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David's Best Friend by
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Lesson 5: DAVID'S BEST FRIEND JONATHAN (1st Samuel 18)

The Bible says that after David defeated Goliath, Saul made David to be the leader of all of his soldiers. Everyone grew to like David, especially Saul's son Jonathan. But King Saul was jealous because the people liked David so much.



David and Jonathan became very good friends. They made a promise to each other that they would always be friends no matter what happened. Jonathan wanted to show David that he loved him as a friend. He gave David his tunic, robe, belt and sword. He even gave him his bow and arrows. It made Jonathan happy to give gifts to his friend.

Everyone talked about how brave David was. The women even sang songs about brave David. Jonathan was glad that people liked David. When good things happened to David, Jonathan was happy for his friend.



But Jonathan's father, King Saul became very jealous and angry. One day Saul got so angry that he threw a spear at David. David was able to get out of the way just in time. David ran away. When Jonathan heard about what happened to his friend he quickly went to talk to David. "Don't worry, David," said Jonathan. "I will talk to my father. I'm sure he will be sorry for what he did!"



Jonathan talked to King Saul. Jonathan reminded his father that David was a good man and that David loved God very much. Saul told Jonathan he was sorry for what he had done. He said that he would not do it again.

But Saul did do it again. Later, he tried to kill David with his spear again. David was able to jump out of the way and run away. Saul sent soldiers to David's house to kill him. But Michal, David's wife, helped him escape through a window.



When Jonathan heard about what his father had done to David he was very sad. He told David to hide while he talked to his father again.

"Stay hidden by the stones," said Jonathan. "After I talk to my father I will come back to this place and shoot some arrows. Listen carefully, if you hear me tell my helper that the arrows are far away, then you will know that you are in danger from Saul. That will be my special signal to you."



Jonathan went to find his father. When Jonathan talked to Saul about David, Saul became very angry. He hated David and even ordered some men to find David and kill him. Jonathan tried to stand up for his friend. When Jonathan said that David was good, Saul became really angry. He was so angry that he even threw a spear at his own son, Jonathan!

Jonathan was very sad. He was sorry that his father was so jealous and mean. He knew he had to give a message to David so that David could run away and be safe. Jonathan took his bow and arrows out to the field and shot an arrow far away. The helper who was with him ran to find the arrow. Jonathan yelled to him to go very far to find it.

Later, David came out of his hiding place to talk to Jonathan. They were both very sad and they both cried. David knew he had to leave his friend. "Just remember, Jonathan, we will always be friends," said David. "Yes, I will always remember you," answered Jonathan.



PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY

Color the picture of DAVID AND JONATHAN



B E S T F R I E N D S



THINK ABOUT THIS:

1. What was Jonathan's relationship to King Saul?

2. In most kingdoms, what would this mean for Jonathan?

3. The Bible says that Jonathan was happy when David was successful and popular. Is that the feeling you would expect Jonathan to have? Why or why not?

4. If you were Jonathan, would it be hard for you to be friends with David? Why or why not?

5. If you were the son of King Saul, would it be hard to protect David from your father? How do you think King Saul felt about their friendship?



Go and be a LOYAL FRIEND!