

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

The story of David's life is filled with drama, action and suspense. One or two of the lessons may be familiar to some children, but others will be less well-known. As we follow David's life, we will see his weaknesses as well as his strengths; we will watch him in defeat as well as in victory. We will be reminded that David was human just like us. Through it all we will learn of David's faith in God. Our prayer is that these lessons may bring glory to God and that He might be pleased to use them to bring many children to know the Lord as their Shepherd, and to be, like David, children after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14).

Teach and apply the central truth in each lesson

Do not be content merely to teach Bible stories to children. Teach thoroughly the truth contained in each lesson and apply that truth carefully to the child's life. We have provided brief outlines with each lesson, showing you where to teach and apply the truth. "CT" means teach the central truth; "CTS" shows where that truth is applied to the saved child and "CTU" shows where it is applied to the unsaved.

Please feel free to adapt these applications to your own situation. For example, the application may use a boy's game, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while all of yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary.

Teach the unsaved children the message of salvation

Many children know little or nothing of what the Scriptures teach concerning salvation. Your teaching with a regular group (such as a Good News Club®) should be in depth. You cannot teach a number of truths thoroughly in each lesson.

As you teach these lessons week by week, you will be carefully teaching from these areas of truth, so that the children know how to be saved; it is impossible to effectively teach all of these in one lesson:

God

Teach the children about God, His attributes and His works: that He is a God of holiness, justice, righteousness, power and love, and is personally interested in each one of them.

The Lord Jesus Christ

Teach the children concerning the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ; His deity, His humanity, His eternal pre-existence, His virgin birth, His perfect life, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His intercession and His second coming.

Sin

Teach the children that they are, by nature and by practice, sinners and rebels against a Holy God; and that the punishment for sin is complete and eternal separation from God.

The way of salvation

Teach the children that they can only be saved through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, that they must and should repent of their sin and receive Christ by faith, and that their new birth will result in a life of obedience to the Word of God.

Teach saved children for growth

Christian children need to be taught how to live for Jesus Christ. They need to be led into a deeper understanding of the great truths of God's Word. Instruct them carefully in these truths and show them the practical outworking in their everyday lives. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Make yourself available for counselling

As a result of your teaching, some children may have questions about how to be saved or about the Christian life. Let them know you are willing to help them. This is best done in the early part of the programme, separate from the Bible lesson.

If it is done in the lesson, it is essential to keep this instruction, and God's invitation to come to Christ for salvation, separate. By doing this, you avoid any confusion in the child's mind between coming to you for counsel and coming to Christ for salvation. Never give the child the impression that he must talk to someone to be saved or that if he has talked with you, he is saved. Never put the child under pressure or use mere emotion. Simply tell him that, whatever his question, he can share it with you, whether he is saved or unsaved. Then make sure that you are not too busy at the end, or in too great a hurry.

For example, when you say to the children that David was one of the Lord's sheep, you can ask them if they know the Lord and belong to Him. At the same time you can say something like this:

"Maybe you don't know the Lord as your Shepherd. God may be speaking to your heart and you want to be saved, but you have questions. Listen carefully to the lesson today. If at the end of the lesson you still are not sure how to be saved from your sin, I am here to help you. Please come and sit on one of these chairs at the front, when others are going home. If I see you sitting there, I will come to explain to you personally how to be saved."

You will find at the back of this manual a summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ.

Practise placing the flannelgraph figures

Practise using the visuals and changing the scenes before you go to teach. Become thoroughly familiar with all the figures and know when you need to use them in the lesson. Scenic backgrounds can be purchased to use with these lessons. We give suggestions before each scene, but they are by no means essential. All your teaching can be done on one plain flannel.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Israel chooses a king 1 Samuel 8 - 10	God's ways are better than man's ways	Unsaved: Turn from your own sinful way to God's way Saved: You must always live the way God wants you to live	Read the whole of Psalm 23 from the Bible, but do not begin teaching verse one until next week
Saul's disobedience 1 Samuel 12 - 15	God will punish sin	Unsaved: If you continue in your sin, it will lead to eternal punishment Saved: Thank the Lord Jesus for taking your punishment	"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" Psalm 23:1
God chooses a king 1 Samuel 16	God sees and knows your heart	Unsaved: God sees your heart is sinful - you need God to change your life and give you a new heart Saved: God sees your heart is right, because Jesus has saved you, but if you sin, you must confess it to Him	Review Psalm 23:1
David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17:1-54	Be like David - trust in the living God	Unsaved: The only way to be saved from your sin is to trust in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ Saved: Depend on God to give you the courage to do what is right	"He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters" Psalm 23:2
A friend and an enemy 1 Samuel 18:1-16 1 Samuel 19:1-10 1 Samuel 20	God commands His children to love one another	Saved: You must love every Christian	Review Psalm 23:1-2
David spares his enemy 1 Samuel 21:1 - 22:2 1 Samuel 22:17-19 1 Samuel 23:1 - 24:22 1 Samuel 26:1-25	God commands His children to show mercy to others	Unsaved: You can't obey this command until you know God's mercy to you Saved: You must forgive those who hate you or hurt you	"He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" Psalm 23:3

Lesson 1

Israel chooses a king

Scripture for teachers

1 Samuel 8 - 10

Central truth

God's ways are better than man's ways

Application

Unsaved: Turn from your own sinful way to God's way

Saved: You must always live the way God wants you to live

Memory verse

We suggest that with the life of David, you teach Psalm 23 to the children.

With this first lesson read the whole of Psalm 23 from the Bible, but do not begin teaching verse one until next week.

Explain that these verses were written by David who was a shepherd. He calls the Lord his Shepherd; he says he is one of the Lord's sheep. All those who belong to the Lord can say with David, "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1).

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: D-1, D-2 D-3, D-4, D-5, D-6, D-6a, D-7, D-8, D-9 and D-12

- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene

And

- ◆ It is helpful to have your central truth in wordstrip form. Print "God's ways are better than man's ways" on coloured card. (Use lower case letters so that even the younger ones can read it easily.) Glue flocked paper scraps (left over when you cut out your flannelgraph figures) to the back of the card. Place this wordstrip at the top of your flannelboard when you first teach the truth in the lesson (see "CT" in the margin).

Keep it on the board and refer to it each time you teach it throughout the lesson.

- ◆ Other wordstrips: "You must always live the way God wants you to live" (application for the saved child), and numbers "1", "2" and "3"

- ◆ Map

Lesson outline

Introduction

Have you ever wanted your own way?

Progression of events

- 1 The people ask for a king **CT**
- 2 Samuel prays
- 3 The cost of having a king
- 4 The people still want a king **CTU**
- 5 God tells Samuel, "Tomorrow ..."
- 6 Saul looks for donkeys
- 7 Saul meets Samuel **CTS**
- 8 Saul anointed

Climax

Saul chosen - but where is he?

Conclusion

Saul proclaimed king **CTS, CTU**

Use voice inflection to capture children's attention as you introduce the lesson. Maintain eye contact as much as possible.

Lesson

Have you ever wanted your own way? I have. Danny did too. He was in his father's workshop. He loved to watch his father make things from wood.

While his father was busy, Danny lifted a little saw and a length of wood. He thought he could do what his father did.

"Danny, stop! You're holding that saw the wrong way - let me show you how," shouted his father.

"It's all right, Daddy. I know what to do," he said.

He quickly tried to saw through the wood. But, oh no! The saw slipped and cut Danny's finger. Danny had wanted to cut the wood his own way. He should have listened to his father and done it the right way.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Long ago the people of Israel wanted to choose their own way, too. For about 450 years they had been living in the land God had given them. God had chosen men who could lead them and show them how God wanted them to live.

Place Samuel (D-1).

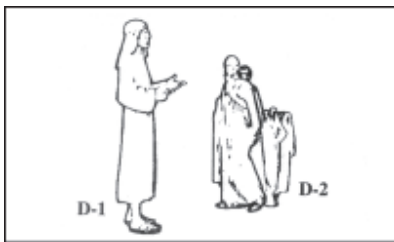
Samuel had been their leader for a long time, but now he was old. The people thought that they did not need a priest to lead them any more. They thought it would be good to have a king, just as other nations did, to rule over them. Their leaders came to their priest.

Place leaders (D-2).

"Samuel," they said, "you are getting old; your sons will not make good leaders over us. Give us a king to rule over us."

A king! Did these people not know that God was their king? They were different from all other nations. The Israelites had never had a man as their king. God ruled over them and gave them their laws. A man might be wicked and cruel. A man might lead them to do sinful things, but God would not. God's ways are better than man's ways. His ways are always good and right, for God is perfect and can never make a mistake. He is holy and wise, so everything He does is perfect. Twice the Bible says, "As for God, His way is perfect" (2 Samuel 22:31 and Psalm 18:30). No king could ever lead them like God did. The people were wrong to ask for a king. They were wrong in wanting to be like other nations.

Samuel was extremely annoyed at the people's sin. For years he had faithfully served God. He had led these people and taught them to obey God, for God's way is always best. He must have felt that they were rejecting him as their leader. But Samuel said nothing to anyone, he only turned in prayer to God.



Flashcard 1-1

"A king!" Cover mouth in shock.

CT

Show card with central truth: "God's ways are better than man's ways".

Preschoolers will learn as they kneel and pray with Samuel.

Scene 2

Remove Samuel standing (D-1) and add Samuel praying (D-3).

Now God was angry with the people. They had sinned in asking for a king (1 Samuel 12:19 and Hosea 13:11). They wanted to live their own way and not God's way. They wanted to be led by a king, more than to be led by God. So Samuel must have been surprised at God's answer to his prayer.

"Listen to what the people say to you," God told Samuel. "It is not you they have turned against - it is Me. They don't want Me to rule over them. Ever since I brought them out of the land of Egypt, they have been forsaking Me and serving other gods. Now they have turned against Me again. Listen to their request, but warn them clearly what it will be like to be ruled by a king."

Scene 3

Replace Samuel praying (D-3) with Samuel standing (D-1).

"Do you really know what you are asking for, when you say that you want a king?" said Samuel, as he stood before the leaders of the people. "Do you know what it will be like to be ruled by a king? He will take your sons to fight in the army. He will take your daughters to make his perfumes and cook food. He will take your best fields and vineyards to give to his own servants. He will charge you heavy taxes. You will even become his slaves. In the end you will cry out wishing you had no king, but the Lord will not listen to you."

Surely the people would change their minds? They wouldn't really want a king now, would they?

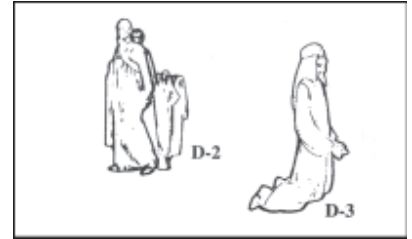
"We want a king," they answered. "We want to be like the other nations around us. Our king will be our leader and fight our battles. We want a king."

What foolish leaders! They knew what God wanted. They knew it was better to obey God, but they chose to live their own way. They wouldn't listen to the warnings. Why did they act like that?

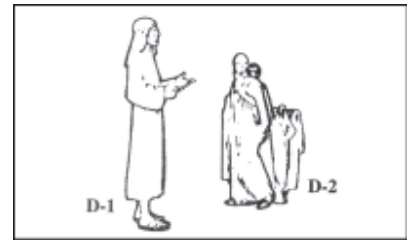
Allow the children to answer.

It was because they were sinners. They were like you and me. We are all born sinners, and sinners want to live their own way. God says that we should love Him with all our hearts. He should be more important to us than anyone or anything else in our lives. But what about you? Is a game of football or watching television more important to you than God? It is so easy to love even good things more than we love God. God says we must love others as much as ourselves; but our sinful hearts make us love ourselves more. Do you ever want to be first or to get more for yourself, when there is something nice to eat? Or have you ever hated someone and even

Flashcard 1-2



Have an older child or helper read God's reply from 1 Samuel 8:7-9.



Flashcard 1-1 (again)

Speak Samuel's words with emotion.

Children will learn by acting out this part - covering their ears or folding their arms and shaking their heads to show their minds are made up.

CTU

The first man God created chose to disobey God. Since then, each of us has been born with a "want to" to sin and we choose to sin. Christ died so our sins could be forgiven (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

fought with him? Our way of living is so different from the way God wants us to live. We are just as sinful and stubborn as the people of Israel who wanted a king.

Replace Samuel standing (D-1) with Samuel praying (D-3).

When Samuel prayed again, God told him that the people could have a king. It must have been with a sorrowful heart that Samuel sent the people home.

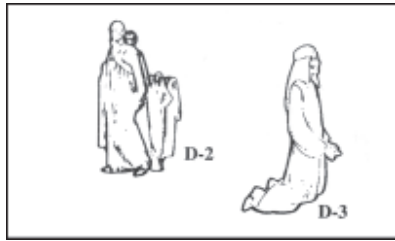
Remove leaders (D-2).

Soon God spoke to Samuel again. "About this time tomorrow I will send a man from the land of Benjamin to you." (Benjamin was the name of one of the twelve tribes that made up the nation of Israel.) "You are to make him king over my people."

"Tomorrow ... a man ... make him king?" Samuel must have had many questions in his mind, but all he could do was wait.

Remove Samuel (D-3).

But God was already at work. Two days earlier, as part of God's plan, some donkeys had wandered away and got lost. God knew where the donkeys were, but even more important, He knew who would try to find them.



Flashcard 1-3

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

The donkeys belonged to an important farmer called Kish. The donkeys could not be found anywhere in the neighbourhood. So Kish sent his son Saul and a servant to look for the donkeys.

Place Saul (D-4) and servant (D-5).

They searched the valleys, they climbed the hills. They gazed out across the plains. But none of Kish's donkeys could be found. After three days of searching, Saul was ready to give up.

"Let's go back home," he said to the servant. "By now my father will be more worried about us than about the donkeys."

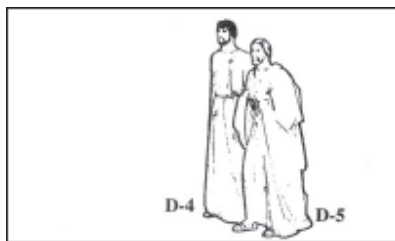
"Wait a moment," replied the servant. "I've been thinking. We are near the town of Ramah, aren't we? A man who speaks for God lives there. I've heard that he's a great man and everything he says comes true. Let's go and find him. Perhaps he can tell us where the donkeys are."

Saul agreed and so they set out for Ramah. As they climbed the hill to the town, they met some girls going to the well for water.

Scene 5

Add girls (D-6) and waterpots (D-6a).

"Is the man of God here?" asked the two men.



Show children a map, pointing out where Ramah is located.

Role play the meeting of the young women, Saul and his servant.

“Yes, he came today. As soon as you enter the town you will find him,” explained the girls. “The people are waiting for him to bless the sacrifice, before they sit down to eat. So hurry!”

Remove girls (D-6) and waterpots (D-6a).

Scene 6

Saul and the servant hurried into the town. The first man they saw was Samuel, but they did not know that he was the man they wanted.

Place Samuel (D-1).

As Samuel watched Saul coming towards him, God spoke to him. “This is the man I told you about. This is the one who will be king.”

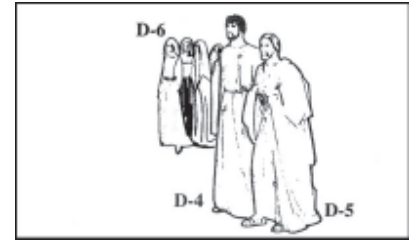
Just then Saul came up to Samuel. “Can you tell me where I can find the man of God?” he asked.

“I am the man you want,” said Samuel. “Go up to the high place where the people are waiting, for there you will eat with me. In the morning, I will tell you all you want to know. By the way, don’t worry about the donkeys you lost three days ago; they are found. Are you not the man for whom all Israel is looking?”

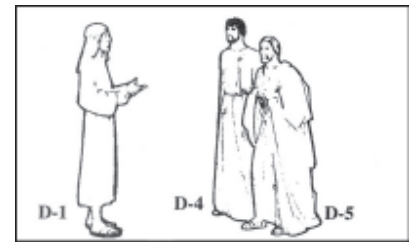
Saul was amazed! How could the man of God know about the donkeys? And what did he mean, “Are you not the man for whom all Israel is looking?” Saul had no idea that he was going to be king. He did not think that he was important. The people wanted a king and God was going to give them one.

Through having a king, the people of Israel were going to be taught a lesson. God would show them that His plan for them was better than their own selfish plans. It was wrong of them to disobey Him, and to want to do things their own way. Sometimes even boys and girls who are Christians, who are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, have to be taught that God’s ways are better than man’s ways. If you are saved, you should live the way God wants you to live. Richard was a Christian. He knew God wanted him to obey his parents, his teachers and the rules of his school. But Richard wanted to be in the gang. He didn’t tell others he was a Christian; he was afraid they might laugh at him. So he joined in when the gang made life difficult for the teacher.

Things got out of control and one weekend some boys broke a window in the school dining hall. Richard was there and he was one of those who were caught. He was in big trouble, and very ashamed of himself. He knew now he should never have stayed in the gang when he became a Christian. God was using this situation to teach him to live the way He wanted him to live. The Israelites had to learn this lesson too for themselves, and so God gave them a king as they asked.



Flashcard 1-4

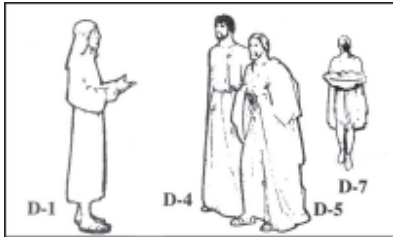


Give a perplexed look as you share Saul's confusion.

CTS

Show the card with application for the saved child: “You must always live the way God wants you to live”.

Pretend to serve feast food to set the scene.



Scene 7

But the man who was going to be their king was puzzled by all that was happening. He wondered why he was being treated as someone important. When Saul and his servant arrived at the meal, they found that about thirty people were already there, waiting to begin. How strange Saul felt as he and his servant were shown to the most important seats in the place. And not only that, the cook had been instructed to give a special portion of meat to Saul.

Place cook (D-7).

The man of God had kept the piece of meat aside especially for him since the feast was first planned. Saul was more puzzled than ever. After all, he was only a farmer's son, who had been sent to look for some donkeys. And now here he was, surrounded by people and talking to Samuel, the man who spoke for God. Saul even stayed at Samuel's house that night, before setting off for home the next morning.

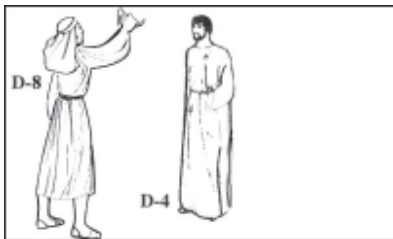
As Samuel, the man of God, walked with Saul and his servant towards the edge of the town, the servant was sent on ahead. Samuel wanted to talk to Saul alone.

"I have a message for you from God," he said.

Remove servant (D-5) and cook (D-7).

Flashcard 1-5

Use ram's horn shaped from playdough or cut from cardboard to demonstrate anointing.



Scene 8

Samuel took an animal horn, with olive oil in it, from inside his robe. He went up to Saul and, stretching out his arm, he poured the oil over his head.

Replace Samuel (D-1) with Samuel and horn of oil (D-8).

In those days, it was a sign that a person was chosen for a special purpose when oil was poured like this over their head. Saul was being "anointed" to become king.

"The Lord has chosen you to be king over His people," said Samuel. To prove that what he said was true, Samuel described what would happen later that day. "First, Saul, you will meet two men near a tomb," he said. "They will tell you that the donkeys are found and that your father is worried about you. Next you will meet three men. One will be carrying three young goats; another, three loaves of bread and the third will have a skin bottle of wine. They will give you two loaves of bread. Later you will meet a group of prophets playing instruments and praising God. God will lead you to join in with them and you will become a changed person."

This all seemed so strange to Saul. But Samuel continued, "When you see all these things happening, you will know that God is with you. In seven days I will come and show you what to do."

To be "anointed" is to be specially chosen to do a task for God.

Place numbers "1", "2" and "3" on flannelboard or hold up three fingers as you name the different signs.

Remove Samuel (D-8).

As he travelled home, Saul found that everything happened just as he was told it would. When he eventually arrived home, his family saw that Saul had changed. There was something different about him that they just could not explain. Saul told them nothing about how he had been anointed to become the new king.

Remove Saul (D-4).

Scene 9

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

But one day everyone had to know. The day came when Samuel, the man of God, called all the people of Israel together.

Place Samuel (D-1), leaders (D-2) and people (D-6 and D-9).

He stood up and said, "This is what the Lord God of Israel says to you: 'I have brought you out of Egypt and delivered you from your enemies. Yet today you reject your God. You say you want a king. Then line up in your tribes and your families?'"

Samuel looked down the lines of tribes.

"Who was going to be king?" the people wondered.

First of all, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. Each family of that tribe approached Samuel. Then Kish's family was chosen from the tribe. Finally, Saul's name was announced as the new king. But ... where was he? Saul was nowhere to be seen! Do you know where he was?

God knew, and He told the people, "Saul is hiding among the baggage."

Perhaps Saul was shy, or frightened about what lay ahead of him. The people ran to find him, and brought him out before all Israel.

Place Saul (D-4).

"Do you see the one whom the Lord has chosen?" cried the man of God. "There is no-one like him among all of you." Saul was much taller than any of the other men there. He was very handsome, and just the kind of man the people wanted as king.

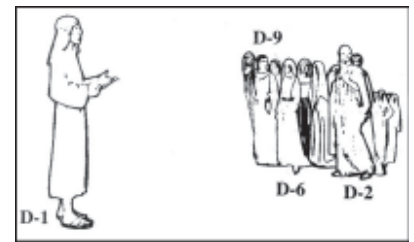
"Long live the king," they cheered. "Long live the king! God save the king!"

Replace Saul (D-4) with Saul (D-12).

They were so glad that now they were like other nations, with a king of their own.

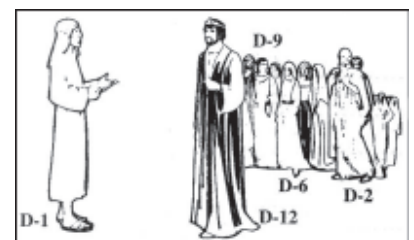
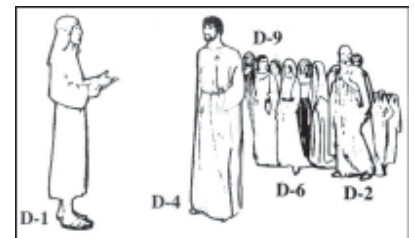
Almost everyone was happy as they went on their way home.

Remove all figures except Samuel (D-1).



Preschoolers will enjoy hunting for Saul. Hide flannelgraph figure or let a child pretend to be Saul and hide.

Flashcard 1-6



But the man of God must have been very sad to see how the people of Israel chose what they wanted, a man to be their king. They should have been trusting only in God. God had made them; He had chosen their nation to be special. Only He knew what was best for them, but they wanted to have their own way.

CTS

Has God shown you today, that though you are a Christian, you sometimes disobey Him and choose to do what you like? God's way is far, far better. Don't be like the Israelites. Don't be like Richard, who wanted to have his own way and to be in the gang, until God taught him a hard lesson. Right now, quietly in your heart, will you ask God to forgive you? Ask Him to help you to live only in the way He wants you to live.

CTU

Invite children to come to Christ. Having children pray silently during the class time as indicated in this lesson is useful for teaching situations which will not allow for individual counselling. Whenever possible, however, meet the children after the invitation to counsel them. See "Steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ" on the back cover.

If you are not a Christian, you have never really left your own sinful way. That way leads to punishment forever. The Lord Jesus wants you to be willing to let Him change your life. He wants you to trust Him to save you. The Lord Jesus took the punishment that we as sinners deserve. He died for us. He is the only One Who can help you to live the right way - God's way. Won't you trust the Lord Jesus right now? Tell Him, "Dear Lord Jesus, I know I have been going the wrong way. I am a sinner and I need You to save me and to put me on the right way. I believe You died for me. Please save me now." Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6). The moment you trust Him, you begin to go God's way, the best way, the only right way. Will you not trust Him today?

Remove all figures.

Review questions

Feel free to adapt these questions to the age-group of the children.

- 1 In our lesson we learned about some people who wanted their own way. What did they want? (They wanted a king.)
- 2 Why was Samuel disappointed when they demanded a king? (He said God was their king, and they were wrong in wanting a man to rule over them instead of God.)
- 3 Why did they want a king? (They wanted to be like the other nations who had a king to lead them.)
- 4 Samuel warned them what having a king would mean. Can you tell me some of Samuel's warnings? (The king would take their sons and daughters to fight in the army, to cook and even be slaves. He would take their fields and vineyards and charge heavy taxes.)
- 5 Why do we want to go our own way and not God's way? (We go our own way because we are born with sinful hearts.)
- 6 Why do you think God allowed the donkeys to get lost? (So that Samuel and Saul might meet.)

- 7 What did Samuel do to Saul, as a sign that he was to be king? (He poured oil on his head.)
- 8 Where did Saul hide when everyone wanted to see their new king? (He hid among the baggage.)
- 9 If a Christian boy or girl did something wrong like Richard did, what should they do? (They should tell the Lord that they are truly sorry and ask Him to forgive them and help them not to do it again.)
- 10 How can someone who is going their own sinful way be changed to go God's way? (They must turn away from their sin and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to save them.)

Carry-over activity

Draw it!

Give each child a sheet of paper ruled into four squares (or give four smaller sheets of paper to each child). Ask them to draw four things.

- 1 Draw what the children of Israel wanted.
- 2 Draw a picture to show Richard going his own way.
- 3 Draw a picture to illustrate how you or someone you know goes his own way.
- 4 Draw a picture of someone going God's way.

Carry-over activity

Verse wise

Divide the children into teams, matching older children with younger ones. Write the following references on the board, one at a time, allowing children to locate them.

- Psalm 105:1
- Psalm 119:11
- Psalm 150:1
- Proverbs 3:5
- Matthew 7:7
- Matthew 19:19
- Matthew 22:37
- John 14:1
- Ephesians 6:1
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- James 1:5
- James 1:22
- 1 John 1:9

After each team finds the verse, discuss how it relates to being wise.

Carry-over activity

Simon says

This lesson contrasts “God’s way” and “my way”.

Play “Simon says” and tell the children that they are to do the action only if the leader prefaces the command with the words “God’s way”.

Lesson 2

Saul's disobedience

Scripture

1 Samuel 12 - 15

Central truth

God will punish sin

Application

Unsaved: If you continue in your sin, it will lead to eternal punishment

Saved: Thank the Lord Jesus for taking your punishment

Memory verse

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

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4 and 2-5

Or

◆ Figures: D-11, D-12, D-13, D-14, D-15, D-16, D-18 and D-19

For additional crowd in scenes 1 and 2, use figures D-2 and D-9 from lesson one

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene, palace scene and either bedroom scene or plain, dark coloured background

And

◆ We suggest you do not use the monument (figure D-20), as it is very difficult to know what this could have been

◆ Make storm clouds from the pattern provided at the end of this booklet (page 68), using dark flannel. Lightning streaks may be added using yellow card or thread.

◆ Make a wordstrip for your central truth. Print "God will punish sin" on light card and back it for use on the flannelboard. Place it at the top of your board when you first teach the central truth (CT). Keep it there during the whole

lesson, and point to it each time you teach and apply it.

- ◆ Other wordstrip: "Thank the Lord Jesus for taking your punishment" (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Beginning

The people have a king of their own

Progression of events

- 1 Samuel instructs the people **CT**
- 2 Thunder and lightning **CTU**
- 3 People admit their sin - Samuel warns
- 4 Philistines attack. Saul disobeys - "Your son will not be king" **CTS**
- 5 Saul sent to kill Amalekites. God speaks to Samuel
- 6 Samuel points out Saul's disobedience **CTU**

Climax

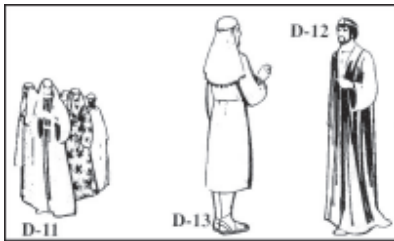
Samuel kills Agag

Conclusion

Samuel leaves Saul, who is rejected by God **CTU**

Flashcard 2-1

Speak excitedly.



Speak solemnly as you give Samuel's warning.

Show card with central truth: "God will punish sin".

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

"Hurrah! Long live the king! God save the king!" At last the Israelites had a king of their own!

Place crowd (D-11).

Saul was no longer a shy farmer's son.

Place Saul (D-12).

He had gathered a huge army of 330,000 men and defeated the wicked Ammonites who were attacking their land. The people thought it was wonderful to have a king who could lead them in their battles.

After the battle was won, Samuel, the man of God, called all the people together at Gilgal.

Place Samuel (D-13).

It was time to make a special announcement.

"Look at your king," he cried. "The Lord has given you a king, just as you asked." But there was a solemn warning in this announcement as well. Samuel warned the people, "If you love and obey the Lord and do not break His commandments, it will be well with you. But if you do not obey God, He will punish you, just as He has always done."

If you prefer, you may read the words Samuel spoke from 1 Samuel 12:13-15.

CT

God's message was very clear. We see in the Bible that the same message is for you and me: there is a punishment for all who do not obey God. Perhaps you think that disobedience is hardly a sin at all. But it is! Do you remember what happened in the garden of Eden? Adam and Eve lived there. They were good, until they disobeyed God. God had told them not to eat the fruit of one particular tree; but they both ate from that tree. They both disobeyed God's command - that was man's first sin. God punished them. Because Adam and Eve became sinners, everyone since then has been born a sinner. Every one of us is born with a heart that does not want to obey God. The Bible calls us all "sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). For example God has told us to honour and obey our parents (Exodus 20:12). If we don't, we disobey His command and this is sin. God warns us that He will always punish sin, just as He warned the Israelites.

Yes, the people heard the warning spoken by Samuel. But he wanted them to be absolutely sure that what he said was true. This is what he said.

It would be good to read the following words from the Bible - 1 Samuel 12:16-17.

"Now, therefore, stand and see this great thing, which the Lord will

do before your eyes: Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the Lord, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking a king for yourselves.”

“Thunder and rain?” thought the people. “It never rains at this time of year.”

Scene 2

Replace Samuel (D-13) with Samuel praying (D-14).

Samuel had spoken God's warning and now he prayed. The sky began to cloud over. Heavy dark thunderclouds hid the sun.

Place the visual you have made for the storm - optional.

The lightning flashed across the sky! The thunder boomed! What a storm! The people were terrified. It really was a warning from God.

Now the people were ready to listen to what God was saying. “We have sinned against God,” they cried. “Pray for us, or we will die.”

Remove the thunderstorm, and replace Samuel praying (D-14) with Samuel (D-13).

They knew now that they had wanted to live according to their own way and not God's way. “Serve the Lord with all your heart,” Samuel encouraged them. “The Lord will be with you, for He was pleased to make you His special nation. I will continue to pray for you, and I will teach you the way that is good and right to live. But remember this: if you continue to sin, both you and your king will be destroyed.”

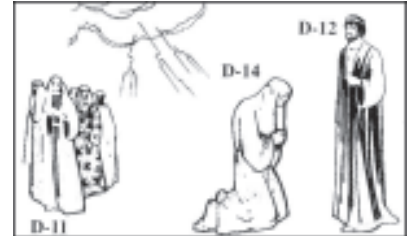
God has a warning today for you too. He warns that, if you are not saved from your sin, you will never enter Heaven. Why does God punish sinners in that way?

You may wish to allow the children to suggest reasons.

It is because He is holy. That means that He is pure and perfect; He never sins; everything He does is right. God can never allow sin to be where He is. And He will never overlook sin. He will never say that just a few sins don't matter. God hates sin so much that all sin must be punished. He will punish forever those who disobey Him.

Perhaps you are thinking and saying to yourself, “I don't disobey God.” Did you ever tell a lie about someone to save yourself from punishment? Alison broke the crystal vase on the sideboard, but she blamed her little brother - she told a lie. God says in the Bible, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour” (Exodus 20:16); that means, “Don't tell lies about anyone.” By telling lies, or disobeying your parents, and in many other ways you have disobeyed God. God warns you to turn from your sin and ask Him to forgive you and save you. God's warning is serious - He will punish sin. Have you paid attention to that warning?

Remove all figures.



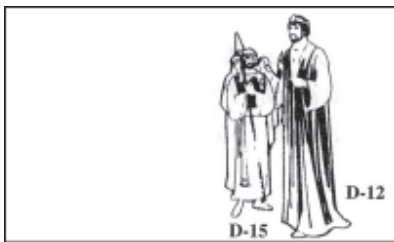
Use an audio cassette of a storm to help set the scene. Young children will enjoy making storm sounds.



CTU

Show card with central truth.

The events mentioned in this scene are found in 1 Samuel 13. The overview is given to provide background for the story of Saul's disobedience regarding the Amalekites.



Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

For some time the children of Israel paid attention to what God said to them. King Saul continued to rule over the people.

Place Saul (D-12).

Just over the border lived the Philistines. The mighty Philistines had been enemies of Israel for a long time. Now it seemed as if there was going to be all-out war, for the Philistines had gathered together a huge army. When Saul's men saw all the chariots, rows of horsemen and thousands of soldiers, they were very, very afraid.

Place soldiers (D-15).

In fact, some of them decided to escape before the battle began. They went to hide in caves, or in the mountains, or in the depths of the forest. Even those who stayed with Saul were quaking with fear. They looked to their king to do something.

But Saul didn't know what to do! He had been told to wait seven days for the priest, Samuel, to come. The priest was to make a sacrifice and pray before the battle began. The king himself had no right to offer a sacrifice. That was only the priest's job. God had strict instructions about who could offer sacrifices. But by the seventh day, King Saul could wait no longer. He went ahead and offered the sacrifice himself.

Place sacrifice (D-16).

It was not long before Samuel arrived, as he had promised.

Place Samuel (D-13).

"What have you done?" he cried.

"Oh, Samuel," said the king. "I waited seven days and you did not come. My soldiers were running away. The Philistines were coming close. I couldn't wait any longer, so I offered the burnt offering myself."

"You have been very foolish," said Samuel sternly. "You have disobeyed God's command. Because of your sin, God has chosen another king. Your son will not be the next king."

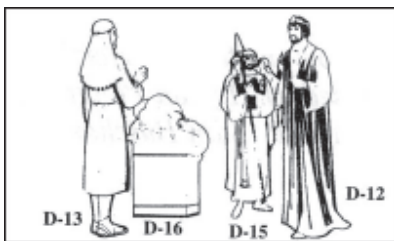
Samuel turned and went away.

Remove Samuel (D-13), soldiers (D-15) and sacrifice (D-16).

King Saul's heart must have been very sad. What hopes he must have had for his brave son Jonathan. Now Jonathan would never be king. It was all Saul's fault. He was being punished and he deserved it, because he disobeyed God's command; he had sinned. God will always punish sin.

Everyone deserves God's punishment, for everyone has sinned. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Flashcard 2-2



CTS

Show card with central truth.

(Romans 3:23). But did you know that some people will never be punished for their sin? Do you know who they are? Let me give you some possible answers. You tell me if they are right or not.

“Children will never be punished for their sins - true or false?”

Allow the children to answer.

That is false, because the Bible says all have sinned - even children. All have sinned, so all deserve to be punished.

Another question: “People who think that they are good enough for God, because they say prayers and read the Bible, will never be punished for their sins - true or false?” That is false, because by ourselves we can't get rid of our sin, even by doing those good things.

“The people who are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, will never be punished for their sins - true or false?” Yes, that is true. These people are saved from punishment, because they are trusting in Jesus Christ.

God sent His Son into the world to save people from their sins. Jesus was born without sin and He never once sinned. But He had to die. God put the sin of millions of people on Jesus and punished Him for it. When He was dying on the cross, the Lord Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46). He was separated from His Heavenly Father, because He was suffering the punishment for our sin. Because Jesus took that punishment, everyone who trusts in Him is saved from the eternal punishment he deserves. If He has forgiven you, do you ever say “thank you” to Him? He took your place and died for you. Do you ever tell Him how much you love Him for taking your punishment? Every day as you pray, you should tell Him how thankful you are. Thank Him for everything He has done for you. Be thankful that your sin is gone forever. Saul's sin wasn't gone. God allowed him to rule the people for many more years, but they never seemed to be happy years. Israel was constantly at war with the armies of the Philistines and the Amalekites.

Remove Saul (D-12).

Scene 4

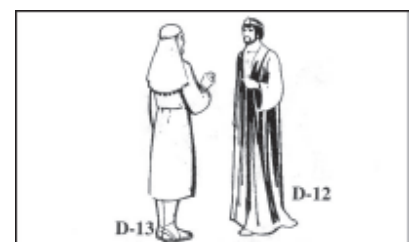
Optional background: Palace scene.

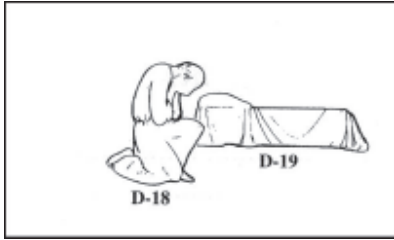
God had promised that one day He would punish the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16). Many years before they had tried to destroy God's people, the children of Israel, as they travelled from Egypt to the land where they now lived. Now the time had come to punish the Amalekites for what they had done.

Place Samuel (D-13) and Saul (D-12).

One day Samuel came to King Saul and said, “Listen to the Lord's message. You are to go and entirely destroy the Amalekites. Destroy the people, the animals, everything - leave nothing alive.”

Show card with application for the saved child: “Thank the Lord Jesus for taking your punishment”.

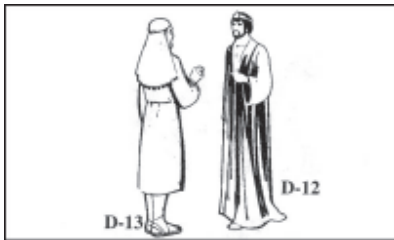




Flashcard 2-4

Preschoolers will understand more about not sleeping if you let them stand up and walk in place, rubbing their eyes.

Flashcard 2-5



Speak Saul's words arrogantly.

Preschoolers will enjoy making sounds of bleating sheep and lowing cattle.

Flashcard 2-3

"The people brought back the best of the animals for sacrifices." What should Saul have done to keep from disobeying?

Sometimes God brings terrible punishment on people in this life, as well as the punishment that will be theirs when they die.

Remove all figures.

Saul gathered his thousands of soldiers and went to war. The Amalekites were completely defeated. Saul was pleased with himself. "I have done all that God asked," he thought to himself.

Scene 5

Optional background: Bedroom scene or plain, dark coloured background.

But had Saul fully obeyed God's instructions to destroy everything? The night after the battle, Samuel was greatly troubled.

Place Samuel (D-18) and bed (D-19).

He could not sleep, but prayed all night long. God had told him that the king had disobeyed.

Remove all figures.

Scene 6

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Early next morning, Samuel went to find King Saul. Saul seemed excited.

Place Saul (D-12) and Samuel (D-13).

"I have done everything the Lord told me to do," he said.

"If that is so," said Samuel, "what is the meaning of all the bleating of sheep and lowing of cattle that I hear?"

"Oh, those are the best of the sheep and cattle from the Amalekites. The soldiers thought they would be good to sacrifice to God, but we have killed all the rest."

"Stop!" cried Samuel. "God sent you to completely destroy the wicked Amalekites. Why did you not do it?"

"But I did obey," replied King Saul. "I destroyed them and brought back their King Agag. The people brought back the best of the animals for sacrifices."

Oh, Saul! What have you done? God had told him to destroy everything belonging to the Amalekites, and that included their king. Saul had disobeyed God, but would not admit it. He tried to pretend he had done what he was told; he tried to blame others. Perhaps he could not see that what he had done was wrong. Perhaps he thought he had done something good by bringing back the animals to offer to God. But he was wrong. Maybe you have been hoping that God will look at all your good points and forget about the sin of which you are guilty. But no matter how good you try to be, you can never be good enough for God. If you do not ask His Son to save you,

CTU

you will be separated from God for all eternity in a place the Bible calls Hell. That is what God means when He says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). It is very serious to disobey God. That is just what Samuel told King Saul. "Which do you think God wants most - sacrifices or obedience? Obedience is better than any sacrifice you could ever offer!" said Samuel. "Because you have rejected God's Word, He has rejected you as king."

King Saul said he was sorry and asked Samuel to forgive him. But he was not really sorry. He was only afraid of what people would think and what might happen to him. King Agag should have been killed by Saul, but he had kept him prisoner, to show that he had won the battle against the Amalekites.

Samuel himself took a sword and killed the wicked King Agag.

Remove all figures.

Then he left for Ramah and never came to see Saul again. But he was very sad. Every day he wept over Saul's sin. God was very displeased with Saul and turned away from him. He left him without His help and blessing. What a terrible thing it is when someone is separated from God! Why did it happen to Saul? Because he disobeyed God. God will do the same to every person who is not saved. If you are not saved, your sin is separating you from God. If you go on in your sin, disobeying God, you will have to be punished for your sin forever.

But if you are truly sorry, you can be saved from punishment. How can you be saved? Do you believe that Jesus Christ took the punishment for your sin on the cross? Do you believe that He lives forever and is the only One Who can save you? Then tell Him you want to turn from all your sin. Tell Him that you are depending on Him to save you from the punishment you deserve. Tell Jesus Christ that you are believing on Him as your Lord and Saviour. If you do, you will be saved forever: you will not be separated from God, because Jesus Christ took the punishment for your sins on the cross. Will you believe Him today? The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Review questions

- 1 We learned of some nations who were fighting with the Israelites. Can you name one of them? (Ammonites, Philistines, Amalekites.)
- 2 Can you name another nation? (Use this question if you are having a competition between two teams.)
- 3 Why is it a sin to disobey our parents? (We are breaking God's law if we disobey because He has said, "Honour [or obey] your parents.")

Show card with central truth.

State with conviction.

Shake head - not truly sorry.

CTU

Invite children to come to Christ. Be sure to advise children where to meet you for further counsel and speak individually with each child who responds. See "Steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ" on the back cover.

"Believing on" Jesus means trusting Him to be your Saviour. Be aware that children might confuse the concept of believing on Jesus to be the same as believing in ghosts, Santa Claus, etc.

Review game

Crown me

Remind children that at the beginning of the story Saul is crowned king.

Divide the group into two teams and provide a paper crown for each

Ask one team a question, then the other.

If the answer is correct, the child may go to the front and wear his team's crown. He stays in front until he is replaced by the next child from his team who answers correctly.

Continue until all questions have been answered.

You may want to award crowns to children at another part of the class hour for good behaviour.

- 4 Why were the people so surprised and frightened by the thunderstorm? (They knew it was a warning from God because it was not the time of year when such storms usually came.)
- 5 How does God warn us today about our sin? (He warns us in the Bible and through teachers and preachers who tell us what the Bible says.)
- 6 What did King Saul do that was supposed to be the work of a priest and not the work of a king? (He offered a burnt sacrifice for the people.)
- 7 What did Samuel tell Saul would be the punishment for disobeying God in this way? (His family could never be kings of Israel.)
- 8 How did Samuel know that Saul had again disobeyed God and had not completely destroyed the Amalekites? (God told him. He heard the noises from the animals and later Saul told him about King Agag.)
- 9 Was Saul immediately ready to admit his sin of disobedience and to ask God for forgiveness? (No. He tried to blame others and tried to say that what he had done was good.)
- 10 Is it enough for us to say sorry like Saul said it? Will saying sorry to God mean that our sins are forgiven? (If we say sorry we must really mean it. We must repent or turn from our sin and want to be different. We must call on the Lord Jesus alone to save us from our sins.)

Carry-over activity

Hidden sin

Make word strips for the flannelboard (or write the following words on a blackboard or flashcard):

- ◆ Disobedience
- ◆ Warnings
- ◆ Punishment
- ◆ Salvation

There is one word of three letters which can be found in all four words. The letters are not in order. (*For younger ones, tell them it starts with "s".*) The word is "sin".

Write out these four sentences with the word in brackets missing from each:

- ◆ God says disobedience (is) sin.
- ◆ God gives us warnings (about) sin.

- ◆ God's Son took the punishment (for) sin.
- ◆ Christian children have salvation (from) sin.

Also write the following words and ask the children to choose the best one for each space:

from to about isn't for is

Carry-over activity

Discussion: Tempted to disobey?

When are you tempted to disobey? Why is it hard to obey? What can you do to keep from disobeying? Can you think of some verses in the Bible where God promises His help?

Lesson 3

God chooses a king

Scripture

1 Samuel 16

Central truth

God sees and knows your heart

Application

Unsaved: God sees your heart is sinful - you need God to change your life and give you a new heart

Saved: God sees your heart is right, because Jesus has saved you, but if you sin, you must confess it to Him

Memory verse

Review Psalm 23:1 and explain again

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 4-1

Or

◆ Figures: D-21, D-22, D-23, D-24, D-25, D-26, D-27, D-28a-b-c-d, D-29, D-30, D-31, D-32 and D-33

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene and palace scene

And

◆ You may also wish to use a wordstrip for your central truth. Print “God sees and knows your heart” on coloured card, and place at the top of the board when indicated in the lesson.

◆ Other wordstrip: “God sees your heart is right, because Jesus has saved you, but if you sin, you must confess it to Him” (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Beginning

Samuel mourns for Saul

Progression of events

- 1 God speaks to Samuel **CT**
- 2 God sends Samuel to Bethlehem
- 3 Samuel looks at Eliab **CT**
- 4 Samuel looks at six more sons **CTU**
- 5 “Are these all of your children?”
- 6 David the shepherd **CTU**
- 7 David called back home
- 8 David chosen by God **CTU**
- 9 David anointed
- 10 David returns to the sheep **CTS**
- 11 Saul sends for David

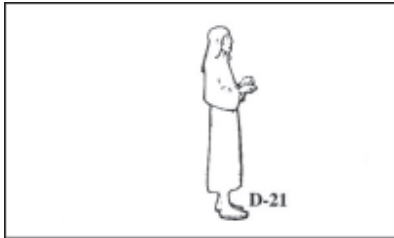
Climax

David plays music for Saul

Conclusion

Saul and David together at the palace **CTU**

Flashcard 3-1



CT

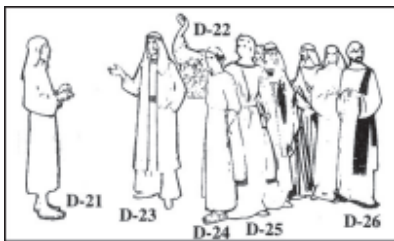
Show card with central truth: "God sees and knows your heart".

Locate Bethlehem in relation to Ramah on a map. (See Map 4 in "Children's Ministry Resource Bible"; Bethlehem is south of Ramah.)

Flashcard 3-2

Use ram's horn shaped from playdough or cut from cardboard as a visual aid to help children to understand.

Flashcard 3-3



Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

"Samuel, why are you looking so sad?" God was speaking to Samuel.

Place Samuel (D-21).

"You can't mourn over Saul forever, because I have rejected him as king over Israel."

Do you remember why God rejected Saul?

Allow the children to tell of Saul's sin.

Yes, because Saul had sinned; he had not done what God had told him to do. It is true that he had said he was sorry, but God knew what was in his heart. God knew that he still wanted to go his own way and not God's way. God knows everything about everyone. He made us. He made our bodies and He made our minds. He sees and He knows every thought, feeling or desire we have ever had. He calls it seeing our hearts.

God knew why Samuel was sad; it was because of Saul's sin. But now God had something for him to do.

"Samuel, take oil for anointing and go to Jesse's house in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons as the new king," said the Lord. "Bring an animal and offer a sacrifice there to me. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice and I will show you whom to anoint."

So Samuel poured oil into the animal horn that he used for anointing and went to Bethlehem.

Scene 2

All the preparations were made and the elders of the city were invited. Jesse and his sons were there.

Place altar (D-22), Samuel (D-21), Jesse (D-23) and sons (D-24, D-25 and D-26).

Samuel could not take his eyes off the eldest son. His name was Eliab. He had good looks and evidently was very tall. In Bible times the oldest son was the most important in the family. Was this the man God wanted to be king?

"He would make an excellent ruler for the people," thought Samuel. Perhaps it was in a whisper that Samuel said to the Lord, "Surely this is the one who is to be anointed?"

"No, Samuel," came the reply from the Lord. "You are looking at his face and his height. He will not be king. The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Samuel was wrong. He judged the man just by looking at him. We often do the same. We see what people look like and what people do. As I look at you, I see someone who enjoys going to Good News Club®, singing choruses and hearing Bible lessons. But I don't see or know everything about you. Only one person knows that - God. He sees what you and I are really like. He sees my heart and yours. The heart He sees is not the one that pumps your blood. When God says He sees your heart, He means He sees the real "you", the "you" that will live forever, even after your body dies. God sees and knows what you love or hate; He sees what you are thinking; He sees what you wish you had; He sees what you want to be. Each one of us is born with a heart that is sinful, and so we think and do sinful things.

Do you know why a cat acts like a cat and not like a rabbit?

Allow the children to answer.

That's right. It acts like a cat because it was born a cat. We sin because we are born sinners - born with sinful hearts. To be right we need a new heart from God; we need God to change our lives. He alone can make us able to obey Him and do what is right. God sees some of us with hearts that are right. He also sees some with hearts that are still sinful - hearts like Eliab's heart.

God did not want Eliab as king.

Move Eliab (D-24) away from Samuel (D-21).

Samuel turned to look at the second son. His name was Abinadab. Perhaps he would be the one God wanted. But no! The message was the same, "The Lord has not chosen him."

One after another, Jesse's sons were turned down by God. Not one of them would be king, for God could see much deeper than their good looks or strong bodies. He knew everything about Jesse's sons and He knows everything about you. You might pretend to be good before your parents or your teacher, but you can't fool God. He sees your pride and jealousy. He knows what nasty names you muttered to yourself when your mother sent you to bed early as punishment. He saw what you did behind your father's back, when you weren't allowed to go out to play. God has commanded us in the Bible to honour our parents and we don't always do it. You sinned, and God knows it. You can never hide anything from Him, for He sees and knows your heart in just the same way as He knew about the seven brothers. God did not accept any of them. He had chosen someone else. But whom? That was what Samuel just couldn't understand. Hadn't God sent him to Jesse's house? Hadn't God said one of Jesse's sons would be the new king?

"The Lord has not chosen any of these," said Samuel. "Are these all of your children?"

CT

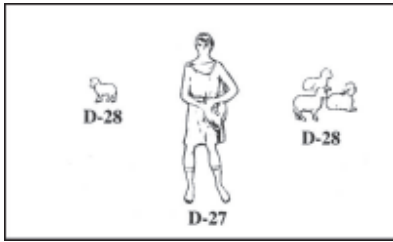
Show card with central truth.

Shake head "no" as each son passes before Samuel.

Count the sons with preschoolers.

CTU

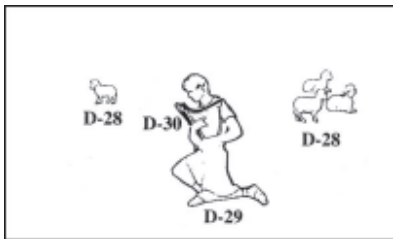
Hold up one finger - one more son.



Flashcard 3-4

Younger children will learn better by pretending to be the servant hurrying to get David. You could have the scene of David and the sheep on a small flannelboard somewhere in the classroom which will require them to move it. (It is best to keep the scene covered until this part of the story.)

Sing a praise song the children will know. Singing impresses truth.



CTU

Children could roleplay the servant's words to David.

"There is still one other son," Jesse replied. "The youngest one."

This son had not been brought to the sacrifice. In those days and in that country, the youngest child was considered the least important in the family.

"He is in the fields looking after the sheep," said the father. That was the young lad's job. His name was David.

Remove all figures or cover the board and figures with another flannel background.

Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place David (D-27) and sheep (D-28a-b-c-d)

Can you imagine him leading the sheep out of the fold each morning, and leading them to the hills around Bethlehem? It was his responsibility to feed, to water and to care for them. It was sometimes dangerous work, for lions and bears roamed those hills looking for sheep to eat. But David did his job faithfully, no matter how difficult it was.

Perhaps that day David had his harp with him, out in the fields. The harp was his favourite musical instrument.

Remove David (D-27) and replace with David and harp (D-29 and D-30).

He loved to make beautiful music and sing. He sang to the Lord. David loved the Lord with all his heart. He too had been born with a sinful heart, but now he was different. David had trusted in the Lord to take away all his sin. One day David said to God, "I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation" (Psalm 13:5). God took his sin away, his life was changed and David was now right in God's sight. God sees you too, but are you right in God's sight as David was? Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ to change your life and make you right in God's sight? Maybe you want to have your sin taken away like David had, but you are not sure how. If, after the lesson is over, you are still not sure, come and ask me to explain it to you again; just come up to the front at the end and sit on one of these seats in the first row. I will be happy to answer any questions you have about being right in God's sight. It is important to be right like David was.

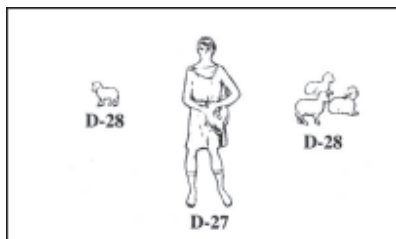
Pause for a few seconds.

"David! David!" Someone was running across the hillside calling. "David, you are wanted at home - hurry!"

So David quickly left the hillside and made for home.

Remove all figures. If you covered scene 2 with a flannel cloth, remove it now. If not, replace the figures from scene 2.

Flashcard 3-4 (again)



If you previously used a second flannelboard, return David (D-27) to small flannelboard and his sheep.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "God sees your heart is right, because Jesus has saved you, but if you sin, you must confess it to Him".

Scene 5

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

And David? Did he go to live in the palace? Did he give up his work as a shepherd? No! He went back to the fields to his sheep.

Place David (D-27) and sheep (D-28-a-b-c-d).

How pleased God must have been to see how David acted. He did not grumble or complain that day when he was sent back to the sheep. He did not say in a proud voice, "Now I'm someone important; find someone else to look after the sheep!" David went on living humbly as he usually did. Christian boy or girl, are you like him, or do you boast about how clever you are when you pass an exam? God sees your heart and knows everything about you. He knows your heart is right, because you have trusted Him. But that does not mean you will never sin again. Christians should not want to sin, but sometimes they do. We have received a new heart, a new nature, from God; but because we were born sinners we still want to do wrong sometimes. Even though our sins are forgiven and we are right in God's sight, we will never be perfectly free from sin until we get to Heaven. God hates it when you sin; your friendship with Him is spoiled. What can you do? You don't need to be saved again, but you do need to tell God that you have sinned. He wants you to tell Him all you have done wrong. He says, "If we confess (or tell Him) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Christian, if you have sinned, ask God to forgive you and to help you to live for Him, like David did.

From the day David was anointed, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and stayed with him. God was living in David, giving him the power to do the things God wanted him to do. If you are a Christian, God the Holy Spirit lives in you to give you power to obey and live for God.

Remove all figures.

Scene 6

Optional background: Palace scene.

There was one who should have been living for God and obeying Him, but was not. That one was King Saul.

Place Saul (D-32).

The sin in Saul's heart was growing greater and greater. Because of this, there were times when he would go into angry moods and his servants were afraid he would go mad. His servants had an idea.

They said to the king, "Send one of us to find a man who is a very skilful harp player. When your thoughts trouble you, he could play music and calm your nerves."

"Yes," thought Saul. "That's a good idea. Find me such a man," he ordered.

"I know a man," said a servant.

Place servant (D-33).

"He is a great musician; he is brave and wise, and God is with him. He lives in Bethlehem. His father is called Jesse."

Can't you guess who it was? Yes - David.

Remove servant (D-33).

"Send me David, your son who looks after sheep," was the message that Jesse received. Soon David was at the palace.

Place David (D-29) and harp (D-30).

Saul loved him; he loved his music. Any time Saul was troubled, David was brought in to play for him.

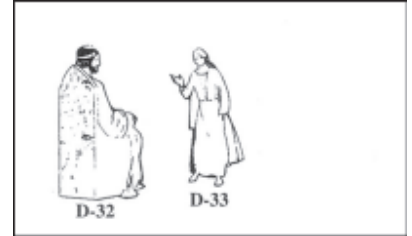
What a strange thing to happen! Saul the king was rejected by God because of his sin. One day he would no longer be king of the nation of Israel. The one who would take his place was sitting at his feet playing a harp, and Saul did not know it. One had a heart that God knew was sinful and not right with Him. The other had a heart that was right in God's sight. As God looks into your life today, what does He see? If you have never trusted Christ, He sees that you have a sinful heart. God says He knows the hearts of all men (Acts 1:24), "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). No boy or girl has a heart that is right in God's sight, except those who have trusted the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour and Shepherd. Jesus Christ is the only One Who can make your heart right. Have you ever trusted Him? Can you say, "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)? "I am trusting in Him to save me from the punishment of my sin and to take care of my life." You know you can't save yourself from sin or change your sinful heart. You must depend on Christ to make your heart new and right before God.

Do you really want Him to forgive you and give you a new heart? He will do it today, if you trust Him. Quietly in your heart, tell God that you are a sinner and that you are truly sorry for all the sin He sees in you. Thank the Lord Jesus for taking all the punishment for your sin on the cross. Ask Him to forgive you and make you right like David. He will. He promises, "I will give you a new heart" (Ezekiel 36:26) - a heart that is right forever in the sight of God.

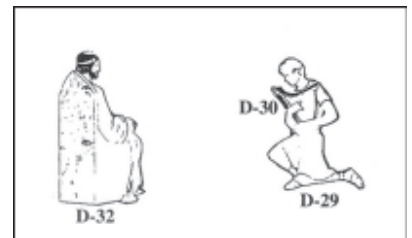
Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 Why was Samuel sad? (Because King Saul had sinned and so had been rejected by God.)
- 2 What did God tell Samuel to do? (Take oil to anoint one of the sons of Jesse.)



Flashcard 4-1



CTU

Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus. Be sure to designate time and location for further counsel.

Be careful to not allow classroom distractions to keep you from making yourself available to counsel children about their spiritual needs.

Review game

Jesse's sons

Have eight children line up in the front to represent Jesse's eight sons.

(In a small club stick Post-it notes to a sketch pad, chalkboard or white board to represent Jesse's sons. A stick figure may be drawn on each.)

The remaining children work together to answer questions. Ask a question, then have the children decide on the answer. Try to choose a different child each time.

If the answer is correct, Jesse's eight sons may remain in the front. If incorrect, Jesse's first son must sit down and the teacher tells the answer.

The goal of the game is to keep all Jesse's sons standing in the front.

- 3 Give the name of the oldest son of Jesse. (Eliab.)
- 4 Samuel thought Eliab was the one he should anoint, because he was tall and handsome. What did God say? ("Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7.)
- 5 Where was Jesse's youngest son at the time? (In the fields looking after the sheep; his name was David.)
- 6 What was David's favourite musical instrument? (A harp.)
- 7 Tell me some words which David sang and are written in the Bible. (Psalm 23 - any one of the verses.)
- 8 Where did David go after he was anointed by Samuel? (Back to looking after the sheep.)
- 9 Why was David brought to Saul's palace? (To play the harp for Saul and calm his angry moods.)
- 10 What was the big difference between the life of Saul and David? (David's heart was right with God and Saul's wasn't.)

Carry-over activity

Who is a sinner?

Cut out and prepare for the flannelboard, a number of pictures from magazines. Include among them ...

- ◆ a religious figure (for example a Bishop or minister)
- ◆ someone praying
- ◆ a child
- ◆ a baby
- ◆ an adult

Write the word "sinner" on the back of each one. Place all figures on the flannelboard.

Ask the children to tell you which one is not a sinner; take the pictures one at a time. As you remove each one they choose, show them the word "sinner". Teach that all are sinners, even though on the outside we appear to look good.

Now, with all figures off the board, write "saved" before sinner on the back of one figure (for example the picture of the child). Do this without the children seeing which one you chose. Place all figures again on the board and ask them to tell you which one is right in God's sight. They might choose the right one, but it would only be a guess. You made the change, so only you know which it is. Teach again "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Carry-over activity

Heart pictures

Give each child a heart drawn on a sheet of paper and divided into four parts.

Have them draw in each section a picture of something they can do to show their heart is right with God.

Lesson 4

David and Goliath

Scripture

1 Samuel 17:1-54

Central truth

Be like David - trust in the living God

Application

Unsaved: The only way to be saved from your sin is to trust in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

Saved: Depend on God to give you the courage to do what is right

Memory verse

"He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters" Psalm 23:2

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: D-34, D-35, D-36, D-37, D-38-a-b-c, D-39, D-40, D-41, D-42, D-43 and D-44
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene. An alternative method of visualising the lesson would be to use two flannelboards, with Philistines on one board and Israelites on the other, except in the closing scene when David and Goliath meet.

And

- ◆ Make a wordstrip for your central truth in two parts - "Be like David" and "trust in the living God"
- ◆ Other wordstrip: "Depend on God to give you the courage to do what is right" (application for the saved child)

Notes on Goliath's height

- ◆ Cubit - the cubit was the distance from the elbow to the fingertip of a man. Usually it is estimated to be about 450 mm (18 in).

- ◆ Span - the span was commonly designated as half a cubit.
- ◆ For Goliath's height we have used the round figures of "about 3 metres" or "about 10 feet".

Lesson outline

Beginning

"Come out and fight, cowards!"

Progression of events

- 1 Goliath's challenge
- 2 Israelites afraid **CT**
- 3 David sent to the battle
- 4 Goliath defies Israel again **CTU**
- 5 David - "Who is this?"
- 6 Eliab's criticism
- 7 Saul sends for David
- 8 David - "The Lord will deliver" **CTU**
- 9 David tries Saul's armour
- 10 David goes to meet Goliath **CTS**
- 11 Goliath - "Am I a dog?"
- 12 David - "I come in the name of the Lord"

Climax

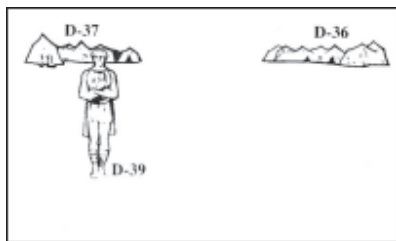
David kills Goliath

Conclusion

Philistines defeated **CTS, CTU**

Speak dramatically with a booming voice to mimic Goliath, then drop to a whisper to build suspense.

Alternatively you may want to tape-record Goliath's words in advance with background music or sounds. Push the play button of your recorder and maintain eye contact with the class as introduction plays. Be ready to make a smooth transition into the lesson.



Flashcard 4-2

To add suspense for children who may be familiar with this story, you may want to withhold Goliath's name until the end of the story, referring to him generically - the giant, the Philistine, the tall soldier, the huge man.

CT

Lesson

“Come out and fight, cowards. One of you come out and fight me.”
(*Shout these words.*) Words like these echoed up the hillside from the valley below. “If I win, all of you will serve my people; if you win we will serve you. Come on, I defy you; give me a man and let us fight each other.”

Pause for a few moments.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

But nobody would fight. Everyone was terrified. They hid behind rocks and inside their tents on the hilltop.

Place tents (D-36).

The Israelite soldiers looked across the valley to where the Philistine army camped on the other hillside.

Place tents (D-37).

Those Philistines had been their enemies for years, and were making war with Israel again. But it was not just the Philistine army that frightened them. The terrified soldiers looked down, into the valley far below. Down there was the one who had been shouting so loudly and who frightened them so much. What a giant of a man!

Place giant (D-39).

He was about three metres tall and extremely strong.

You may prefer to describe him as “about ten feet tall”. Indicate his height in relation to the room you are in or to anything else with which the children are familiar. See notes on page 37 about Goliath's height.

He wore a bronze helmet; his body was covered with bronze armour. Even his legs were protected. His spear was thick and long. In a sheath strapped to his side, he carried a heavy sharp sword. His name was Goliath.

Who would dare to fight such a frightening man? Certainly not King Saul, even though he was the tallest man in Israel. Certainly not Eliab or Abinidab or Shammah, three of David's brothers who were now in Saul's army. Not one soldier in Israel would fight. They looked at the mighty giant and forgot that their God was far, far greater. This giant was indeed powerful, but their God had all power; He could do anything. Had the people of Israel forgotten the stories their parents and grandparents had told them, stories of what God had done for their nation in the past? Hadn't He delivered them from the mighty Egyptian army? Hadn't God made the massive walls of Jericho to fall before them? They could never have won these battles by themselves. The people of Israel long ago had asked God to help them. They believed that God could do things which seemed

impossible, and God did them. They had trusted God, but these poor frightened soldiers in Saul's army didn't. Yet their God was the living God who made Heaven and earth; He was not like the Philistine gods, which were made by men. They ought to have trusted in the living God to save them from the Philistines.

But not one of them was prepared to face the giant. Nobody in the army trusted God to defeat Goliath. But someone who did trust God was at that moment on his way to the battlefield. This person had a heart that was right in God's sight.

Remove all figures, except the wordstrip of the central truth.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Yes, David was coming.

Place David (D-35).

David had returned to his sheep after playing music for Saul. Early that morning he had left his sheep in the care of someone else. His father, Jesse, had given him a job to do.

Place Jesse (D-34).

"I want you to go to the battle camp to see how your brothers are," his father had said. "Take this sack of corn and these ten loaves of bread to them. Take these ten cheeses to their commander, and hurry."

What a weight to carry! And what a journey to make - almost 30 kilometres (over 18 miles) over the mountains! But David gladly obeyed his father and was now hurrying towards the camp.

Remove Jesse (D-34).

Scene 3

As he came near, he must have heard the war cries of the two armies. They were lined along the hillside facing each other.

Place tents (D-36 and D-37).

For nearly six weeks this had been going on. What a sight this must have been for the young man. David left the things he had brought with the keeper of supplies and ran to find his brothers.

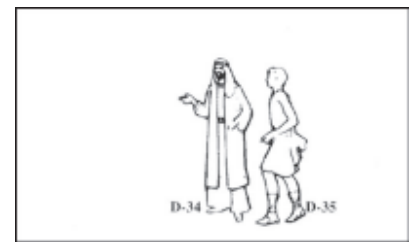
Place soldiers (D-38a).

Suddenly everyone was staring into the valley below. David turned to see the giant lumbering towards them from the opposite camp.

Place giant D-39 with soldiers D-38b-c behind him.

The heavy armour glistened in the sun. The armour itself weighed over 50 kg. How frightening his weapons looked. (His spear alone was a massive piece of wood with an iron point that weighed almost

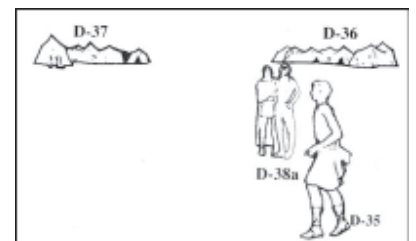
Show card with central truth: "trust in the living God".



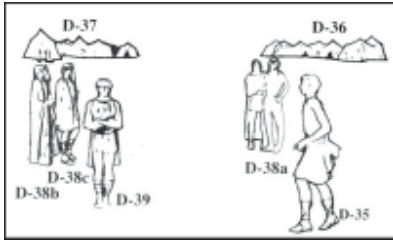
Flashcard 4-3

Edersheim speaks of the cheese "possibly resembling our so-called cream cheese."

Serve small pieces of bread spread with cream cheese. Children will long remember this activity. Preschoolers would also benefit as they learn by tasting and smelling.



Flashcard 4-4



Assign a child to shout out the words of the giant.

CTU

Place the wordstrip "Be like David" before "trust in the living God" already on the board.

Dramatise David's question and have another child give a possible answer.

Vary the sound of your voice to distinguish between the words of Eliab and David.

7 kg.) David had never seen anything like this before. Then the giant stopped and bellowed the same words that the others had heard every morning and evening for the past forty days.

"I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight each other."

He was defying God and God's people. He believed the Philistine gods were greater than the God of Israel. He believed that his size, his strength, his armour and his weapons would overcome anything. But it is a sin to trust in anyone or anything, rather than in God. Goliath was sinning against God. You might be like him. In whom are you trusting? Who are you trusting to save you from the punishment you deserve for your sin? Maybe you think you don't need to be saved. Maybe you believe you can save yourself by trying to be really good. If you do, you are sinning against God, for in the Bible He says, "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26). A fool is a sinner who does not believe in God. You must be like David and trust in the living God to have your sin forgiven.

You cannot trust anyone or anything else except the true and living God, to do that for you. Goliath was a fool to trust in his own strength or to trust in false gods. (The statues which the Philistines worshipped were not living and could not do anything for them.)

"I defy you; come out and fight," Goliath bellowed again. David heard the booming voice. Some of the terrified Israelite soldiers ran away. David was furious.

"Who is this Philistine? How dare he defy the armies of the living God," cried David.

The soldiers must have looked at him strangely. Nobody else in all Israel had spoken like this - not even the king. All the king did was to offer great rewards to anyone who would kill the giant, but nobody dared to fight him. Nobody but David thought of trusting God for help.

Just then Eliab, David's oldest brother, spoke angrily, "What are you doing here? What about the sheep you're supposed to be looking after? I know all about your proud and wicked heart; you have just come to see the battle."

It wasn't easy for David to listen to these lies, but he calmly said, "What have I done wrong? I only asked a question." He turned to talk to the other soldiers around him, but the story was still the same. Everyone was too frightened to fight.

Remove David (D-35), soldiers (D-38a-b-c) and giant (D-39).

Scene 4

By this time, someone had told the king what David was saying.

Place Saul (D-41).

He sent for David and was surprised at the young man's first words.

Place David (D-35).

"There is nothing to fear. I will go and fight the giant." David, a shepherd lad, going out to fight! That's impossible!

"You can't do it," said Saul. "You're only a lad and Goliath has been trained in fighting since he was young."

But David was convinced he was right. He knew he was younger, smaller and weaker than the giant. He knew he had no experience of fighting in a battle; but he knew he could trust in his God. He wanted Saul to know that too.

He said, "I have been a shepherd caring for my father's sheep. Sometimes a lion or a bear has come along and grabbed a lamb. I didn't let it get away; I ran after it and rescued the lamb from between its sharp teeth. Even when the wild animal turned on me in a rage, I grabbed its long hair in one hand and hit it with all my might. I killed it (*pause*) and I will do the same thing to that Philistine giant for defying the armies of the living God."

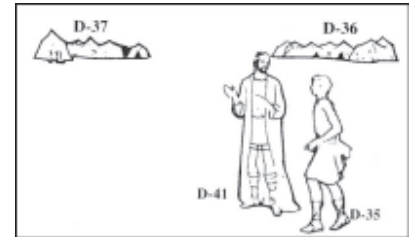
Saul could see that David really meant it. But how could a lad like David destroy this giant? David told him how.

"The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37). David knew that God would never fail him. Many times in the past, God had given him courage and strength. David could depend on God at times like this, because David had trusted God as his Saviour. He called God "my salvation" (2 Samuel 22:3). To trust is to depend on someone else to do something you can't do. Can you save yourself from the punishment your sins deserve? No, you can't. Is there someone whom you can trust, to save you? Yes, only one. Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the One. He took the punishment for sin when He was on the cross. Do you believe that He died for you and that He can save you? Trust Him to be your Saviour today. He will take away all your sin and make you right in God's sight, just as He did for David. That is the way you begin a life of trusting God. When you have trusted Him to save you, then you can depend on Him for everything, even for courage.

That is just what David did. He begged to be allowed to go and fight the giant.

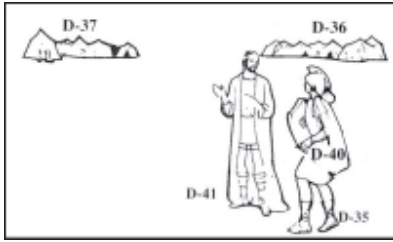
At last Saul said, "Go, and the Lord be with you." But before he allowed David to go, he brought out his own armour. "You need this," said Saul.

Flashcard 4-5



CTU

You may want to ask several children to act out this part of the story.



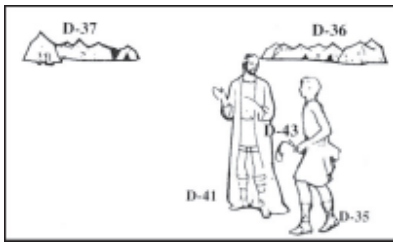
Place armour (D-40).

David was quickly dressed in Saul's heavy coat of armour. A bronze helmet was placed on his head. David fastened Saul's sword over the tunic and then tried to walk around. It was useless!

"I can't go in these," he said. "I'm not used to them. They would hold me back." He threw them all off.

Remove armour (D-40).

He would take only what he always took to the fields. He had a staff and a sling which he used for hurling stones to protect his sheep.



Place sling (D-43).

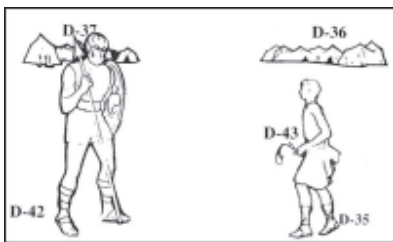
They would be enough. I wonder what Saul thought as he watched David walk away. He saw him walk past the soldiers of the army of Israel and continue down the hillside towards the valley.

Remove Saul (D-41) and David (D-35) with sling (D-43).

On the way, David paused at a little mountain stream. He chose five smooth stones and slipped them into the little lunch bag hanging at his waist.

Scene 5

The giant saw him coming, and came to meet him.



Place Goliath (D-42) and David (D-35), widely apart on the board.

From both hillsides every eye watched the two getting closer. They saw the mighty giant, covered in armour and carrying his massive spear and sword. They watched as the shepherd lad with no armour and no sword got closer to the giant. David's heart must have been beating fast; but if he was afraid, he didn't show it.

His trust was in the Lord alone. He was not depending on armour to protect him. He was not depending on his own ability. He knew he was much smaller and weaker. He knew he could never defeat the giant by himself. Do you ever feel like that, Christian boy or girl? Do you ever feel that there is something you should do, but you can't? Maybe you have never told anyone at school that you are saved. Perhaps nobody else in your class is a Christian. You're afraid that if they knew that, they may not want to play with you. Some of them might even make fun of you and laugh at you. It is very hard to tell others that you are a Christian, but God will give you the courage when you need it. You don't need to stand up in class and tell everyone that you are a Christian. God will give you suitable times to tell that you are saved. Some day when two or three of you are together, someone may use God's name as a swear word or tell stories that are nasty. You could use that as an opportunity to say very politely, "I'm sorry but I don't think it's right to talk like that. I am a Christian." It will take courage to say something like that, but God

CTS

Allow children to share examples of when they have faced "Goliaths". This will help children personally relate to the teaching.

Show card with application for the saved child: "Depend on God to give you the courage to do what is right".

will help you, if you trust Him. David always trusted God for courage and that is how he faced the giant. He totally trusted God to defeat Goliath.

Those who did not trust in God must have thought David was crazy. When Goliath saw who was coming to fight him, his face twisted in rage.

“Look at what they send to fight me,” he thought. “A little country boy.” When he saw the staff in David’s hand, he shouted, “Am I a dog that you come after me with sticks?” He cursed and swore at David. “Come here; I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the animals.”

He threatened to kill David and leave his body lying for the wolves and vultures to eat.

If you are teaching very young children, you may wish to leave out this reference, and the one in the next paragraph, to birds and animals eating bodies. You may also wish to leave out the sentence later that describes David cutting off Goliath’s head.

What a horrible, evil man! What a frightening situation for David to be in!

But David did not run away. With a clear voice, he replied, “You come against me, believing your sword and spear and shield will give you the victory. I’m not trusting in weapons. I’m trusting in the very One Whom you are defying. The Almighty God of Israel will enable me to kill you today. The birds and animals will eat your body and the bodies of your soldiers. All the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. Everyone will learn that they should trust in the Lord and not in swords and spears. This is the Lord’s battle. You are going to die.”

By this time, the huge giant was absolutely furious. I can just imagine him taking a firm grip on his spear and striding towards David. He would destroy this stupid youth who dared to talk to him like that.

Move Goliath (D-42) a little towards David (D-35).

Thump - thump - thump went his feet on the hard dusty ground. His armour rattled as he lifted his arm to hurl that awful spear.

David ran; he ran quickly. *(Pause.)* But he was not running away. He was running to meet the giant!

Move David (D-35) towards Goliath (D-42).

He took a stone from his bag and fitted it into his sling. Using all his skill he hurled that stone at the giant. It sped through the air and smashed into Goliath’s forehead right below his helmet. The giant crashed to the ground like a falling tree *(pause)* and lay still.

Replace Goliath (D-42) with figure D-44 while you say this last sentence.

David ran up, lifted Goliath’s heavy sword and cut off his head. The Philistine’s champion was dead - killed by a shepherd lad. The Philistine soldiers could not believe their eyes. They left their tents

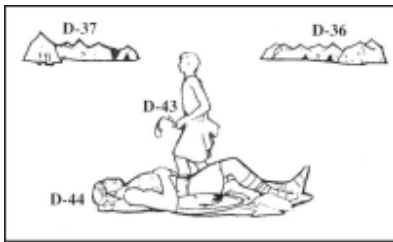
Show Goliath’s hatred and scorn in your facial expression.

Flashcard 4-6

Raise your arm in the air, swing it around and around to demonstrate David’s sling.

The Goliath visual shows him face up. The artist suggests David must have rolled Goliath onto his back in order to take his sword (which would have been covered by

Goliath's body) and cut off his head (which would have been protected by the back of his armour).



CTS

After encouraging saved children throughout the lesson to count on God for courage, help them to apply that truth during the week with a take-home challenge activity.

CTU

Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus. Refer to invitations presented in other lessons and "Steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ" (back cover) for further instruction.

Review game

Shepherd's pouch

Provide a pile of smooth stones and two paper bags - one for each team.

Ask one team a question, then the other.

If the answer is correct, the child may place a smooth stone in his team's "shepherd's pouch".

After all questions have been asked, count the stones in each pouch.

The team with the most stones wins.

and ran for home. The men of Israel were no longer afraid. They rose from their hiding places with a great shout. They chased the Philistines and killed many of them. The mighty Philistine army was defeated. David was a hero. The whole nation, it seemed, sang his praises.

But how had he done it? Simply by trusting in God. He had said to Goliath, "The battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:47). And he was right. He trusted God and God did not fail him. If you are a Christian, trust God in every difficulty. He will give you courage when you are alone. He will give you the strength you need to say "no" when you are tempted to sin. Say to the Lord, like David did, "O Lord my God, in You I put my trust" (Psalm 7:1). Be like David - keep on trusting God.

Perhaps you are not like David. You have never trusted God to save you from your sin. You can never overcome sin, but Jesus can. Jesus Christ took the punishment for sin when He died on the cross. God raised Him from the dead and now He lives forever. If you trust Him today, all your sin will be forgiven; He will save you and keep you forever. David wrote some time later, "The Lord shall ... save them, because they trust in Him" (Psalm 37:40). This can be true for you today. Will you trust God's Son, Jesus Christ as your Saviour? You can trust Him right there in the seat where you sit. Trust Him now.

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 What enemy was invading the land of Israel? (The Philistines.)
- 2 Why were the Philistines confident that they would win the war? (Because they had the giant on their side.)
- 3 How did the army of Israel feel about Goliath? (They were afraid of him.)
- 4 Why were the Israelites wrong to be afraid? (They should have been putting their trust in God.)
- 5 Why did David come to the soldiers' camp? (To bring food to his brothers.)
- 6 Why was David angry when he heard what the giant said? (Because he was defying the living God.)
- 7 How did King Saul feel about David fighting Goliath? (He thought David was too young and not trained for war.)
- 8 What did Goliath say he would do to David? (Give his body to the birds and animals to eat.)
- 9 Why was David able to conquer the mighty giant? (Because he trusted in God to give him the victory.)

10 What happened after the giant was killed? (The Philistines were defeated and David was a hero.)

Carry-over activity

Role play

Have the children act out the story.

Give each one a role - some Philistines, Goliath, some Israelite soldiers, Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Jesse, David, Saul, his armour bearer. (Girls can be chosen too for men's roles.)

Help the children to remember the events that took place and also what the lesson means to us.

Carry-over activity

Giant puzzles

Discussion: When do you need courage? What are some "giants" in your life that you are afraid of? How can God help you when you are afraid?

Have each child draw a picture of something he is afraid of on a large page. Cut the picture into five/ten pieces and exchange his "puzzle" with another child to be put back together.

Carry-over activity

Words of courage

Have children locate and discuss verses about God and being courageous - eg Proverbs 28:1, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Philippians 1:27-28, 2 Timothy 1:7 and Joshua 1:9.

Lesson 5

A friend and an enemy

Scripture

1 Samuel 18:1-16
1 Samuel 19:1-10
1 Samuel 20

Central truth

God commands His children to love one another

Application

Unsaved: The central truth chosen for this lesson has an application for the saved child. Because of the need for this truth to be thoroughly taught to the saved, we have concentrated on doing that. However, please do not neglect the unsaved children in your meeting this week. Take time in another part of the programme to have a short simple message for them.

Saved: You must love every Christian

Memory verse

Review Psalm 23:1-2

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

Or

◆ Figures: D-46, D-47, D-48, D-49, D-50, D-51, D-52, D-53, D-54, D-55, D-56, D-57, D-59 and D-60

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene and palace scene

And

◆ Other wordstrip: "You must love every Christian" (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Beginning

Jackie and Norman

CT

Progression of events

1 Jonathan and David become friends

CTS

2 Jealous Saul tries to kill David

3 Saul tells Jonathan to kill David

4 Jonathan warns David

CTS

5 Jonathan talks with Saul

6 Saul again tries to kill David

7 David looks for Jonathan

CTS

8 David and Jonathan make plans and promises

CTS

9 Saul tries to kill Jonathan

Climax

Jonathan brings news to David

Conclusion

David and Jonathan part

CTS

If your club has all girls or almost all girls, change the names to girls' names and the game to hockey. If the club is mixed it is better to appeal to the boys; the girls will still listen.

CT

Show card with central truth: "God commands His children to love one another".

Lesson

Norman and Jackie loved football.

Both boys were goal-keepers. When practice matches were played at school, they were always on opposite teams.

The time came for the annual match against the neighbouring school. Who would be chosen to play in the team? Only one of them could play. Both were good goal-keepers and both were Christians. They attended the same Good News Club.

One day before the match, the team list was posted on the school notice board. Everyone crowded round to see who was playing. Jackie squeezed through the crowd and looked at the list. The goal-keeper's name was always at the top. Oh! Norman was chosen. Jackie slipped away before anyone could see the tears in his eyes. He was very disappointed; he was jealous of Norman. "I'll never speak to Norman again," he thought.

That night at Good News Club, he learned the verse from John 15:12, where Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." He was told that God commands His children to love one another.

The next day at the game, Norman played brilliantly. Every time he made a save, Jackie wished it could have been him in goals, but he still cheered as loudly as anyone else. When the game was over, he waited for Norman to leave the field. "Well played, Norman," he said. He was learning to love others as the Bible says he should. Actually he was acting rather like a young man we read about in the Bible. His name was Jonathan.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Jonathan was a prince.

Place Jonathan (D-47).

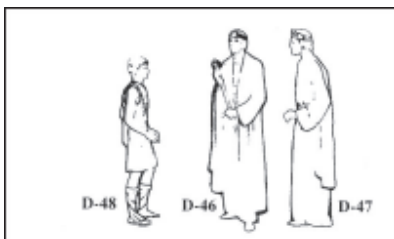
He was strong, fit and very skilful at using a bow and arrow. He was a brave warrior and a great leader. Jonathan trusted in God, just like David did. He was the oldest son of King Saul, which meant that he should have been the next king of Israel.

Place Saul (D-46).

But who was going to be the next king? Yes, David. Because Saul had sinned by disobeying God's command, Jonathan could never be king.

The Bible doesn't tell us if Jonathan knew if David would be the next king. The Bible does say however that when David killed Goliath, King Saul was very pleased with him. He invited David home to the palace.

Place David (D-48).



Jonathan heard his father's conversation with David, and knew he had found a friend. It did not matter to him that David was only a shepherd boy. He loved him very, very much. To prove it, he took his beautiful royal robe and gave it to his friend.

Place robe (D-49) on David (D-48).

He also gave David his tunic, his belt, his sword and even his favourite weapon - his bow. In those days, to do such a thing was to give the biggest honour to a person. Jonathan's gift meant, "You are the greatest friend I could ever have."

A sign of love and friendship is giving. If you love someone you want to give to that person. God wants His children to show their love to other Christians by giving to those in need. Some of the very first Christians did that. Just after the Lord Jesus went to Heaven, many people in Jerusalem were saved. They were now God's children and were, what the Bible calls, brothers and sisters in God's family. One of the first things these new Christians did was to share their money, their food and their clothes with those who had very little. Perhaps you could share too. Do you know a Christian who has no felt-tipped pens? You have lots and could give her some to colour her school work. Why should Christians give to others who love Jesus? Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). How did Jesus love you? Didn't He leave Heaven for you? Didn't He give His precious blood for you? Hasn't He given you eternal life? When you and I think of what Jesus gave for us, it helps us to give to others just as Jonathan gave to David.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place David (D-48).

David was not only going back with Saul and Jonathan to stay at the palace, but he was going to be one of the leaders of Saul's army. Everyone was delighted. On the way home from the battle with Goliath, the women of the towns on the route came out to greet the king.

Place Saul (D-46).

Goliath was dead; the Philistines had fled; the battle was over, so they danced and sang for joy. Above the sound of their musical instruments came the words,

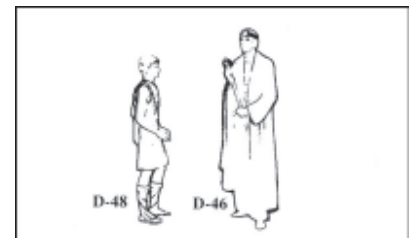
"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

They were so pleased with David for killing the giant, but their words of praise made Saul very angry. He was jealous that David was getting more praise than he. He was the king; he should get the

Flashcard 5-1

CTS

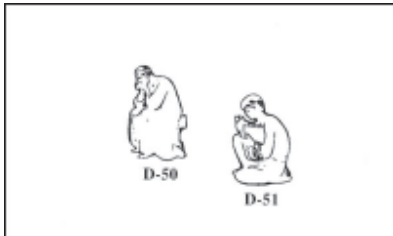
Show card with application for the saved child: "You must love every Christian".



Let children echo the woman's chant.

Write "1,000" on chalkboard or sketch pad (Saul's thousands) then write nine more 1,000s (David's ten thousands).

Speak dramatically.

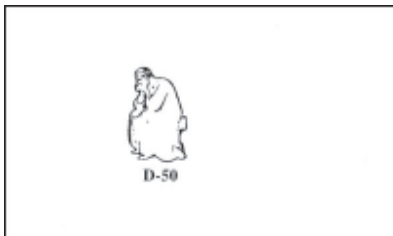
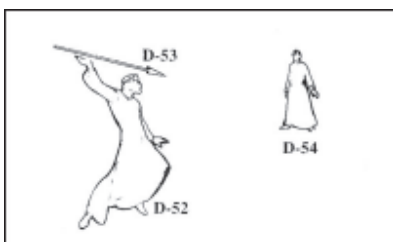


"The distressing spirit from God" (1 Samuel 18:10) - Matthew Henry's Commentary states, "If God and His grace do not rule us, sin and Satan will have possession of us. The

Flashcard 5-2

devil, by the divine permission, troubled and terrified Saul, by means of the corrupt humours of his body and passions of his mind."

1 Samuel 18:12 - Saul feared David.



Flashcard 5-3

praise. Perhaps it was then that a thought struck him. "Is David to be the next king?" He must have remembered Samuel's words, "Because you have rejected God's Word, He has rejected you as king." If what Samuel said was true, Jonathan could never be king. "Could David be the king?" he thought. Angry, jealous thoughts stayed with Saul all the way home.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Palace scene.

The next day he was in one of his evil moods again.

Place Saul (D-50).

David took his harp and began to play as he had done before.

Place David (D-51).

Perhaps Saul would be calmed by the music. But no!

Remove all figures.

Saul took hold of his spear and came at David in a rage.

Place Saul (D-52) with spear (D-53), and David (D-54).

He hurled the spear across the room to kill him (*move spear across the board*), but twice David dodged out of the way and escaped.

Remove all figures.

David must have been frightened but Saul was even more afraid.

Place Saul (D-50).

He was afraid of David, because he knew that God was with the young lad and not with him. He was probably afraid that David would kill him to take the kingdom from him. David had no intention of doing so. He could easily have killed Saul but he would not. However Saul took no chances. He sent David away from the palace. Instead of being a great leader in the army, he was made a captain of 1,000 men. Even in this job, David was very successful and all the people of the land loved him.

But Saul had another reason for sending David away. He thought, "Why should I kill him? The Philistines will do it." He even planned a situation where David would surely be killed by the Philistines. But David did not die. He won every battle.

Remove Saul (D-50).

Scene 4

Optional background: Palace scene.

This was too much for Saul.

Place Saul (D-46).

He instructed all his servants that they should kill David. He even called for his son Jonathan and told him to kill David.

Place Jonathan (D-55).

But Jonathan could not do that, even though it meant disobeying his father. He must obey God, for God commands us not to murder. How could he even think of killing his friend?

Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Instead he went out and found David to warn him of his danger.

Place Jonathan (D-55), David (D-48) and stones (D-56).

“Hide until the morning,” he said. “I’m going to speak to my father about this and I’ll tell you what I find out.”

Remove Jonathan (D-55).

As David ran to hide, he must have thought how good it was to have such a loyal, faithful friend. Such a friend does not let you down when you are in trouble. Are you that kind of friend? Would you be prepared to stand up for another Christian, when everybody else is saying unkind and untrue things about him? Would you still play with Jim, even if the rest of your friends at school wanted you to ignore him? God wants you to love other Christians, no matter what it costs you. Ask God to help you to be a faithful loyal friend like Jonathan.

Remove all figures.

Scene 6

Optional background: Palace scene.

Jonathan did as he had promised.

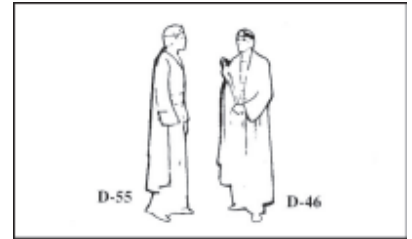
Place Jonathan (D-55) and Saul (D-46).

He reminded his father of what David had done for him, especially in killing the giant. “David has never done anything against you; he has always been kind to you. Why do you want to kill him?” asked Jonathan.

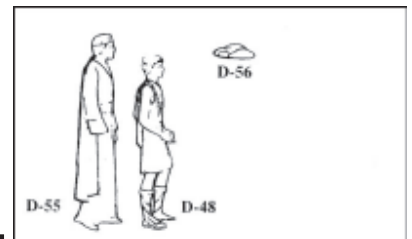
Saul listened to the words of his son, and promised before God that David would not be killed.

Remove all figures.

David was brought back to the palace. The past was forgotten - or was it? Saul did not keep his promise. Again he tried to kill David. David fled from the palace and the city because Saul sent his soldiers to kill him. David fled to Ramah where Samuel was. Saul’s soldiers followed, but even there God protected him.



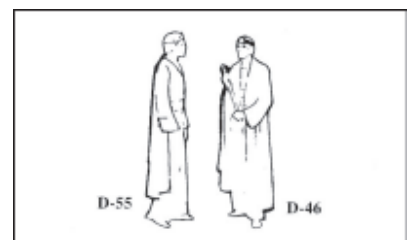
Flashcard 5-4



CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

Flashcard 5-3 (again)



Scene 7

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

By this time David was becoming very afraid.

Place David (D-48).

What could he do? Where could he go? Immediately he thought of his friend. Jonathan would help. He was sure of that. He wanted to be with Jonathan. If you love people you really want to be with them. God's children should show their love for each other by being with other Christians. Where can you spend time with other Christians?

You may wish to allow the children to make suggestions. They could suggest church, Sunday school, Good News Clubs, Scripture Union at school.

You should want to spend time with others who love the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important to meet with Christians and to be friendly with them everywhere. Do you know what will happen as you meet with them? You will find you don't have to face problems alone. Sharing your problems with other Christians can often help you. Maybe you have a problem and nobody seems to care. I want you to know that I love you and want to help you. Come to me after the meeting, or at any time, and tell me you would like to talk about your problem. I will be glad to take time to talk to you. When you have Christian friends who love you, difficult times seem easier. That is what David knew and so he hurried to Jonathan.

Place Jonathan (D-47).

"Jonathan, please tell me, what have I done? What sin am I guilty of, that your father wants to kill me?"

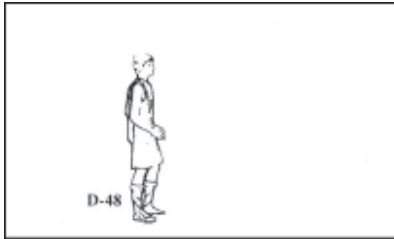
"Kill you?" exclaimed Jonathan. "You are not going to be killed. My father tells me everything he does. It's not true, David."

"But it is true," said David in a voice filled with sadness. "Your father knows that you and I are friends. He does not want you to be upset, so he has kept it secret from you. I tell you, Jonathan, there is only a step between me and death."

Jonathan could see that David was really frightened. He desperately wanted to help. "What do you want me to do?" he asked.

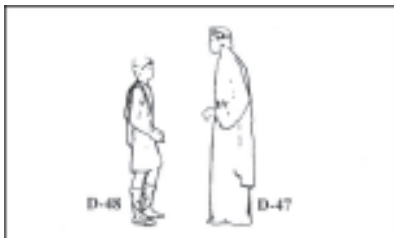
"I have a plan," said David. "Tomorrow is the start of the new moon feast and I am expected to dine with the king. Let me disappear for a couple of days. If your father asks, tell him I have gone home to Bethlehem for the annual sacrifice. This will be the sign; if he says 'very well', then I am safe, but if he gets angry, we will know he wants to kill me. As for you, Jonathan, remember our promises before God. Be kind to me. If I am guilty, kill me yourself. Why hand me over to your father?"

Maybe this was an opportunity for Jonathan. This friendship was getting him into trouble with his father and things could easily get



CTS

Flashcard 5-4 (again)



worse. Besides, it seems that Jonathan now knew that David would be king in his place. If he killed David now, he could be the next king.

“Never!” he almost shouted. “Never.”

Jonathan had made a promise and he would never break it. God’s children should show love for each other by never breaking their promises. If you promised Joanne that you would go to her school sports day, you should keep that promise, even if your favourite TV programme was on at the same time. True friends do everything possible to keep promises. That is one reason why Jonathan would never ever harm David. The other was that he really loved David. He could not bear to see David harmed in any way.

“Listen,” he said. “If I had the least idea that my father wanted to kill you, wouldn’t I tell you? Come on, let’s make our plans.”

Replace Jonathan (D-47) with Jonathan (D-55).

As they walked together in the fields, Jonathan promised that whatever happened he would let David know. He asked David to promise to always show kindness to him and his family. That day they renewed their promises to each other. It was difficult to know what might happen in the future. Would they ever be able to meet again? It might even be dangerous for Jonathan to bring the news to David. But Jonathan had a plan.

“The day after tomorrow, in the evening, wait behind that pile of big stones,” said Jonathan. “I will shoot three arrows near there as if I am aiming at a target. Then I will send a boy to collect the arrows. Now here is the secret. If I call to him, ‘The arrows are on this side of you,’ you will know it is safe to come out. But if I shout to the lad, ‘The arrows are beyond you,’ then you must hurry away. It will be what the Lord has planned for you - the Lord is sending you away.”

So the two friends separated. “Remember what we talked about,” said Jonathan as they parted. “The Lord is witness to our promise forever.” David disappeared.

Remove all figures.

Scene 8

Optional background: Palace scene.

At the new moon feast, the king sat down to eat.

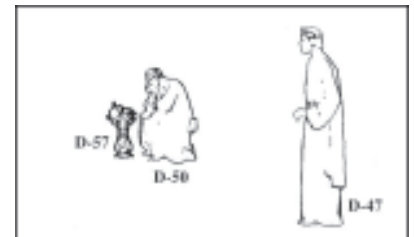
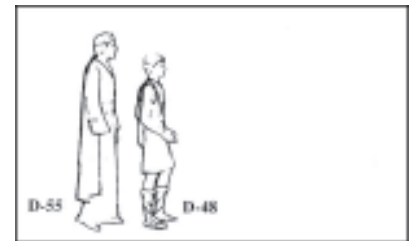
Place Saul (D-50) and table (D-57).

Jonathan was there; Abner, the army captain was there; but David’s seat was empty. Saul noticed it, but said nothing for the first day.

Place Jonathan (D-47).

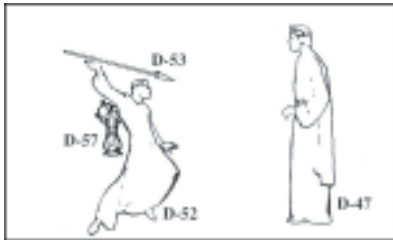
On the second day of the feast Saul said to his son, “Why has David not come yesterday and today?”

CTS



Flashcard 5-5

We don't know if David went to Bethlehem, though he had time to be there and back again.



Jonathan told him about the feast in Bethlehem.

Saul was furious, furious with Jonathan.

“Do you not know that as long as he lives, you will never be king?” he yelled. “Now go and bring him here for he must die!”

“Why? What has he done?” asked Jonathan.

That did it!

Remove Saul (D-50). Place Saul (D-52) and spear (D-53).

Saul was so angry that he lifted his spear and hurled it at his son - but Jonathan escaped.

Remove Jonathan (D-47) and then remove all other figures.

Scene 9

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Jonathan was very angry.

Place Jonathan (D-47).

He now knew for sure that his father wanted to kill David. He left the feast. He ate nothing all day. He was very upset at the way his father treated David.

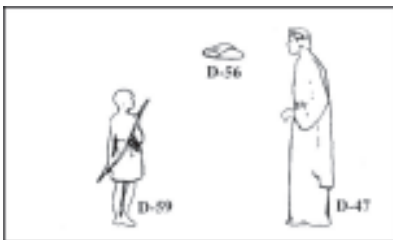
The next morning he went to the field near the pile of stones where David was to be hidden.

Place stones (D-56).

A boy was with him.

Place boy (D-59).

Flashcard 5-6



Jonathan fitted an arrow to his bow and shot it. David watched from his hideout. He must have seen the boy running. Perhaps he caught a glimpse of the arrow streaking through the air. Where did it land? Then he heard the words.

“Isn't the arrow beyond you? Hurry and bring it back.”

It was Jonathan's message to say that David must escape. David watched the boy. He ran back to Jonathan and then hurried away with the weapon towards the palace.

Remove boy (D-59) and Jonathan (D-47).

When everything was quiet, David slipped out from behind the stones and bowed down at Jonathan's feet. Three times he bowed with his face to the ground. People often bowed to others in Bible times, but not three times like David. Then he rose and both men held each other and wept, because of their great sadness at parting.

Place David and Jonathan (D-60).

They had only a few moments left together. Then, with a final reminder of the promises to each other, they separated.



Remove David and Jonathan (D-60).

For ever they and their descendants would show kindness to each other. Would they ever see each other again?

What a sad day for two very dear friends. But they would always be friends, even when apart. Are you a friend to other Christians? If you are a Christian, ask the Lord to help you to always be a faithful, loyal and true friend. Ask Him to help you to love every Christian. Some Christians will make wonderful close friends for you; maybe even as close as David and Jonathan. Others will never be your closest friends, but you should still show love to them as well. Remember they are in God's family too; they are your brothers and sisters in God's family. Remember what the Lord Jesus has done for you. He loved you and gave Himself for you. His command is "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Sometimes it can be difficult to obey that command. Let us pray and ask God to help us.

"Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank You that You love us so much that You took our punishment on the cross. Help all of us who are Christians to love other Christians. Forgive us for sometimes not loving as we should and teach us to love in the way that You love. Amen."

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 What was the name of the prince, King Saul's eldest son? (Jonathan.)
- 2 Where did David go after the battle was won? (Back to the palace with King Saul and Jonathan.)
- 3 What did the women sing that made King Saul jealous? (Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands.)
- 4 What did David do to try to make Saul happy? (Played his harp.)
- 5 Because Saul was jealous of David, what did he try to do? (Kill him with his spear.)
- 6 Why was Saul afraid of David as well as being jealous of him? (He knew God was with him.)
- 7 What promise did Jonathan ask David to make? (That he would always show kindness to him and his family.)
- 8 Why was Saul furious with Jonathan when David did not come to the feast? (Because he said that while David lived Jonathan could never be king.)
- 9 What did Jonathan use to show David he had to run for his life? (He shot 3 arrows and said to the young boy, "Is not the arrow beyond you?")
- 10 Of whose love does Jonathan's love remind us? (The Lord Jesus.)

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

Review game

Friendship game

David and Jonathan were best friends and were not jealous of each other. Jonathan was happy that David would be king even though it should have been his own privilege.

In a similar way, this game encourages children to be happy for the success of the other team.

Divide the group into two teams.

Ask one team a question, then the other.

When a child answers correctly, the other team gets one hundred points.

The team with the most points after all questions have been asked is the winner.

Carry-over activity

Be a friend

Ask the children to depict what it means to be a friend to someone.

Give a blank page and a pencil to each child. They are to draw a picture of someone helping another person who is in need.

The drawing can be simple - even using stick figures if they wish.

Carry-over activity

Discussion/role play: Examples of jealousy

Discuss other examples of jealousy in the Bible - eg the elder brother of the younger brother (Luke 15:11-32); Martha of Mary (Luke 10:38-42); Cain of Abel (Genesis 4:3-8).

What did each person's jealousy lead him to do? What should each have done?

Discuss and role play the children's own struggles with jealousy.

Carry-over activity

Contentment activity

Provide several magazines, scissors, construction paper and glue sticks.

Tell the children to look through the magazines and cut out pictures of things they already have for which they can be thankful - eg toys, family, friends, food, etc.

They can glue the pictures to the paper to form collages to hang on their doors to look at whenever they feel jealous of what someone else has.

Lesson 6

David spares his enemy

Scripture

1 Samuel 21:1 - 22:2
1 Samuel 22:17-19
1 Samuel 23:1 - 24:22
1 Samuel 26:1-25

Central truth

God commands His children to show mercy to others

Application

Unsaved: You can't obey this command until you know God's mercy to you

Saved: You must forgive those who hate you or hurt you

Memory verse

"He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" Psalm 23:3

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6

Or

◆ Figures: D-50, D-61, D-62, D-63, D-64, D-65, D-66, D-67, D-68, D-69, D-70, D-71, D-72, D-73, D-74, D-75, D-76, D-77, D-78, D-79 and D-80

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Plain flannel for all scenes - black would be best

And

◆ Using the drawing provided, make yourself a cave opening (see page 69)

◆ A piece of fabric

Lesson outline

Beginning

Hiding

Progression of events

- 1 David on the run- Nob and Adullam - Keilah - Jonathan's visit **CT**
- 2 David hides in a cave - Saul enters
- 3 David cuts Saul's robe **CTS**
- 4 David speaks to Saul
- 5 Saul appears to repent **CTU**
- 6 David finds Saul sleeping
- 7 David refuses to kill Saul **CTS**

Climax

Saul says, "I will never again try to harm you"

Conclusion

Saul and David go separate ways

CTS, CTU

Lesson

Have you ever hidden from someone?

Allow just two or three children to tell you why and where they hid.

Most times when we hide, it is because we are playing a game or perhaps we hide to surprise someone.

Scene 1

Optional background: Plain background. Move David (D-61) from place to place.

“I must hide,” thought David.

Place David (D-61).

But it was not fun and games hiding. He was frightened. Saul hated him and was determined to kill him. David had no friends who could help and no weapons to use. He ran to Nob, a town where only the priests and their families lived.

Place city (D-62).

Sadly he told lies to the priest about why he was there. Ahimelech the priest thought he had been sent by Saul and so was kind to him. He gave David food and a sword that had once belonged to Goliath.

It was not long before David saw one of Saul's servants spying on him. He must leave. He hurried to Gath.

Place city (D-63) and move David (D-61).

Gath was in the land of the Philistines. It was a foolish place for David to go to. Once more he was recognised.

“How can I escape?” he asked himself.

Then he had a plan. He pretended to be mad. He acted more like a wild animal than a man. The Philistines were glad to let him go, but where could he go now?

Wisely he decided to return to his own country. He stayed away from the towns and hid in a cave, called the cave of Adullam.

Place cave (D-64) and move David (D-61).

Somehow his family heard where he was and came to join him.

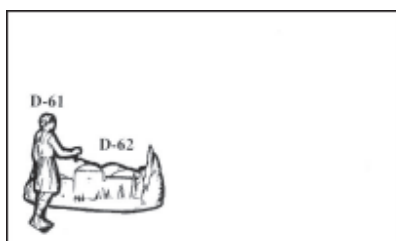
Place family (D-65).

Then others came along and offered to help him. Soon he had a group of 400 men. He began to train them as soldiers, so that they could help him to escape from Saul. He had no plans to attack Saul or to kill him. He wanted to show mercy to Saul; he wanted to be kind to Saul, even though Saul did not deserve kindness. Why did Saul not deserve mercy from David?

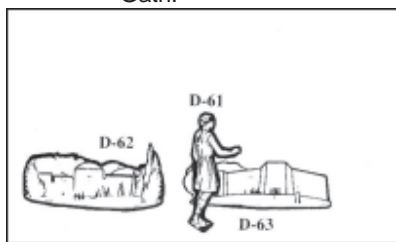
Allow the children to answer.

That is right. He tried to kill David. He almost killed his son Jonathan for helping David. He even killed 85 priests from Nob because

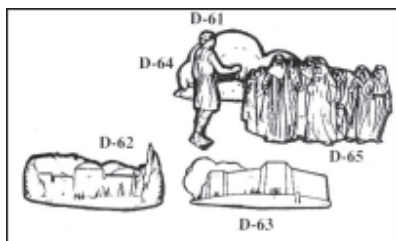
Designate a section of your room as a cave, letting preschoolers play this part.



Hold up a map and help a child locate Nob and Gath.



Flashcard 6-1



they had helped David. Saul had no mercy, but David had mercy on Saul. He knew that God's children should always show mercy to others, and so he kept well out of Saul's way.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Plain background.

After some time, news came to David that the Philistines were attacking Keilah. Keilah was a town with a wall around it.

Place Keilah (D-66).

It was just a few kilometres from their cave. What should David do? Should he help the town? His men had never fought a battle before and they were afraid of the Philistine army. David did a wise thing. He prayed and God told him to go and fight.

Place David (D-61) and men (D-65).

God promised to deliver the Philistines into David's hands, and that is exactly what happened. The Philistines were destroyed and Keilah was saved. David and his men went into the town to live.

Remove David (D-61) and men (D-65).

Somebody told Saul that David was living in Keilah. "Good," said Saul, "he is trapped inside a town with walls and gates." Saul planned to surround them but David heard of the plan. "What should I do?" he thought. "Maybe I will be safe here. Surely the people of Keilah will not turn us over to Saul after what we have done for them." Once again David prayed to God for advice. God told him that the people would indeed hand him over to Saul. David and his men scattered before Saul got anywhere near Keilah.

Remove Keilah (D-66).

They roamed the countryside together. By now the group had grown to 600 men.

Scene 3

Optional background: Plain background. Place cave (D-64).

Day after day, Saul searched for David, but God kept him safe. It must have been a very difficult life. They lived in the wilderness and hid in caves and holes in the ground. They dodged behind rocks and bushes and anything else they could find.

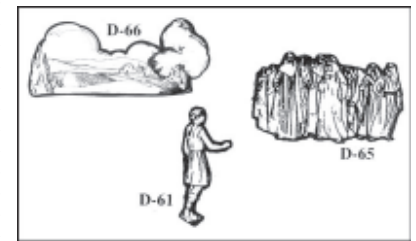
Place rocks (D-67) and bushes (D-68 and D-69).

But one day, David had a wonderful surprise. Who do you think found his hiding place? It was Jonathan, his best friend.

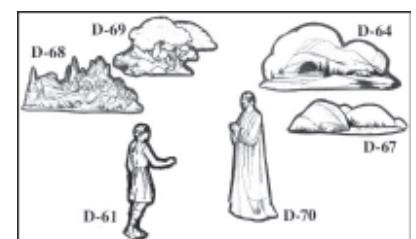
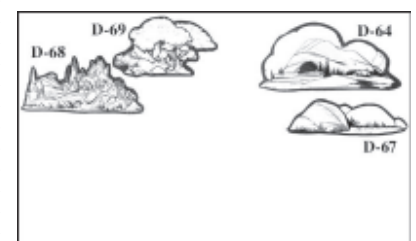
Place Jonathan (D-70) with David (D-61).

"Don't be afraid," he told David. "My father will never be able to kill you. You will be our king and I will serve next to you. Now even my

CT



Write "600" on a chalkboard or sketch pad (David's men).



Write four more 600s (Saul's army = 3,000) beside the 600 you wrote earlier.



father knows that this is true.” Jonathan encouraged David to keep trusting in God. The two young friends renewed the promises they had made. They promised again to show kindness and mercy to each other’s family forever. Then Jonathan had to leave and return home.

Remove Jonathan (D-70) and David (D-61).

David continued to look for hiding places from Saul. He needed somewhere safe, for Saul now had 3,000 specially chosen men to help him, and they were coming very close.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: Plain black flannel, with cave opening. (Or you may teach this scene without visuals, using a black cloth to cover the board to represent the darkness of the cave.)

David found what he thought was an ideal place to hide.

Place David (D-61).

It was a deep dark cave.

Place the cave opening or pull down your black cover.

Quickly and quietly David and his men crawled away into the darkness at the back of the cave.

Remove David (D-61).

They were sure they could not be seen, but they could see the entrance. Perhaps Saul’s army would pass by. But no!

“Someone is coming.”

They could hear the footsteps coming closer; then they could see the man standing in the bright sunlight at the entrance to the cave.

Place Saul (D-73).

It was Saul! He was coming in! Would he find them? Then he stopped. He was not searching for anyone; he simply wanted to go to the toilet.

Remove Saul (D-73).

As he went to a dark corner Saul had no idea that David and his men were behind him. David’s men thought it was too good an opportunity to miss.

“David, go and kill him,” they whispered. “God has brought him here for you.”

David drew out a sharp knife and silently crawled up behind the king. With a quick flash of the blade, he cut through the end of Saul’s robe. Saul did not see or hear a thing. He didn’t know a piece of his robe was cut off. David crept back to his men. They were amazed. David had not killed Saul!

“Let us do it,” they said in whispers that were almost too loud.

Flashcard 6-3



Why did David cut off the corner of Saul’s robe? Let children share.

Show children a fabric piece representing part of Saul’s robe. The children will enjoy this hands-on experience. It would also be an excellent activity for young children.

Whisper the words of David’s men.

David could hardly keep them back. They found it hard to believe that anyone could show mercy to Saul. But David did, despite all the wicked things the king had done.

Why was he merciful? He was merciful, because God had been merciful to him. David had had time to think as he hid in the cave of Adullam. He had told lies at Nob; he had acted very foolishly at Gath; he had displeased God many, many times. God had not punished him the way he deserved to be punished. Indeed when David was sorry for his sin, God forgave him. God had been very, very merciful to David. That was why David was merciful to Saul. If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, then you should act like David did. Nobody is trying to kill you, but maybe at school there is someone who likes to get you into trouble with the teacher. She tells lies about you copying answers or scatters your belongings around so that you get accused of being untidy. You would love to pay her back, wouldn't you? You try to think of something you could do. Stop! Don't act like she does. Do what God wants and show her mercy, even though she doesn't deserve kindness. Sometime take the opportunity to tell her that you are a Christian and that you forgive her. The Bible tells us to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Doing that is being merciful like David. In fact David felt that he was not merciful enough. "I should not even have cut his robe," he whispered to his men.

Shhh! Saul was moving again. He was leaving the cave. David rose to follow him.

Remove cave entrance and black flannel. (Or if you used only a black cloth to represent the darkness, remove it.) Place David (D-61).

Outside the cave, David called out, "My lord, the king."

Place Saul (D-73).

Saul was startled at hearing his name. He turned round and saw a man bowing to the ground before him.

David was saying, "Why do you believe I want to harm you? I could have killed you in the cave; my men wanted me to do it but I said, 'No, I will not do it because he is the one that God has anointed to be our king.' Look Saul," David went on, "I have a piece of your robe in my hand." David showed Saul the piece of cloth he had cut off.

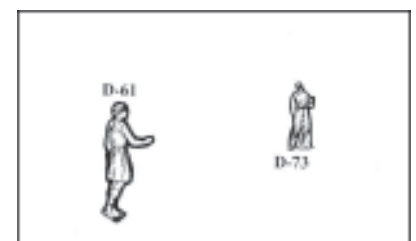
Place cloth (D-74) in David's hand.

Saul could hardly believe it.

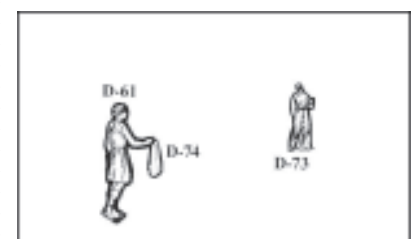
"Is that your voice, David?" he called, and then he began to cry. "You are a better man than I am," blurted Saul. "You have treated me well and I have treated you badly." Saul knew that David had

CTS

Show card with central truth: "God commands His children to show mercy to others".



Flashcard 6-4



been really kind to him. "You could have killed me and you did not. May the Lord be good to you for your mercy to me. I know you will be king of Israel. Promise me that you will not kill my family when you become king."

(That is what new kings often did when they took over another king's country.)

David was very happy to make such a promise to Saul.

Remove all figures.

It seemed as if Saul was sorry for his sin.

Place Saul (D-50).

Maybe for a short time Saul really did mean to be merciful to David, but he quickly changed. He searched again to find and kill him. If he had been truly sorry, he would not have done that.

Saul had not turned from his sinful way to God's way. He continued to hate David. You too can be like Saul, if you have never turned to God. Is there someone you find easier to hate than to love? Maybe a boy who is jealous of you because you are often best at school work. He is always rude to you and calls you names. Is it easy to show mercy to him? No, it isn't. You want to call him names or even to punish him in some way but God says we should always show mercy and be kind to those who are against us. How can you do that? You can't by yourself, for your sinful heart wants you to do the opposite of what God wants. Your sin makes you want to pay back wrong with wrong instead of showing mercy.

There was a man in the Bible who once had a heart just like yours. He hated certain people, and beat them and put them in prison. Some were even killed. He hated them because they were Christians. He showed them no mercy until one day he met God's Son, Jesus Christ. He realised that day that his way was wrong. He turned from his sin to go God's way, and immediately he was forgiven. God had mercy on him. From that day onward he was completely changed. He loved Christians; he was kind and merciful, even to those who beat him and put him in prison. What a change. You too can be changed like that today. You can have mercy from God because of what Jesus Christ did. He took the punishment sinners deserve so that all who call upon God can have mercy. God is "abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Psalm 86:5). There is mercy for everyone who asks for it. Will you ask God to have mercy on you today? Call on Him to forgive your sin. Then He will help you to show mercy to others. He helped David to show mercy to Saul. Saul, however, was not prepared to show mercy to David.

Remove Saul (D-50).



CTU

Share with children a time when you showed kindness to someone who mistreated you. Be sure to tell how that person responded. Discuss other possible outcomes and explain that the reason to show kindness is not to change the other person, but to love the Lord.

Scene 5

Optional background: Plain background.

Saul soon found out where David was hiding. David's men were on guard, though, and were able to tell exactly where Saul had camped. David went to see for himself. Peering out from behind the rocks, he saw the whole camp.

Place camp (D-75) and Saul (D-71).

Saul lay sleeping with his whole army around him. Abner, the commander of his army, and every single soldier were fast asleep! No sentries were awake. Nothing moved. Not a sound could be heard except the breathing of 3,000 sleeping men.

“Who will come with me?” asked David.

Abishai volunteered. In the darkness of the night, the two men made their way to the enemy camp.

Place David (D-61) and Abishai (D-78), on the left of the board.

What would happen if one soldier wakened up? David and Abishai carefully made their way through the camp; they went right to the centre.

As you say this last sentence, move David and Abishai across the board a little.

There was Saul. Near his head lay his water jar.

Place grass (D-77) and water jar (D-76).

Sticking in the ground beside it was a spear.

Place spear (D-72).

David and Abishai stepped right up to where Saul lay.

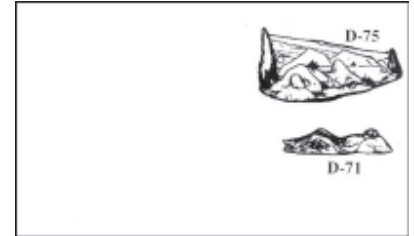
Move David (D-61) and Abishai (D-78).

Still no-one moved. Not one eye opened. Abishai leaned close to David's ear and said, “God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Let me pin him to the ground with a spear.” Now, here was David's opportunity to be rid of Saul. David had spared Saul's life once and look at what Saul had done. Saul had shown no mercy to David; Saul deserved to die. David whispered, “Don't kill him. I cannot touch the Lord's anointed. The Lord will see that he dies, but I will not kill him. Take the spear and water jar and let's get out of here.”

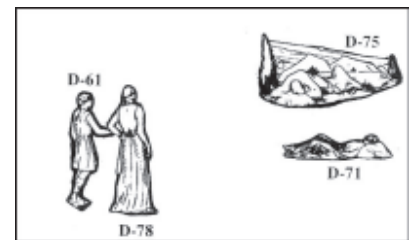
Move David (D-61) and Abishai (D-78) with water jar (D-76) and spear (D-72) back across the board.

As they moved cautiously through the sleeping army, Abishai must have marvelled at David. Again David had shown mercy to Saul. He had not deserved mercy in the cave and he certainly didn't deserve it again. Why was David merciful?

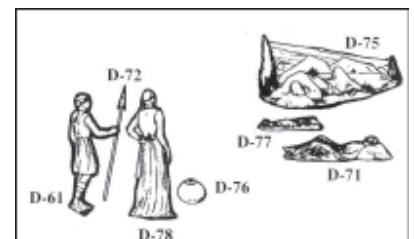
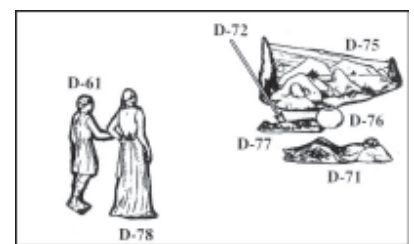
Allow the children to answer. Look for the answer that says he was merciful because God had been merciful to him.



Tiptoe with preschoolers.

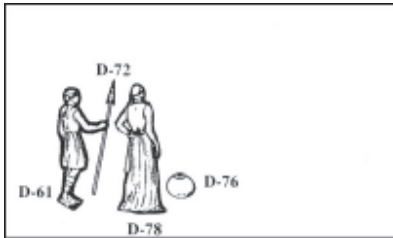


Flashcard 6-5



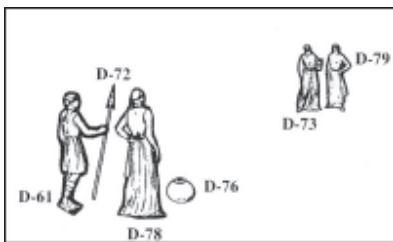
CTS

Show card with central truth.



Call out, with hand to side of mouth, "Abner!"

Dramatise Abner's alarm - open and blink eyes suddenly; shake; stand tall; turn head side to side, looking around room.

Flashcard 6-6

Speak Saul's words with emotion.

David did what God asks all His children to do - to be merciful and to keep on being merciful. Maybe you are a Christian who was merciful to a boy who was always bullying you. You forgave him, but he is still doing it, and now you feel it is time to pay him back. That is wrong, for one day Peter asked the Lord Jesus, "How many times should I forgive one who sins against me? Up to seven times?" "No," Jesus replied, "not seven times, but seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22). Jesus meant that we must forgive and forgive again without counting. You can never forgive too much. As the Lord Jesus hung in agony on the cross, He even prayed that His Father would forgive those who had crucified Him. Jesus forgave you too. He took the terrible punishment for your sin when He was on the cross. You deserved the punishment, but He suffered for you. When He saved you, He forgave all your sin; He was merciful to you and He keeps on being merciful. Every time you have sinned since becoming a Christian, and confessed that sin, He has forgiven you. Remembering all that will help you to show the kind of mercy David showed to Saul. He could easily have killed Saul but the king was still alive and still asleep.

At last David and Abishai were out of the camp.

Remove Saul (D-71), camp (D-75) and grass (D-77).

Not one soldier had moved. God had kept them asleep. Quickly, the two men climbed to the top of a hill overlooking the camp. When they were at a safe distance, David looked down and shouted, "Abner, Abner." The voice rang across the valley.

Abner stood up.

Place Abner (D-79).

"Who is shouting?" he called.

"Why have you not guarded the king?" David asked. "Someone came to kill him and you failed to protect him. Where is the king's water jar and spear?"

A puzzled, sleepy Abner looked round. Beside him, Saul was rising to see what was going on.

Place Saul (D-73).

The spear and water jar were gone. Looking back he saw David had them. David had been beside the king! He could have killed him!

"Is that your voice, David?" called Saul.

"Yes, my lord the king," came the answer.

"Why do you continue to come after me? What wrong have I done?" As Saul listened to David speaking, he realised again that he had sinned. "I have been very foolish," he cried. "I have sinned. You have spared my life. I will never again try to harm you."

“Here is your spear,” shouted David. “Send one of your young men to fetch it. I showed you mercy; may the Lord show mercy to me and deliver me from trouble.”

Remove all figures.

And that prayer of David's was answered by God. Saul went home and never saw David again. David and his men stayed together. In Good News Club over the next few weeks we will see how merciful God was to him. God rewards mercy with mercy. Jesus promised us “Blessed (or happy) are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

Scene 6

Optional background: Plain background. Place children (D-80).

If you are a Christian, show mercy to others, even to those who hate you. Remember how kind and merciful God has been to you. Ask Him to help you to be merciful to others.

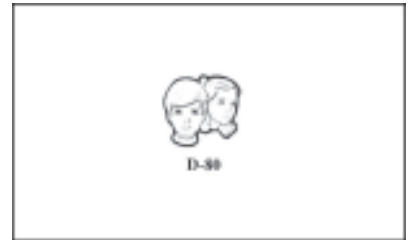
Maybe you are more like Saul. You find it hard to show mercy. You always want to do what you think is best for you. You need to ask God to be merciful to you. You are a sinner and you deserve punishment from God, but God will forgive all who turn to Him for mercy. A sinful man in the Bible once prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:13). He went home that day totally forgiven and changed, and right in God's sight. You can go home like him today, if you will trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for you. Why don't you pray like this?

“Dear God, in Your mercy You sent Your Son to die for our sins. In Your mercy You are willing to save those who trust Jesus Christ for salvation. Help me to trust Him today, so that I can know Your forgiveness and my life can be changed.”

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 Give the name of the town where the priests lived and to which David fled. (Nob.)
- 2 What did Ahimelech the priest give to David? (Food and a sword.)
- 3 Who came to join David in the cave of Adullam? (His family and 400 men.)
- 4 What did David do before he went to fight the Philistines who were attacking Keilah? (He prayed.)
- 5 Who found David's hiding place and encouraged him to keep trusting in God? (Jonathan.)
- 6 What did David do to Saul when he came into the dark cave? (He cut off a piece of his robe.)



CTS

CTU

Be sure to always give opportunity for unsaved children to receive Christ. Make no exceptions.

Review game

Travel quest

Seat the children on the floor in a circle.

Have the child seated closest to you stand behind the next child.

Ask a question.

The two then call out an answer (one answer per child). The one who says the correct answer first stands behind the third child in the circle.

These two call out the answer to the next question and the winner stands behind the fourth child in the circle.

If neither child knows the correct answer, both sit down and play continues with the next two children in the circle.

Play continues around the circle until all questions have been asked.

- 7 Why was David merciful to Saul? (Because God had been merciful to him.)
- 8 What did David and Abishai take when Saul and his army lay asleep? (The water jar and spear of Saul.)
- 9 What did Abishai want to do to Saul? (Kill him.)
- 10 Jesus said we are to forgive the person who sins against us. How many times are we to do that? (70 times 7.)

Carry-over activity

Sword-drill

Have a “sword-drill” with the children looking up the following verses which speak about God’s mercy to us and how we should be merciful to others. You may wish to add other verses.

(Help the children with the meaning of the verses.)

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Luke 10:37 “And he said, ‘He who showed mercy on him.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

Carry-over activity

Love your enemies

Ask the children what they would do in the situations below.

Have them act out the responses that follow the main teaching of the lesson: God wants you to be good even to those who mistreat you.

- ◆ A good friend trips and falls on the playground.
- ◆ A boy who just shoved you and took your swing falls off the swing and lies groaning on the ground.
- ◆ A girl in your class who just called you a name is sad because she left her packed lunch at home.

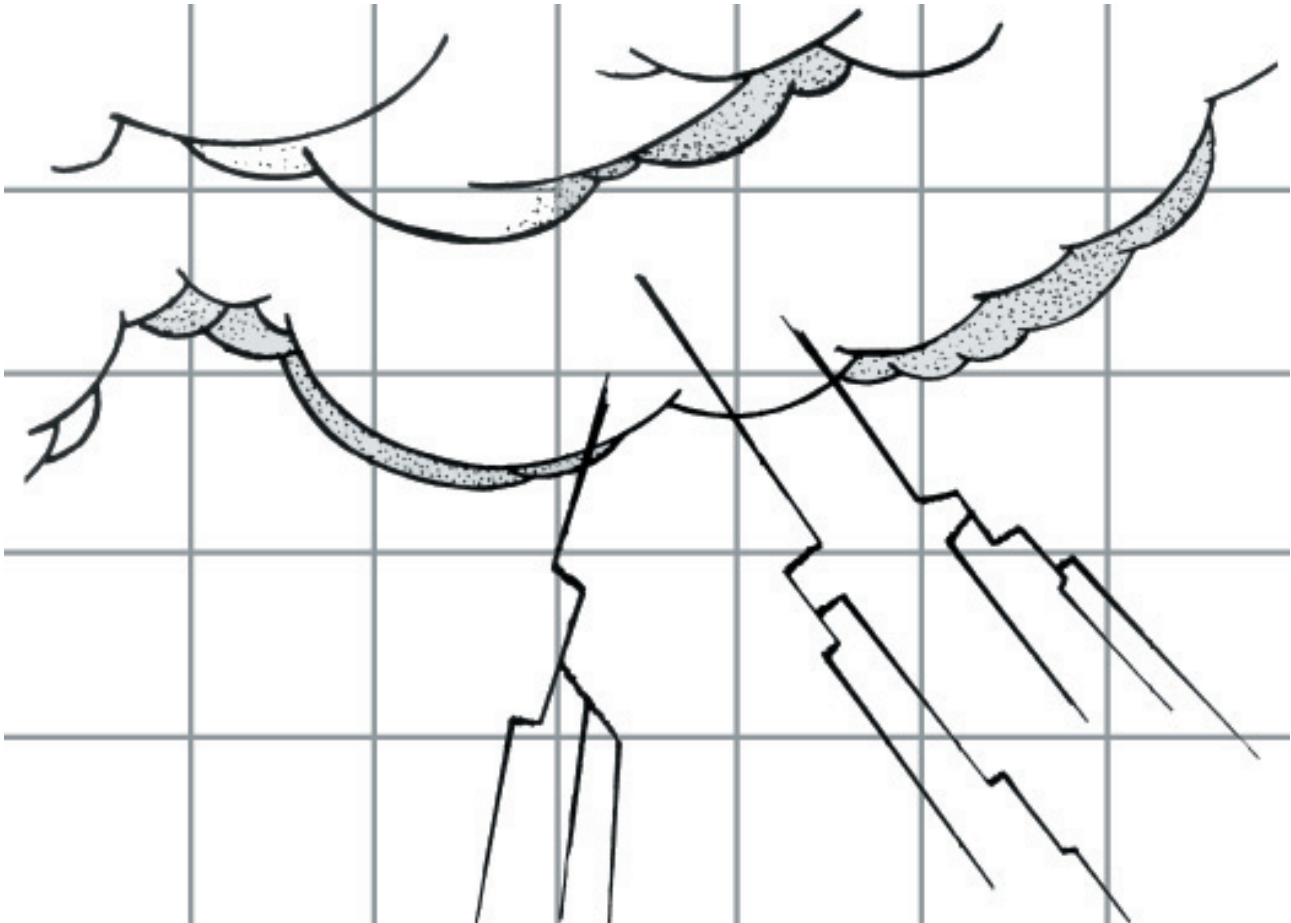
Carry-over activity

Love your enemies placemats

Have each child draw a picture to illustrate one of the above good responses.

Have them take their pictures home to use as placemats for dinner that evening. (Alternatively you may wish to laminate the pictures during the week and return them to the children at the next club.)

Overlay pattern - storm clouds (Lesson 2)

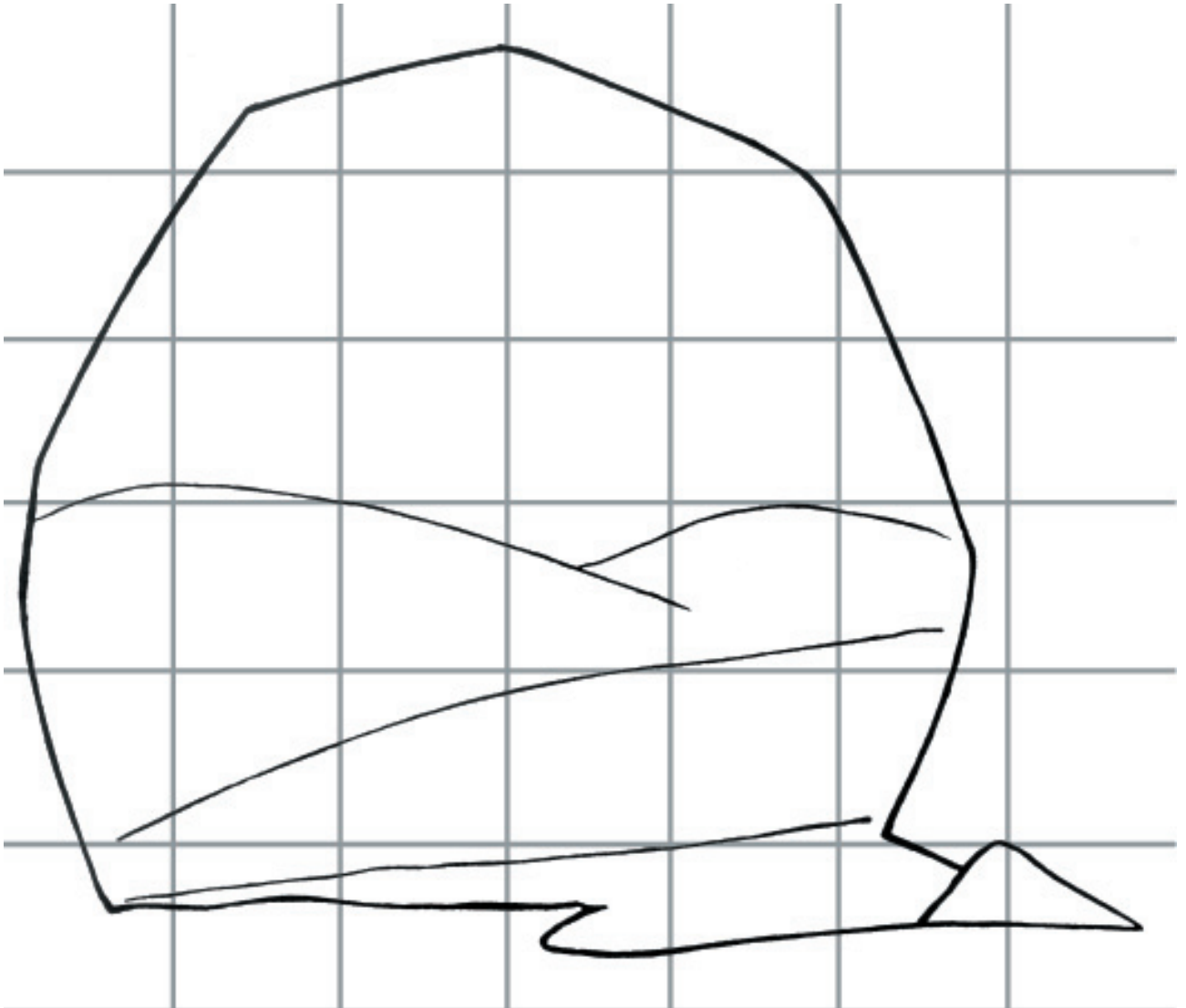


Use flannel or construction paper to make the storm clouds. You will need a piece 63 x 27 cm. Using light pencil lines, divide it into 9 cm squares, i.e. 7 squares across by 3 squares down. Following the squares in the diagram above, copy the cloud shapes. Do not copy the lightning streaks yet. Rub out the pencil lines and colour to look like thunder clouds. Make the shaded areas darker but beware of making everything too dark.

To make the lightning flashes, use scraps of flocked paper coloured yellow. Make two or three flashes similar in shape and length to those illustrated. The most difficult part is making them thin enough to look realistic yet thick enough to handle easily. Don't attempt to make them as thin as the drawing.

Overlay pattern - cave opening

(Lesson 6)



Cave opening can be made on flannel, but you might find it simpler to make it on white construction paper. You will need paper (or flannel) 42 cm x 30 cm. With pencil lines, divide it into 6 cm squares like the pattern above. Using these squares as a guide, copy the cave mouth on your squared paper using black ink. Remove the pencil lines and colour the scenery as you wish. Cut out the finished shape. If you have used paper, back it with flannel or scraps of flocked paper.

Note that if you are using paper, figure 73 will need to be placed at the cave entrance in scene 4a using something adhesive like Bluetack. To be effective, the cave opening needs to be placed on a black flannel cloth.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).