

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 25**  
**David and Jonathan (I Samuel 20)**

**I. Underlying ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The Lord in His providence prepared David to be the next king of Israel.
- B. The Lord was able to protect David because he trusted in the Lord and obeyed His commandments.
- C. David's flight from Saul and his life as an outlaw describes the temptations the Lord sustained on earth.
- D. This period of David's life represents the resistance of the natural mind (Saul) to the spiritual mind (David) as to man's regeneration.
- E. David and Jonathan had a genuine friendship in which they loved the good in each other and wished each other well.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduce the Story

1. Because Saul, the first king of Israel, had disobeyed the Lord, Samuel anointed David, a shepherd boy, as the next king. But David did not become king right away.
2. Later David fought Goliath, the giant Philistine. Do you remember who won the fight? (David—with the Lord's help.) What did David use to kill Goliath? (a sling and a stone)
3. Then Saul had David come to stay with him. David went wherever Saul sent him, and he behaved wisely. Saul put him in charge of the men of war, and David did well, so people praised him. King Saul heard some women say, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." So Saul became jealous of David. And Saul knew the Lord was with David and no longer with him. Saul tried to kill David; he did not want him to become king.
4. Saul had a son named Jonathan who was brave and good. When Jonathan saw David kill Goliath, he was impressed with David's bravery. He could see that the Lord was with David. So Jonathan loved David as a brother; they became close friends. When Jonathan realized that his father, Saul, wanted to kill David, he was quite upset, and he made Saul promise not to do it. Saul agreed, but then he tried to kill David anyway. So David went into hiding.
5. In today's story about David and Jonathan, David was still hiding from Saul, and he wanted to know if it was safe to return. His friend, Jonathan, helped him to find out.

- B. Tell/Read the Story: Read the attached retelling of I Samuel 20.

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### C. Ideas to Discuss

#### 1. Literal Sense

- a. Why did Saul become David's enemy? (He was jealous of David. The people praised David more than Saul.)
- b. What did Saul try to do to David? (kill him)
- c. What did David do to avoid being killed? (He went into hiding.)
- d. Who was David's friend? (Jonathan, Saul's son)
- e. Why did Jonathan love David? (Jonathan saw that David was brave and good and that the Lord was with him.)
- f. What did Saul do when David didn't join him for the feast of the New Moon? (He asked Jonathan where David was.)
- g. What did Jonathan answer? (That David asked permission to visit his family In Bethlehem)
- h. Was Saul happy with the answer? (No, he was angry.)
- i. What did Saul say to Jonathan? (With David alive, you can't be king. Bring me David so that I may kill him.)
- j. Did Jonathan agree to bring David? (No. He asked his father, Saul, why David should be killed when he had done nothing wrong.)
- k. How did Saul answer Jonathan? (He tried to kill him by throwing a spear at him.)
- l. The next morning Jonathan went to warn David that Saul still wanted to kill him. How did he warn him? (He shot an arrow with his bow and told the young boy with him that the arrow was beyond him.)

#### 2. Further Ideas

- a. Jonathan was a very good friend to David. He knew that David would be the next king instead of him, but he didn't mind because he trusted In the Lord and accepted this as the Lord's will.
- b. The Lord tells us that we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Jonathan seemed to love David in this way. He did whatever he could to help David, protecting him from Saul's jealousy.
- c. We try to hurt our friends when we feel jealous of them; we shouldn't be like Saul. Instead, when good things happen to our friends, we should be like Jonathan and be happy for them. And we should try to help our friends whenever we can, as Jonathan helped David. This is the way the Lord wants our friendships to be.

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "Jonathan and David" LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD III, Side 2, 12th song. (Children can just listen to this during project time.)
2. "Lord, Thou art my portion," HYMNAL #168.
3. "Thou art our gentle Shepherd, Lord," HYMNAL #155.
4. "Father in heaven," HYMNAL #152.

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B. Activities

C. Project: JEALOUSY AND FRIENDSHIP

Draw a line down the center of a 12 X 18 sheet of construction paper or white drawing paper. On one side have children draw Saul who was jealous of David. (They might show him wearing his crown and a mean look. Or they may want to show him throwing a spear at David.) Entitle this half of the page "Jealousy."

On the other half, ask the children to draw Jonathan who was a good friend to David. (They may want to show David and Jonathan saying goodbye to each other, or Jonathan warning David with his bow and arrow.) Entitle this half "Friendship."

### IV. Teaching Aids

Illustration(s) of:

- A. David tending the flocks
- B. Samuel anointing David
- C. David and Goliath
- D. David playing the harp (lyre)
- E. David and Jonathan

(You can find these in DAVID by Maud and Misha Petersham, and in the Teaching Pictures Flip Chart on David.)

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. SAUL, DAVID, AND SOLOMON by Hugo Lj. Odhner, Chapters 3 and 4.

(Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES do not cover the story of David and Jonathan.)

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**RETELLING OF I SAMUEL 20**

(David and Jonathan)

- 1 Then David went and said to Jonathan, “What have I done wrong that your father wants to kill me?”
- 2 Jonathan said, “You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me?”
- 3 But David said, “Your father certainly knows that we are friends, and he does not want to upset you. But truly as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.”
- 4 So Jonathan said to David, “I will do whatever you want.”
- 5—10 David said, “Tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should sit with the king to eat. But let me hide in the field until the third day at evening. If your father misses me, tell him that I asked permission to go to Bethlehem to be with my family. If he answers, ‘It is well,’ then I will be safe. But if he is very angry, then he means to harm me. But how will I know how your father answers you?”
- 11—23 Jonathan took David out into the field and said, “When you have stayed away three days, come and hide here. I will come and shoot three arrows nearby as though I shot at a target. And I will send a lad, saying, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come,’ then as the Lord lives, there is safety for you and no harm. But if I say to the young man, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ go your way, for the Lord has sent you away. The Lord be between you and me forever.”
- 24—27 So David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast. And David’s place was empty. But Saul said nothing about it. On the second day, David’s place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan, “Why has the son of Jesse [David] not come to eat yesterday or today?”
- 28 Jonathan answered Saul, “David asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem to be with his family. Therefore he has not come to the king’s table.”
- 30—31 Then Saul’s anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, “You have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame. As long as David lives you will not be king. Bring him to me, for he shall surely die.”
- 32—34 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, “Why should he be killed? What has he done?” Then Saul cast a spear at Jonathan to kill him. Then Jonathan knew his father was determined to kill David. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food that day. He was grieved for David because his father had treated him shamefully.
- 35—40 And in the morning Jonathan went out into the field at the time set with David, and a little lad was with him. Then he said, “Now run, find the arrows which I shoot.” As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. Jonathan cried out, “Is not the arrow beyond you? Make haste, hurry, do not delay!” The lad gathered the arrows, and Jonathan sent him home.
- 41—42 Now as soon as the lad had gone, David rose from his hiding place. He fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together. Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘May the Lord be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.’” So David departed, and Jonathan went into the city.