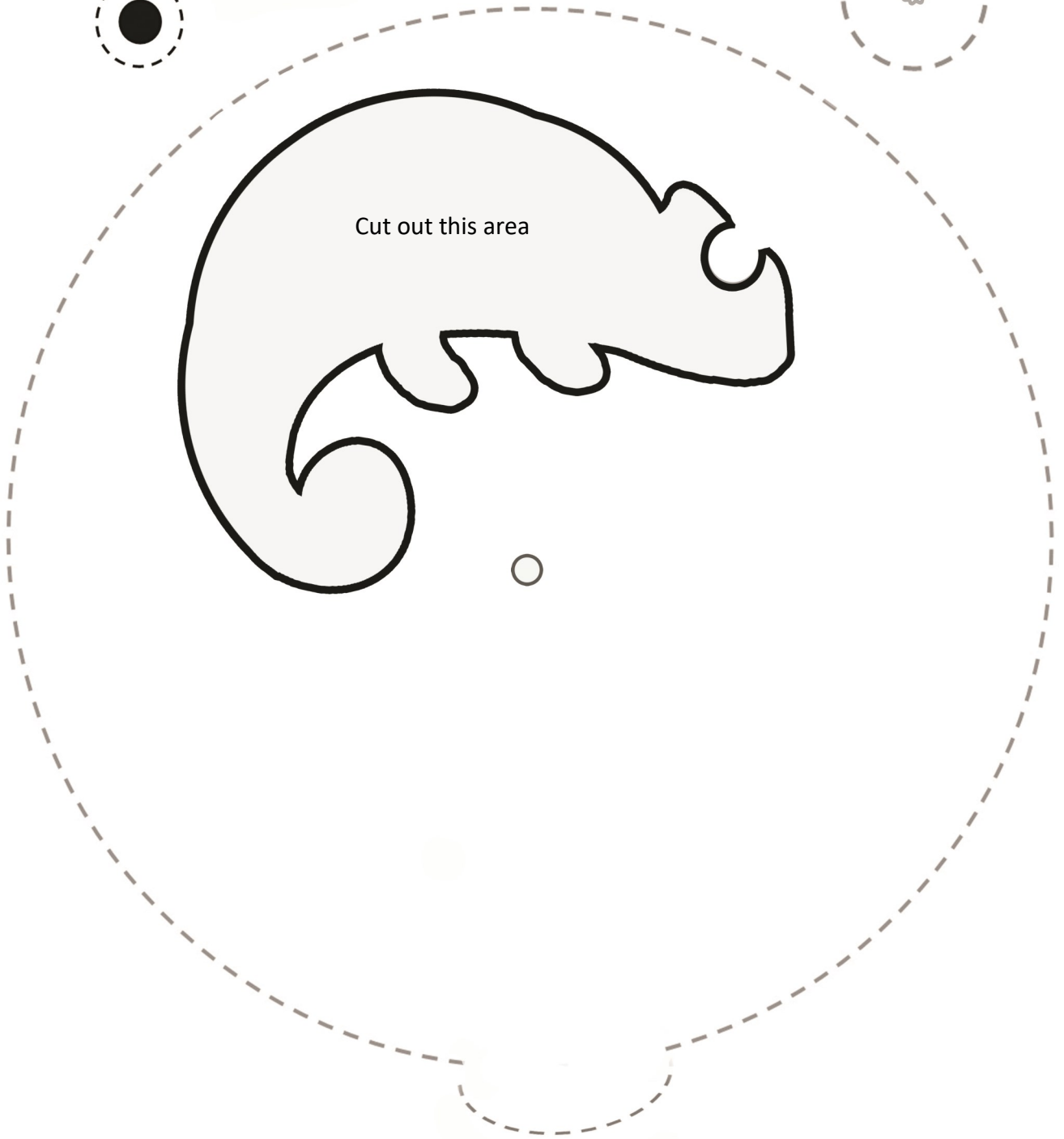
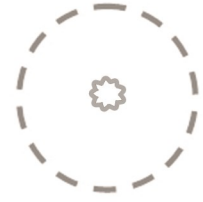
Color Circle



Eyeball



Spacer circle



Chameleon Circle

Answers

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Questions

1. David knew he would be safe from Saul if he hid among Saul's enemy, the Philistines. He knew that Saul would give up chasing him if he went to live there.
2. David convinced king Achish that he was his friend. David argued that he was not worthy to live in the royal city and would like to live in the country.
3. David lived in Ziklag for a year and four months. While he was there he fought Israel's enemies.
4. David told Achish that he was attacking cities in Judah. He shared the spoils with Achish. Achish thought that David could not return to Israel because the Israelites would hate him.