#### Lesson 6:

#### David Flees/His Friendship with Jonathan

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Samuel 18, 19, 20

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Good friends are special gifts from God. I should be thankful for my friends and try to be a friend to others.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Do you have a good friend? (Let each child tell the name of one good friend.) What is one special thing that makes him/her your good friend? We all need good friends, don’t we? The Bible has a lot to say about friends, and it tells us about some people who were friends. Today we’re going to talk about David and his special friend.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. We have talked about Saul, the first king of Israel, and how he made bad choices and disobeyed God over and over. God warned Saul that the kingdom would be taken away from him, and someone else would take his place as king. Saul became troubled by “an evil/distressing spirit,” and David was brought to the palace to play soothing music for him when he was upset or angry.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Did God Send an**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=1278)[**Evil Spirit upon Saul?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=1278)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on the “evil” or “disressing” spirit that came on Saul that is said to have been “from the Lord.”

1. In spite of his troubles, Saul was still king, and he was supposed to lead the Israelite army in battle. After David killed Goliath, he became a national hero (1 Samuel 18:6-7), and Saul put him in charge of leading the Israelites in several battles. Every time David went with the Israelites into battlethey won. All the people praised David and the women sang songs about him. Their songs compared David to King Saul and praised David more than Saul.
2. After David defeated Goliath and talked with King Saul, Saul’s son Jonathan became David’s closest friend. David’s success in battle, his friendship with Jonathan, and the fact that the people loved him made Saul angry, jealous, suspicious, and very afraid of David (1 Samuel 20:30-31).
3. Not long after David killed Goliath, David was playing his harp for Saul when suddenly Saul became so angry that he threw his spear (javelin) at David. Saul’s spear missed David, and David ran out of the palace. (Saul tried to kill David with his spear twice: 1 Samuel 18:10-11 and 19:8-10.) Saul then appointed David as a commander of a thousand soldiers, repeatedly putting him in positions of great danger, hoping he would be killed in battle. But, instead of being killed or losing a battle, David “was prospering in all his ways, for the Lord was with him” (1 Samuel 18:14 NASV).
4. Saul promised David his daughter Merab as a wife, but then he let someone else marry her instead. Then he promised David that he could have his second daughter, Michal, if David would kill 100 Philistines. Saul thought David would be killed. But David and his men killed not just 100 men, but 200! David continued to be successful, and Michal fell in love with David, which made her father even angrier. She helped David get away from Saul at least once.
5. Jonathan wanted to believe that his father could not kill his best friend. He tried to calm his father by telling him that he had nothing to fear from David. But Saul became so angry that he threw a spear at his own son. After that, Jonathan made a plan to let David know if he could return to the palace or needed to stay away permanently. [Describe the events of 1 Samuel 20 to the children.]
6. Jonathan was a good friend to David. We all need good friends. And we all need to be good friends to others. A good friend:

Is loyal

Gives support and help in good times and bad Is loving and kind

Is truthful and honest

Doesn’t say hurtful things about his friends (gossip)

Looks for the good things (characteristics); doesn’t criticize or make fun

Keeps secrets (confidences); is trustworthy

Helps his friends make good choices; encourages his friends to obey God’s Word; offers good advice

Prays for his friends

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces,

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “05 -06” in the Visuals Folder. This lesson really begins on slide 14. Briefly review Saul’s jealousy of David but focus this week on Jonathan’s friendship and loyalty to David.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Friendship Bracelets – There are lots of different versions of bracelets that young children can make. The simplest would use pipe cleaners and pony beads. Discuss how friends share things like Jonathan shared with David. In the lesson file is a template to attach a bracelet to a card and give to a friend. Print the template on cardstock. Punch holes on either side of the wrist to attach the bracelet. The card says happy Valentine’s so cut this part off or make your own type of card. Instruct the children to give the bracelet to a friend.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Bean Bag Toss: Ask the children to sit in a circle. Let each child gently toss a beanbag to a friend and say, “ is a friend.” Then that child will toss it to another friend and repeat the phrase, adding on a new friend’s name. With five-year-olds, ask them to use the phrase “ is a friend because .” Or the students could say one nice thing about that person.
* Flower Power: For each child in the class, cut out large flowers (a center circle and 5-6 petals for each flower). In the center write, “I can be a good friend.” On each petal, write ways the children explain that they can be good friends. [Alternative: Buy a tablet of flower cutouts from a teacher supply store. On each flower write one way the kids say they can be good friends, and post the flowers on the wall or a bulletin board in a flower shape.[] (Flower cutouts](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/3-19-26-125Flower%20cutouts.pdf) provided in activity sheets)
* Play a Relay Game - Bring in two sets or more of the following items: Coat, bow, sword, and belt. You can cut bow and sword shapes from cardboard or just use pictures of these items. Divide your children up into teams and line them up on one side of the room. Place the items on the other side of the room. The first child in each teams runs to the other side of the room and put on the coat and belt and picks up the sword and bow and runs back to the start line and takes off the coat and belt and hands everything to the next child in line. That child puts everything on and runs across the room and back and gives everything to the next child in line. Keep playing until the last child in one team is fully dressed. This relay is not only fun, but hopefully, will help the children remember the story.
* Kings of Israel Review Game – Add the new card, then review all
  + David – Was best friends with Jonathan

Review Questions

1. After David killed Goliath, what position did Saul give him?
   1. In charge of the army of Israel and leading battles
2. What made Saul angry and jealous of David?
   1. The women sang songs that portrayed David as better than Saul.
3. Who became David’s best friend?
   1. Jonathan, Saul’s son
4. What did David do for Saul when he was angry?
   1. Played soothing music on his harp
5. What did Saul do to David one day when Saul was angry?
   1. Threw his spear at him
6. When Saul was jealous, what did he try to do to David?
   1. Kill him with a spear and by putting him in dangerous battles
7. What did Saul offer David if he killed 100 Philistines?
   1. His daughter, Michal
8. Why did Saul make that deal?
   1. He hoped David would be killed in the battle.
9. How did Jonathan try to calm king Saul?
   1. He told him that he did not have to fear David.
10. What did Jonathan do for David?
    1. He let him know if it was safe to come back home or if he should stay away.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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