

# DAVID AND JONATHAN

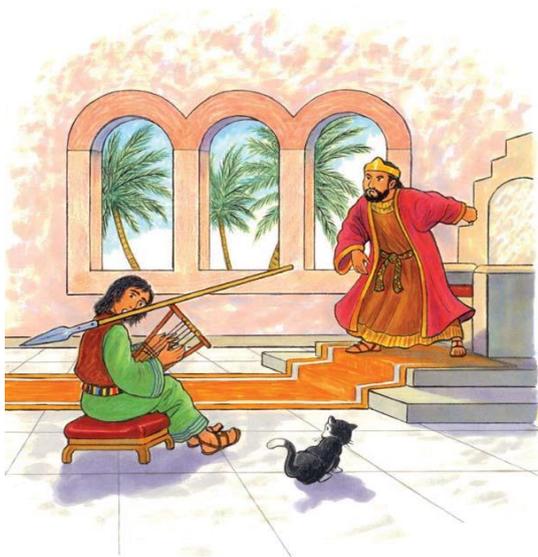
1 Samuel 18:1–8, 19:1–10; 20:1–41



# Contents

Message	God blesses and protects His own in difficult circumstances.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ God was with David and protected him.</li><li>■ God provided Jonathan as a friend and help for David.</li></ul>
Bible Text	1 Samuel 18:1-8, 19:1-10; 20:1-41

## David and Jonathan



After his fight with Goliath, David lived with King Saul, who was Jonathan's father. Jonathan and David became good friends. There was peace in the land for a while. Jonathan should have been the next king because he was the king's son. However, God chose David to inherit the throne. Jonathan was not at all jealous or envious. David was his friend and he loved him.

The peace in Israel did not last very long, and soon there was war once again. Their old enemies, the Philistines, had invaded the country. With God's help, David was victorious once more. Joyfully the army returned home. The women sang, "Saul has slain thousands, but David tens of thousands!" On hearing this, Saul became very angry and jealous of David.

He said, "They praise David more than me. Soon the people will choose David to be their king!"

One day Saul was uneasy. David played melodies with his harp to calm the king. Suddenly Saul grabbed his spear and threw it at David. Fortunately, the spear missed David. This happened on two occasions, but David managed to jump out of the way each time. Jonathan warned his friend, "Hide until morning. I will speak to my father and tell you what he plans to do to you." Jonathan talked to his father, "David has always fought well for you. He killed the giant, Goliath. He has never once done anything against you. Why do you want to kill someone who has not done anything wrong?"

Saul promised he would not kill David. Unfortunately, it was not long before Saul forgot his promise and again threw a spear at David. Again, David managed to jump out of the way. That night David fled.

When they met again Jonathan said, "You will not die. My father would tell me before he would kill you. If I shout to the servant, 'Look the arrows are on this side', you will know that no harm will come to you. If I shout to the servant, 'Look the arrows are beyond you', you will know that it is not safe for you to return to the king's house and you will have to go away."

David hid in a field. Meanwhile, in the palace, there was a big feast. Saul asked why David was not there. Jonathan made excuses for his friend's absence. Saul became so angry that his son was sticking up for David that he threw a spear at his own son. Jonathan knew that David was right and he would have to go away. Jonathan shot three arrows and shouted to his servant, "The arrows are in front of you!" He then gave his bow and arrows to his servant and sent him back to the palace. He wanted to see David one more time. They cried together because they knew that David had to leave.

### Suggestions for the Teacher

#### Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like instrument, spear, crown....

#### Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- How does Saul feel when everyone praises David? (He becomes envious.)
- What does God do to protect David from Saul? (Jonathan stands up for David.)
- David and Jonathan were true friends.
- How do we know this? (They make a vow.)
- How does Jonathan show his friendship?  
(He warns David several times. / He helps David to escape.)

Have the children repeat...

- God was with David and protected him.
- God provided Jonathan as a friend and help for David.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Have you ever been in a situation where someone kept you from being hurt?  
(E.g. you were not careful before you crossed the street.  
A friend held you back while a car you did not see drove by.)
- God used a person or presented the solution to protect us.
- Jesus is always called our true friend.
- Tell us why. (Jesus promised to be with us. / He promised and sent us the Holy Spirit. / He will come to fetch us.)

**Repeat the Message**

**God blesses and protects His own in difficult  
circumstances.**