



David

A man after God's own heart



Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex Summer Curriculum

Religious Organization · Mission · Social Services

Let my words and my thoughts be pleasing to You, Lord,
because You are my Mighty Rock and my Protector.
Psalm 19:14

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Introduction to heart look

In this age of social media that we live in, our relationships can become distorted . . . including our relationship with God. That is why this summer we parody a well known social media site to get to the heart of the matter.

When we make time to connect with others, are we also connecting with God? As we seek to be surrounded by a multitude of friends, do we remember that in God we have a friend who sticks closer than a brother? Maybe we have even become very accustomed to wearing a mask as we relate to others, not realizing that God sees the condition of our heart. Join us on a journey to the depths of your own heart as we seek to be pleasing to God with our words and our thoughts.

David: From Shepherd Boy to Giant Slayer

1 Samuel 16:14 - 1 Samuel 17:50

Memory verse: "Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety." (Proverbs 29:25 NLT)



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Lesson 1 - Review

In our last lesson we learned that David was anointed to be the next king of Israel. What do you remember about David? (He was a shepherd, the youngest of his family . . .) That doesn't sound much like a king, now does it? Why did God choose David? (because David had a **heart** like God's)

Can you imagine what David did after he was anointed king? What would you do?



Lesson 2

Believe it or not, after being anointed king, young David went back to taking care of the sheep. His **heart** wasn't prideful; he had a **heart** like God's. Even though David continued taking care of the sheep, he wasn't the same after that. After the prophet Samuel anointed him king, God's Spirit "came powerfully upon David" and "took control of David" and "worked in David," "empowering him for the rest of his life." (1 Samuel 16:13 NIV, GNT, NCV, MSG)

The Bible tells us that when God's Spirit came on David, it also left King Saul. In the place of God's Spirit, a bad (evil) spirit troubled and terrified him. Saul's servants wanted to help and suggested music to calm him. Saul liked the idea and since there were no radios back then, Saul's servants were charged with finding someone who played the harp well.

One of the servants knew just the right person; "I've seen him myself: the son of Jesse of Bethlehem, an excellent musician. He's also courageous . . . well-spoken, and good looking. And God is with him." (1 Samuel 16:18 MSG) So they went to look for David and brought him back to the palace.

When they first met, Saul had no idea that this young man would one day replace him as king, but David did. Knowing that, David willingly served King Saul. (Remember, David was a young man with a **heart** like God's.) So, "when the evil spirit . . . would come on Saul, David would get his harp and play it. That would help Saul. He would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him." (1 Samuel 16:23 NIV) Saul came to care for David very much.

Even as David was serving King Saul, the army of the Philistines began to gather. King Saul gathered his army, too. They faced each other at the Valley of Elah, with the Philistines on one mountain and the Israelites on the opposite mountain. David's three oldest brothers were a part of King Saul's army, but David went back and forth from King Saul to take care of his father's sheep.

While David was away tending the sheep, the champion of the Philistine army appeared. His name was

Goliath and he was huge! He stood over nine feet tall and wore armor that weighed almost 200 pounds. He challenged King Saul's army, "Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves!" (1 Samuel 17:8b-9 MSG) At this, King Saul and his army shook with fear and ran away. This challenge from Goliath went on every day for forty days!

On the forty-first day, David woke up early to take bread and grain to his brothers who were on the battle lines with Saul's army. By the time he got there, the armies were lined up against each other. David ran up to the battle line and entered it so that he could tell his brothers "hello." While David was visiting with his brothers, Goliath stepped forward and, again, dared someone to fight him. This time David heard it.

As the Israelite army ran away, David asked, "Who does this Philistine think he is daring the army of the living God?" David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard him and it made him mad. He asked David, "Why have you come down here? Who did you leave those few sheep in the desert with? I know how proud you are. I know how evil your **heart** is. The only reason you came down here was to watch the battle." None of this could have been further from the truth, but Eliab's own pride, and maybe hurt at not being anointed king, blinded him.

When King Saul, who was as terrified as the rest of them, heard about David's questions he called for him. How could this young boy fight a giant? David pled his case, "I take care of my father's sheep and have killed bears and lions to protect them and I'll do the same to Goliath. The same God who saved me from the lions and bears will save me from Goliath."

With that, David went down to the stream at the bottom of the valley and picked out five, smooth stones. He put them in his shepherd's bag and "with his sling ready, he went out to meet Goliath." (1 Samuel 17:40 GNT)

As Goliath advanced, he cursed David, threatening to feed him to the birds. "David said to Goliath, 'You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the LORD who rules over all. He is the God of the

armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against. This very day the LORD will put you in my power; I will defeat you and . . . Then the whole world will know that Israel has a God, and everyone here will see that the LORD does not need swords or spears to save His people. He is victorious in battle, and He will put all of you in our power.'" (1 Samuel 17:45-47 NIV)

And with that, David ran toward Goliath, sling in hand. Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh. You could hear the sound of the sling passing through the air. Then the stone itself flew through the air and found its mark in Goliath's forehead. "And so, without a sword, David defeated and killed Goliath with a sling and a stone!" (1 Samuel 17:50 GNT)



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Games and Activities:

- ® Make cardboard harps and string them with yarn. Talk about David's willingness to serve king Saul by playing the harp for him.
- ® Play praise music, specifically from the Psalms, during the activity time.
- ® Practice your aim! Make a life-sized Goliath from an appliance box or butcher paper. Using the sling made for our memory verse, practice slinging marshmallows at Goliath. (You can also mount a smaller version of Goliath onto a disposable cup. Attach a string and cotton ball for taking aim.



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Songs:

- ® "As The Deer"
- ® "Trust and Obey"
- ® "Heart of Worship"
- ® "Praise Him, Praise Him"
- ® "Days of Elijah"



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Memory Verse Activities:

"Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety." (Proverbs 29:25 NLT)

- ® Make a sling. Use construction paper, craft foam, felt, or leather and leather cord or yarn. Print the memory verse on the sling.
- ® Write each word of the memory verse on a separate, flat, river rock. Practice the verse.



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Food for Thought:

- ® **Review:** What does it mean to "have a heart like God's"? "Seems to me, it means that you are a person whose life is in harmony with the Lord. What is important to Him is important to you." (Charles Swindoll, *David* p. 6)
- ® Read 1 Samuel 16:14-18. "God can draw what may seem to be a most insignificant part of your past and put you in exactly the right place to use that particular gift or skill. That's the way it was with David. . . Never once did he pull rank on Saul. He was never jealous or envious of the king's position. . . He'd been anointed, but he let the Lord open all the doors. Remember, David was a man after God's own heart." (Charles Swindoll, *David* p. 30)
- ® "The beautiful thing about this story is that it's a perfect example of how God operates. He magnifies HIS name when we are weak. We don't have to be eloquent or strong or handsome. . . He honors our faith. All He asks is that we trust Him, that we stand before Him in integrity and faith, and He'll win the battle. God is just waiting for His moment, waiting for us to trust Him so He can empower us to battle our giants. (Charles Swindoll, *David* p. 45)
- ® Have you ever wondered how David could have such faith in God? Read and discuss Psalm 119. How can what is important to God be important to you? By reading and obeying His word.