

DAVID – Lesson #5

A Friend and an Enemy

- SCRIPTURE:** 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 29-30; 19:1-12, 18; 20
- MEMORY VERSE:** John 13:34 - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”
- VISUALS:** Flashcards: 5-1 – 5-6
- MAIN TRUTH:** God wants you to love others unselfishly.
- BASIC OUTLINE:**
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I. INTRODUCTION

A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS

Did you ever stand up for someone when others were making fun of them? When you did that, you were being a true friend to that person.

B. TRANSITION

A man in today's Bible lesson was a true friend to someone very close to him. Listen and find out what happened.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

"Goliath is dead!" The soldiers shouted the news to their friends. "David has killed the Philistine!" The people spread the news to everyone they met. "Let's rejoice! Let's celebrate!" Women picked up their instruments and began to sing and dance through the streets. "Our enemy is dead!"

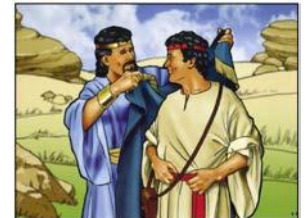
IH Have children cheer, "*Hooray! Let's celebrate!*"

In the middle of all this excitement, David, King Saul, and his son, Jonathan, stood talking together. King Saul told David that from now on, he must come live in the palace with him and be a captain in his army.

Jonathan must have seen right away that David loved God just like he did. It didn't take Jonathan long to decide that he and David were going to be best friends. That day, David and Jonathan made a promise to each other that they would always be friends.

Flash Card 5-1

Jonathan gave David his coat, his sword, his bow, and his belt. He cared more about seeing good things happen to David than he did about keeping good things for himself. Jonathan was unselfish.



MT



If you are a believer in Jesus, God wants you to love others unselfishly. You should want good things for other people as much as you want good things for yourself. Even though their team lost, the children in this picture are congratulating their friend because she was on the winning team. That's what it means to be unselfish.

Jonathan was being unselfish toward David.

As Saul, Jonathan, and David began walking home from the battle with the Philistines, the women who were singing and dancing came running to meet them. "Saul has killed thousands of our enemies!" they sang joyfully, "and David has killed tens of thousands!"

IH Have children walk in place, clap hands, smile, and say, "*Saul has killed thousands, and David has killed tens of thousands!*"

When Saul heard that song he became jealous and filled with anger. *They're giving David credit for killing tens of thousands of enemies, but they say that I have only killed*

thousands! he thought. Saul knew that God had promised to take the kingdom away from him and to give it to a man who was better than he was. Suddenly, he was afraid; maybe David was that man! From then on, he would keep a close eye on David.

The next day, Saul was filled with the same evil spirit that had troubled him before. Just as he had done many other times, David played his harp for Saul to try to help him calm down. But this time it wasn't working.

Flash Card 5-2

Saul became so upset that he took the short spear in his hand and threw it at David, trying to kill him with it! David ducked out of the way just in time and ran out of the room.



Saul tried to hurt someone who had never done anything to hurt him. He was so angry he tried to hurt David.

S, PAU Jer. 17:9

Have you ever tried to hurt someone? It would be wrong to do that. God calls it sin. The Bible tells us that you and I have sinned; we choose to think, say, and do things that do not please God. It says in the Bible, ***“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”*** (Ex. *Maybe you laughed at someone who gave a wrong answer in class just because everyone else was doing it.*) God knows how we sin and sin is serious because it separates us from Him and keeps us from being able to go to Heaven to live with God when our life on earth is over. Sin makes us into the kind of people we don't want to be.

Saul sinned. He had become such an angry man that he tried to kill David.

Saul put David in charge of a hundred soldiers and sent him out to fight the Philistines. David was a good soldier and made wise decisions, and God was with him. Everyone in Israel loved him. But all this just made Saul more jealous, angry and afraid of him.

Finally, Saul gave up trying to hide how much he hated David. He gathered all his servants and Jonathan, his son, and told them to find a way to kill David! Saul had made himself David's enemy by his jealousy and anger.

When he heard his father's plan, Jonathan went right to David. “My father is trying to find a way to kill you,” Jonathan said. “Please, find a place to hide for the night. I will go talk to my father about you and tell you what happens.”

Jonathan wanted to do this for his friend David because he loved him.

G

God loves you and me even more than that. God loves us more than anyone ever will, and He always does what is best for us.

Jonathan loved his friend David, he wanted to let him know what his father's plans were.

Flash Card 5-3

The next morning, Jonathan went to his father as he was walking in a field. “Please do not sin against your servant, David, because he has not sinned against you. Everything he has done for you has been very good. He risked his life and killed the Philistine, and God saved all of Israel through him. You saw it, and you rejoiced. So then why will you sin against an innocent person and kill David for no reason?”



Saul listened to what Jonathan said. He promised, “David will not be killed.”

So Jonathan called David out of hiding and told him Saul’s promise. He brought David to serve Saul in the palace again.

Things went well for a little while. Whenever the Philistines attacked, David went out to fight them. He won many battles, and his enemies ran away from him.

Then one day, as Saul was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, God sent an evil spirit on him again. And once again, David played his harp to try to calm him. Suddenly filled with anger, Saul jumped up and threw his spear at David! For the second time, David got out of the way and ran off into the night to his own house.

Quickly, Saul sent men to surround David’s house to kill him in the morning!

But David’s wife, Michal, let David down through a window without anyone seeing him. He ran all the way to the town of Ramah, where Samuel lived. God protected David and kept Saul and his men from getting to him.

Flash Card 5-4

As soon as he could, David went back to find Jonathan. “What have I done?” he asked his friend. “What is my sin against your father that makes him try to kill me?”



Jonathan must not have known about what had been happening. “You will not die,” he answered David. “My father won’t do anything, whether little or important, without telling me about it.”

But David said, “I’m telling you the truth. Your father must think, ‘I won’t tell Jonathan about it because he’ll be sad.’ But as truly as the Lord is alive and you are alive, there is only a step between me and death.”

IH

Have children repeat, “*There is only a step between me and death.*”

Jonathan must have realized that David was right. “Whatever you want me to do for you, I’ll do,” he said.

Jonathan was willing to do whatever his friend David asked him to do.

I know Someone who was willing to do whatever God asked Him to do.

O Jesus, God's one and only Son, did exactly what His Father wanted Him to do. He never sinned. He obeyed God every time.

Jonathan was willing to do whatever David asked him to do because he knew that David was right about his father, King Saul.

David said, "Tomorrow, I'm supposed to be at a special feast with your father at the palace. Tell him that I asked you for permission to go visit my family. If he says, 'That's fine,' you'll know I'm safe, but, if he is very angry, then you can be sure that he is planning evil against me."

Jonathan looked around to make sure no one could overhear them. Then he promised, "When I have found out from my father what he plans to do, if I don't tell you, then may God send the evil on me instead. If my father wants to kill you, then I will tell you and send you away, so you can go in peace. I pray that God will be with you, just as he was once with my father."

Jonathan knew that God had chosen David to be the next king, and that meant that he would never get to become king himself. But he still wanted to help him. It is wonderful how unselfish Jonathan was.

MT, PAS

If you are a believer in Jesus, then God wants you to love others unselfishly too. You should want what's good for other people as much as you want what's good for yourself. In our memory verse, Jesus says in John 13:34, "***A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.***" How can you love other people unselfishly? (*Ex. If your teacher picks your friend to do something that you wanted to do, instead of being angry, you could congratulate them and be happy for them.*) This is a good way to love other people unselfishly, and I'm sure you can think of even more ways to show love to others.



Jonathan loved David unselfishly, even though he knew that David would be king instead of him.

Jonathan said, "You must promise me, David, that while I am alive you will always show me the kindness of the Lord. You must also not take away your kindness from my family forever, even when God has destroyed all the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

So Jonathan and David made a special promise to each other that day.

IH

Everyone shake hands with a neighbor as if making a promise.

David promised that, when God made him king, he would not do what new kings usually did and kill all the people in the old king's family. For as long as he lived, he would always show kindness to Jonathan's family.

P, E Rev. 1:5

Boys and girls, God showed His perfect kindness to you and me when He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born as a baby on this earth. Jesus lived here until He was a grown man. Then Jesus let men nail Him to a cross, where He gave His precious blood when He died on the cross to pay for the wrong things you and I have done. Jesus was punished for us. He died on the cross so we could be forgiven. The Bible says, ". . . ***Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.***" Jesus didn't stay dead, three days later, He came alive again. He is alive today, never to die again. This is how God showed His love and kindness to you and me.

David promised that he would show kindness to Jonathan's family for as long as he lived.

It was a promise that David never forgot.

Then Jonathan and David decided on their plan. “Three days from now,” Jonathan said, “you must go hide in the field by the big stone. I will come out and shoot three arrows from my bow, pretending that I’m shooting for target practice. I’ll send my servant boy to bring my arrows back to me. If you hear me say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are right there to the side, pick them up,’ then that means you can come out of hiding because my father will not try to hurt you. But if I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then get away quickly because God has sent you away.”

So David hurried away to hide in the field, and Jonathan went back to the palace to get ready for the feast.

Flash Card 5-5

The next day, King Saul sat down at his usual place at the table for the special meal. David’s place at the table was empty, but Saul said nothing about David that night. *Something must have kept David from coming*, he thought to himself. *He’ll be here tomorrow.*



But when the next night came, David’s place at the table was empty again. Saul said to Jonathan, “Why didn’t the son of Jesse come to eat with us yesterday or today?”

“David asked me for permission to visit his family,” Jonathan answered.

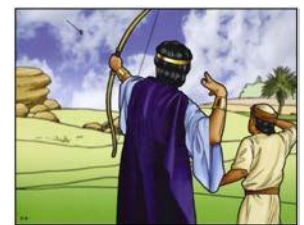
Saul was furious! “You are a terrible son!” he shouted, “Do you think I don’t know that you’ve chosen the son of Jesse instead of your own good? For as long as the son of Jesse lives, you will never be made king! Bring him to me right now, for he will surely die.”

Jonathan said, “But why must he be killed? What has he done?”

Instead of answering, Saul suddenly threw his spear and tried to kill Jonathan, his own son! Jonathan stood up from the table and left without eating anything. He was very angry with his father and filled with sadness for David.

Flash Card 5-6

The next morning, Jonathan went out to the field, taking his servant boy with him. “Run and find the arrows I shoot,” he said to the boy. Then he sent an arrow whizzing through the air. When the little boy came to the place where the arrow had landed, Jonathan shouted, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?”



IH

Have children pretend to shoot an arrow from a bow. Then call out, “*Isn’t the arrow beyond you?*”

Hiding behind the rock, David heard those words and knew what they meant. He would have to run for his life from Saul.

No one else was around when Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the servant boy and sent him back into the city, David came out of his hiding place.

He bowed to the ground three times in front of Jonathan, showing how much he respected him.

The Bible says that David and Jonathan cried and hugged each other as they said goodbye. David cried even more than Jonathan did.

III. CLIMAX

Jonathan was indeed a true friend to David!

IV. CONCLUSION

A. CLOSING STATEMENTS

“Go in peace,” Jonathan said, “for we have both promised in the name of the Lord, and God’s promise will be between you and me and between our families forever.”

Both David and Jonathan knew that David had to stay away until Saul stopped trying to kill him. Neither of them knew just how long that would be. Jonathan had proven that he was the kind of friend who loved David unselfishly.

Saul would continue to search for David, wanting to kill him, but David would not be alone. Many men would join him, hoping he would one day be the new king. But even when he had the chance to kill his enemy, David would not do the wrong thing. He trusted that God would make him king at the right time.

B. CHALLENGE

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Remember, if you are a believer in Jesus, then God wants you to love others selflessly. Remember that Jesus says in John 13:34, “*A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*” We talked about how you can love other people unselfishly by congratulating your friend on getting picked to do something you wanted to do. Do you want what’s good for other people as much as you want what’s good for yourself? I hope you do. You can pray right now and ask God to help you love other people that way. (*Allow time for them to pray quietly.*)

C. INVITATION

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John 5:24

But maybe you have never believed on Jesus as your Saviour. Before you can have God’s help to love other people, you need to accept the love that God has already shown to you in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible says, “*...He that heareth My (Jesus’) word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.* (in Heaven)” You need to admit to God that you have sinned and that your sin deserves to be punished. You need to believe that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin and that He came alive again. You need to believe Jesus proved His love as the only One who can save you. Are you ready to believe in and receive Jesus as your personal Saviour? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you are ready to receive Jesus today, please look up at me. Thank you. You may open your eyes now. (*Tell them when to come and where to go for counseling.*) (Teacher close in prayer.)