



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 Has Opportunity to Kill the King

1 Samuel 24, 26

Memory verse: "God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again." (Philippians 1:6 NCV)



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Lesson 4 - Review

Do you remember what we talked about last week? What was David doing? (Running from King Saul.) Do you remember that, whether David was sad or happy, scared or at peace, he sang his praise to God? We have those prayers and praises recorded in the book of Psalms. As he ran from King Saul, what do you think David would have done if he had the opportunity to hurt King Saul? What would you do?



Lesson 5

A couple of things happened while David was running for his life that could have bought his freedom. Let's see what David decided to do.

While David was running from King Saul, he wasn't actually always running. Sometimes David and his men hid in caves for safety. One of those times when David and his men were hiding deep inside a cave, King Saul was actually closer than they expected. In fact, King Saul came into the very cave where David and his men were hiding. He went into the cave to use the bathroom!

David's men said, "Here's your chance." They believed it was time to kill King Saul. So David crawled up close to King Saul without being noticed. He reached out his knife. . .and cut off a corner of King Saul's robe!

Not quite what you expected, is it. But even after simply cutting off a corner of the king's robe, David felt guilty. David knew that King Saul was God's anointed king. David had no right to remove King Saul from the throne. That was God's job.

Not long after the incident in the cave, King Saul pursued David again, with 3,000 of the best soldiers in Israel. They made camp in the area where David was hiding. When David heard that Saul and his army had come after him, he sent out spies to see if they had really come. Then David went at night. From a distance he saw King Saul lying in the middle of the camp with his army camped all around him. One of David's men, Abishai, went down with him into the camp. They found King Saul there, fast asleep with his spear stuck in the ground at his head and his commander and the army surrounding him.

And just like in the cave, David heard, "Here's your chance." "But David said to Abishai, 'Don't kill Saul! No one can harm the LORD's appointed king and still be innocent! As surely as the LORD lives, the LORD himself will punish Saul. Maybe Saul will die naturally, or maybe he will go into battle and be killed. But may the LORD keep me from harming His appointed king! Take the spear and water jug that are near Saul's head. Then let's go.'" (1 Samuel 26:9-11 NCV)

Once David was safely away, he shouted to King Saul and his camp. David showed them what he had done. When King Saul heard it he said, "I have sinned. I've been a fool and really messed up. I won't try to hurt you again, because you respected my life today."

Before David left he told Saul, "The LORD rewards everyone for doing what is right and being faithful. He handed you over to me today. But I wouldn't lay a hand on you. You are the LORD's anointed king. Today I thought your life had great value. In the same way, may the LORD think of my life as having great value. May He save me from all trouble." (1 Samuel 26:23-24 NIV)



Memory Verse Activities:

"God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again." (Philippians 1:6 NCV)

® Write each word of the memory verse on a cloud. Clip each cloud, in random order, on a line strung across your study area. Help your students as they order the verse and practice it.

® Make cardboard or construction paper spears. Cover the blade in aluminum foil. Write the memory verse across the blade. Be sure to include the Scripture reference. Talk about the two times in our story when David had a spear. What did he do each time and why?



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Games and Activities:

- ® Make your own musical instruments. Try putting some of the psalms to music!
- ® Re-enact the story.
- ® Play Hide and Seek. Talk about David hiding from King Saul.
- ® Make small clay jars. Talk about David sneaking into camp and taking Saul's spear and water jug, but not his life!



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Songs:

- ® "Trust His Heart" by Babbie Mason
- ® "Trust and Obey"
- ® "I Will"
- ® "Where Do I Go"
- ® "Have Faith in God"
- ® "When We All Get to Heaven"



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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) How do you see this at work in David's decisions?
- ® Saul had mistreated David. "Handling mistreatment doesn't come naturally. Which is why Jesus' truth is so revolutionary: 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you,' — not *as they do to you*. . . Let's leave the ancient scene and bring this truth home to rest today. If you are resentful of the way someone has treated you. . . you need to ask God to free you from that bondage. The secret, plain and simple? Forgiveness!" (Charles Swindoll, *David* p. 91)
- ® Review the memory verse (Philippians 1:6). Discuss how having faith in God and the plan He has for each of us 1) kept David from forging his own destiny and 2) can keep us on track, trusting God for the timing of things in our lives.
- ® Read through and discuss Psalms 57 and 108, written by David during this time of his life. (In Psalm 57 David asked for mercy from God and then showed it to Saul. Contrast this with Matthew 18:21-35)