



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 Meets a Loyal Friend

1 Samuel 18:1-20:42

Memory verse: "A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." (Proverbs 17:17 NIV)



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Lesson 2 - Review

Do you remember that, even after he was anointed king, David went right back to taking care of his father's sheep? And even when David began to serve King Saul by playing the harp, David continued to go back and forth from King Saul to tend the sheep.

And then, David triumphed over the giant Goliath!



Lesson 3

After the victory over Goliath and the Philistines, “Saul kept David with him. He didn’t let him return to his father’s home.” (1 Samuel 18:2 NIRV) With so much time near Saul, David quickly became friends with Saul’s son, Jonathan. “Jonathan was deeply impressed with David—an immediate bond was forged between them” and they became close friends. (1 Samuel 18:1a MSG) “Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.” (1 Samuel 18:1b NIRV) To show his loyalty to David, Jonathan made a covenant with David. A covenant is a serious agreement between two people. It is a promise that is taken seriously; it is a pledge or pact. To show how serious he was about this covenant, or promise, Jonathan “took off his coat and gave it to David, along with his armor, including his sword, bow and belt.” (1 Samuel 18:4 NCV) “From that point on [Jonathan] would be David’s number-one advocate and friend.” (1 Samuel 18:1b MSG)

Even though David had found a true and loyal friend in the king’s son, Saul didn’t keep David with him so that Jonathan could have a friend. Saul sent David on errands and “David did everything Saul sent him to do. He did it so well that Saul gave him a high rank in the army.” (1 Samuel 18:5 NIRV)

It wasn’t long, though, before King Saul, whom God’s Spirit had left, became angry and jealous of David, who was still being led by God’s Spirit. Even still, when King Saul was in an ugly mood David would play the harp for him. But one day, Saul had a spear in his hand and tried twice to pin David to the wall with it. God was clearly with David; he was a man after His own **heart**. So Saul began to be afraid of David and even sent him away to be an officer in the army. Because God was with David, everything he did turned out well; he was successful.

The more successful David was, the more afraid Saul became. King Saul began to want David dead! King Saul made himself David’s enemy and remained his enemy for the rest of his life! Saul even got so desperate that he told Jonathan and all of his servants to do whatever they could to kill David. Jonathan warned David to hide, and then talked to his father.

Jonathan reminded his father of the wonderful things David had done, but he also reminded Saul that David had done nothing to harm him. He said, “So why would you do anything to harm a man like David? He isn’t guilty of doing anything to harm you. Why would you want to kill him without any reason?” (1 Samuel 19:5b NIRV) Then Saul promised his son that David would not be killed, but as soon as the ugly mood (evil spirit) came on him again the promise was off. Saul tried to pin David to the wall again and when David ran away, Saul had David’s house watched. This time it was David’s wife, Saul’s daughter, who warned David.

David ran for safety to the prophet Samuel and then went to his faithful friend Jonathan. When David asked, “What do I do now? What wrong have I inflicted on your father that makes him so determined to kill me?” Jonathan couldn’t believe what he was hearing. (1 Samuel 20:1a MSG) Jonathan was sure that his father had kept his promise, plus his father had always confided in him and King Saul had not told Jonathan anything about this.

“But David said, ‘Your father knows that we are the best of friends. So he says to himself, “Jonathan must know nothing of this. If he does, he’ll side with David.” But it’s true—as sure as God lives, and as sure as you’re alive before me right now—he’s determined to kill me.’” (1 Samuel 20:3 MSG) Jonathan promised to help David, even though he still wasn’t sure his father was capable of wanting to kill David.

David and Jonathan came up with a plan. David would stay away from the palace during a special celebration. If King Saul became angry, Jonathan would understand that David was right and he would warn David to run for his life.

King Saul became angry during the meal and Jonathan knew what he had to do. David was hiding in a field and Jonathan warned him by shooting arrows and giving secret directions to the young boy who was picking up his arrows. Once Jonathan sent the boy away, David came out of hiding. What a sad meeting . . . these two friends who had vowed loyalty to each other, who had God as the bond between them, had to say goodbye. David needed to run for his life from King Saul, but he promised to always show kindness and loyalty to Jonathan and all of his family.



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Games and Activities:

- ® Make friendship bracelets and talk about Jonathan and David's friendship.
- ® Make a bow and arrow from simple things like craft sticks, yarn, straws and cotton swabs.
- ® Run relays. Talk about the young boy who went with Jonathan to retrieve the arrows. Then review the loyal friendship between David and Jonathan.
- ® Take photographs of each child (or have them color their self-portrait) and mount it on construction paper. Print "God is a friend that sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24)



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Songs:

- ® "As the Deer"
- ® "Touch Through Me"
- ® "Trust and Obey"
- ® "Shake a Friend's Hand"
- ® "Where Do I Go"
- ® "Draw Me Close" (by Kelly Carpenter)
- ® "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"



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Memory Verse Activities:

"A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." (Proverbs 17:17 NIV)

- ® Make friendship posters. Provide construction paper, heart shaped decorations, markers, etc. Be sure to include the memory verse.
- ® Write each word of the memory verse on a paper heart chain. 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)
- ® "Here is the champion of champions. . .and he went wherever Saul sent him. He was in loyal submission to his king. . .And what happened? He prospered. Four times in the same chapter it says David prospered, or that he behaved himself wisely. What a man. He simply did what God led him to do. He submitted to authority, and God lifted him up above his peers." (Charles Swindoll, *David* p. 52)
- ® "God knew that David needed an intimate friend to walk with him through the valley that was ahead of him. Intimate friends are rare in life. . . .Intimate friendship has four characteristics and we find all of them in this story." An intimate friend is 1) willing to sacrifice (Samuel 18:4), 2) a loyal defense before others (1 Samuel 19:4-5), 3) one who gives the other complete freedom to be himself (1 Samuel 20:41), 4) a constant source of encouragement (23:15-16)." (Charles Swindoll, *David* p. 52-54)
- ® Read through some of the Psalms David wrote during this time of his life. (Psalms 5, 7, 11, 12, 23, 25 and 59)