

DAVID'S REIGN TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

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Introduction

The lessons in the second volume on the life of David are probably not as well known as some like “David and Goliath” or “the friendship of David and Jonathan” that were included in the first volume, “David, a Man After God’s Heart”. Though not as familiar, these new lessons have much to teach both the saved and the unsaved. God wants **us** to learn important lessons from the victories as well as the failures of David.

There are eight lessons in this series. Lessons 1b and 3b deal frankly with the themes of the occult and immorality. If you have younger children, you might omit these two lessons, or at least adapt the language to their age group. If you have older children, these could be important themes to deal with!

We trust that God will bless these lessons to you and through you to the children in your class. Children love a hero to follow. It is our prayer that David will become a hero for them, an example by how he learned to trust in the Lord when things were going well and also when it was difficult.

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 each 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 the 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 name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary.

Teach unsaved children the message of salvation

Because of their content, these lessons are more easily applied to saved children than to the unsaved. However, there are applications for unsaved children in the lessons. Where these come, take time to explain the Gospel prayerfully and as clearly as possible. Include also in other parts of the programme basic facts of the Gospel, though it is impossible to teach all its truths effectively in any one lesson.

Sing and explain choruses like “Good News, Good News, Christ died for me”, or “My heart was dark with sin until the Saviour came in” or similar ones. Likewise, you could choose evangelistic verses for the children to memorise, like: Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23.

Here are some of the fundamental truths that you will be seeking to present to the unsaved children:

God

Teach the children about God, His attributes and His works; that He is a God of holiness, justice, love and power, Who is 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 perfect life, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension and His coming again.

Sin

Teach the children that they are by nature and practice sinners and rebels against a holy God; and that 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 the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross; that they must 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. 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.

Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for each lesson; back it with pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson. The reasons for having a review are:

- 1 To find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 To help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 To provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important. It also allows the teacher to see how much they have understood.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
David among the Philistines 1 Samuel 27:1-7 1 Samuel 28:1-2 1 Samuel 29:1-11 1 Samuel 30:1-19	Beware of bad company	Unsaved: Don't let bad company keep you from trusting Christ Saved: Don't let bad company prevent you from living for Christ	Review Psalm 23:1-3 Or "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful" Psalm 1:1 Or If you have not previously taught lessons 1-6 of "David, A Man After God's Heart", you can start now to teach Psalm 23:1
Saul consults a medium 1 Samuel 28:1-25 1 Samuel 31:1-7 2 Samuel 1:12,17-27	Listening to evil spirits is dangerous	Unsaved: Don't listen to evil spirits - that will keep you from hearing God's voice Saved: Don't listen to evil spirits - that displeases God	"Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them ..." Leviticus 19:31
David becomes king according to God's Word 2 Samuel 2:1-4,8-10 2 Samuel 3:1,6-12, 17-39 2 Samuel 4:5-7 2 Samuel 5:1-12 2 Samuel 7:1-13	God's Word never fails	Unsaved: God promises to save you if you call on Him Saved: Trust every promise of God	"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" Psalm 23:4 Or "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" 1 Peter 5:6
The Ark of the Covenant captured and brought back 1 Samuel 4:2-11 1 Samuel 5:1-6:21 2 Samuel 6:1-19 Numbers 4:5,15,20	God is holy	Unsaved: Repent of your sin which keeps you away from Him Saved: You must be holy too	Review verse from previous week - either Psalm 23:4 or 1 Peter 5:6 Or teach "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord" Isaiah 55:8

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
David and Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1-27 2 Samuel 12:1-24	You shall not commit adultery	Unsaved and saved: God wants you to live a clean life Turn away from impurity that separates you from God	For this extra lesson, you could leave Psalm 23 and have the children memorise 1 Timothy 5:22b "Do not ... share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure."
David and Mephibosheth 2 Samuel 4:4 2 Samuel 9:1-13 2 Samuel 16:1-4 2 Samuel 19:15,24-30	God is kind to sinners	Unsaved: He will make you His child, if you trust in Jesus Christ Saved: Be thankful to God for His kindness to you	"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over" Psalm 23:5 Or "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" Ephesians 4:32
Absalom's rebellion against David 2 Samuel 14:25-26 2 Samuel 15:1-37 2 Samuel 16:15-20 2 Samuel 17:1-22 2 Samuel 18:1-33 2 Samuel 19:15	Do not be a rebel like Absalom	Unsaved: Rebellion will bring suffering and separation from God Saved: You show that you are saved, by being obedient	Review verse from previous week - Psalm 23:5 or Ephesians 4:32 Or teach "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?" Psalm 27:1
Solomon succeeds David as king 1 Chronicles 22:2-23:5 2 Samuel 7:11b-29 1 Kings 1:33,34 1 Kings 2:1-4 1 Chronicles 29:28 Luke 1:26-33 Luke 11:31 Zechariah 14:9 Revelation 11:15	Jesus Christ is King	Unsaved: One day you will have to bow before Him as your King Saved: Obey Him	"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" Psalm 23:6 Or "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" Psalm 16:11

Lesson 1a

David among the Philistines

Scripture for teachers

1 Samuel 27:1-7
1 Samuel 28:1-2
1 Samuel 29:1-11
1 Samuel 30:1-19

Central truth

Beware of bad company

Application

Unsaved: Don't let bad company keep you from trusting Christ

Saved: Don't let bad company prevent you from living for Christ

Memory verse

Review Psalm 23:1-3

Or

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful” Psalm 1:1

Or

If you have not previously taught lessons 1-6 of “David, A Man After God's Heart”, you can start now to teach Psalm 23:1

Let the children say the verses as you show your visuals. Let the children explain the meaning so that you can find out how much they have understood.

Visual aids

♦ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

Or

♦ Figures: D-81, D-82, D-83, D-84, D-89, D-90, D-91 and D-92

♦ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene and palace scene

♦ Optional: If you have the lessons “David, A Man After God's Heart”, you may wish to use figures D-38a and D-65

And

♦ Wordstrips: “Beware of bad company” (central truth) and “Don't let bad company prevent you from living for Christ” (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Gwen and Rich

CT

Progression of events

- 1 David in despair flees to Philistine territory
- 2 He and his people are given the city of Ziklag **CTS**
- 3 The Philistines prepare to attack Israel **CTS**
- 4 The Philistines object to the presence of David and his men
- 5 David leaves the Philistine army
- 6 He returns to Ziklag, looted by the Amalekites
- 7 His followers want to stone him **CTU**

Climax

David repents and turns to God

CTS

Conclusion

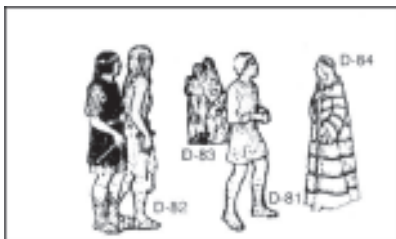
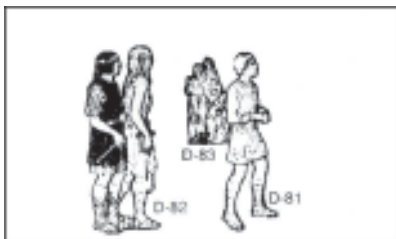
He pursues the Amalekites and recovers all

CTS, CTU

Background: Several years had passed since David was anointed by the prophet, Samuel, to be king over Israel. Because King Saul was jealous of David and had tried to kill him, David had gone into hiding. In the final lesson of the series "David - A Man After God's Heart", David had spared King Saul's life though he had had opportunities to harm him. David now continues to wait for God's right time for him to be made king over all Israel.

CT

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

**Flashcard 1-1**

Lesson

Gwen and Rich had a little puppy called Rex. He was very obedient and well behaved. For example, at meal times he always waited until the family had eaten before coming to see if there were any scraps for him. He did not bark or beg or try to get up on the chairs at meal times. But Gwen and Rich and their parents were going on holiday by plane and they could not take Rex with them. Some neighbours, who also had a dog, agreed to keep him.

After their holiday Gwen and Rich were looking forward to seeing Rex again. But what a surprise they got! He had become so noisy and rough and disobedient. They could hardly believe it was the same dog! Do you know why his behaviour had become so bad? Because he stayed two weeks with another dog who was rough and loud and disobedient! The bad company had taught him bad manners!

That happens to you too, boys and girls sometimes, doesn't it? If you get into bad company, you get in trouble.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place David (D-81).

It even happened to David, the man whom God had said would become the king of Israel.

Do you remember David and how he had to flee from Saul, the wicked king? Saul tried to kill him and was hunting for him. Do you remember how God helped David and protected him and even enabled him to be kind to Saul?

But one day David became very afraid. He stopped believing the promise that God had made that one day he would be the king. He forgot how wonderfully God was protecting him and he said to himself, "Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul" (1 Samuel 27:1). And he made a very foolish decision.

Place soldiers (D-82) and families (D-83). Optional figures (D-38a) and (D-65) from "David, A Man After God's Heart" could also be used.

He decided to go to live among the Philistines. These were the cruel enemies of the Israelites, the people of God. And to make matters worse he decided to take his 600 soldiers and their families with him. So one day they slipped quietly away from the land of Israel and crossed into the land of the Philistines.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Palace scene.

David and his men went to one of the Philistine kings called Achish.

Place Achish (D-84).

Achish must have been very glad to receive this great warrior and his people. They would really help him in his battles. So Achish gave David a city to live in called Ziklag.

What a foolish move David had made! Imagine a man of God among the enemies of God's people! Many, many times God warns us in the Bible to keep away from bad company (Proverbs 1:10-11, 14-15 and Ephesians 5:6-7,11). If you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, be very careful about whom you choose as your friends. If you go around with people who do not care about God, use bad language, disobey their parents or teacher, you may find yourself doing the same things. And, like David, you may lead others into bad company too. The longer you stay close friends with them, the harder it gets to break from them, and the harder it will be to live for Jesus Christ.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Palace scene. Place David (D-81), his soldiers (D-82), Achish (D-84) and Philistine commanders (D-89 and D-90).

One day the Philistines decided to go to war. Can you guess whom they were going to fight? Against the Israelites, the people of God and the people to whom David and his men belonged! Poor David! What would he do now?

Before he could think how to avoid fighting against his own people, King Achish came to him and said, "David, you and your men are to go to war with me. I am appointing you as my special bodyguards" (1 Samuel 28:1-2).

And so the army set off on a long march to battle against the Israelites.

David had a real problem. God is so wise in warning us about bad company - it can bring big, big problems.

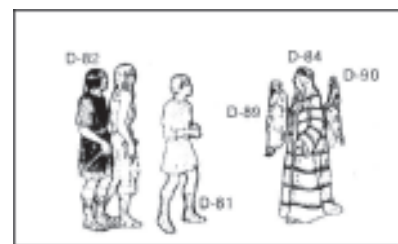
Sarah loved the Lord Jesus Christ, but she was very friendly with the girl next door who was quite wild. They and some others often met in their "den". There was talking there which sometimes made Sarah feel uncomfortable. Once or twice they read magazines which Sarah knew Jesus Christ would not like, but she did not say anything. She found herself spending hardly any time reading the Bible, or talking to God, and more and more time in her den. Her love for the Lord Jesus became weaker, and she certainly never talked about Him in the den. Beware of bad company - it will take you away from God.

When the Philistine leaders saw David in the army with Achish, they said to him, "We can't have this man and his soldiers in our army! Don't you remember this is the great warrior about whom the people sang, 'Saul slew his thousands, but David has slain his

Help the children to locate Ziklag on a map.

CTS

Show card with central truth: "Beware of bad company".



Flashcard 1-4

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with central truth again.

ten thousands'? He is the soldier who killed our Philistine giant, Goliath! This man might turn against us in the battle and start fighting for the Israelites, his own people. We can't take the risk. Send him home!"

Achish wanted to have these brave soldiers on his side, but the Philistine leaders insisted and David and his men were sent back to Ziklag.

Remove Achish (D-84) and Philistine commanders (D-89 and D-90).

Scene 4

As David and his men got near Ziklag, they saw smoke hanging over the city. What was happening? As they came close they saw that smoke was rising from the ruins of the city which had been their home!

Place ruins (D-91).

While they had been away, the Amalekites had invaded that part of the country. They had burned the city, carried away all their belongings and their animals. And worst of all, the women and children were nowhere to be seen. They must have been all killed or carried away by the Amalekites. David and his soldiers were horror stricken. We read in the Bible that they cried and cried until they had no more tears (1 Samuel 30:4).

And things got even worse for David!

His soldiers said to themselves, "All this is David's fault! He brought us here to this land of the Philistines. He took us on this march with Achish and left no men behind to guard the city. These Amalekites have found our city undefended and have killed or taken away our families and robbed us of all our belongings!" They were so sad and angry that they said, "Let's stone David!"

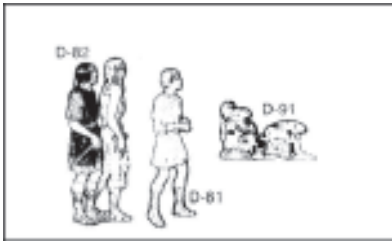
They did not actually do it, but they felt like it. What a terrible situation David was in! It could not be much worse, could it?

All because David went into enemy territory.

Beware of bad company! Perhaps you have never trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour and one of the things which stops you coming to Him is fear of what your friends will say. If they keep you from coming to Jesus Christ, you're in bad company. But perhaps you are in bad company of another kind - lies, disobedience, cheating, jealousy and hatred. Is that the company you keep? If you go on in that company, it will keep you away from God forever.

God hates the sin that keeps you away from Him. But He loves you! He loves you so much that He sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus to die on the cross for your sins. You deserved to be punished, but He was punished for you. And now God can forgive you.

Flashcard 1-5



Children will feel the action as they role-play David's men (crying, accusing David, threatening to stone him) and David responding by praying to God.

CTU

Have little men cut out, each one with these names printed on - lies, disobedience, cheating, jealousy and hatred.

You must turn from your sin, for it can never be where God is. You must turn to Jesus Christ, trusting Him to take away your sin and to save you from it.

David had reached one of the saddest moments of his life. He was far from home among a heathen people. His family was missing or dead, his city was burnt and his own followers were talking of stoning him. On this very dark day David did something very important. He repented and turned back to God (1 Samuel 30:6).

Replace David (D-81) with David kneeling (D-92).

To whom else could he go for help? God was ready to listen to him. David told God that he was sorry that he had stopped trusting in Him to protect him and that he had gone to live in the land where the people were the enemies of God's people. Living there with these ungodly people had got him into so much trouble and had brought real sadness into his life.

Has God been speaking to you about the bad company you've been keeping? Of course He does not mean that you should never be friendly with people who are not Christians. If you were not, how would you ever bring them to Jesus Christ? But God wants you to be careful about the friendships you have. Ask God about the boys and girls around you.

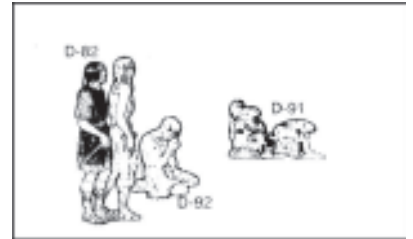
Do some use bad language - do they swear and curse?

Are some bad mannered, rude and disobedient?

Are some rebellious at school? Stay away from them! Or you will become like them. If God is speaking to you about a wrong friendship, be like David and tell Him that you are sorry about it. Ask Him to give you good friends.

When you are older, you will begin to think about a special friend to "go out" with - you will be choosing a boyfriend or girlfriend. Be careful you choose one who loves the Lord Jesus too. If you start going out with a person who is not a true Christian, then he (or she) can keep you back terribly in your Christian life.

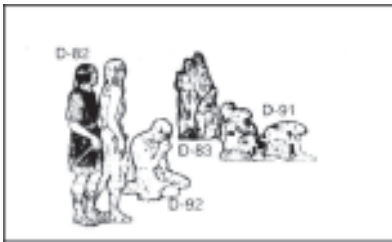
One time a girl called Mabel who loved the Lord, started to go out with a boy called Mike. Mabel knew that Mike wasn't a Christian but she really liked him and they became more and more friendly. Mabel knew that she should not be going out with an unsaved boy, but she kept telling herself that she would witness to Mike, and he would become a Christian. Mabel and Mike fell in love. Mike asked Mabel to marry him and she said that she would, as she was sure that one day Mike would be saved. Things did not work out like that! Mike just did not want to know about God. He would not go to church and he wanted Mabel to go to the pub and other places which are not really helpful to Christians. Gradually Mabel stopped going to church. "I can read my Bible and pray at home," she thought.



CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Don't let bad company prevent you from living for Christ".

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



Flashcard 1-6

CTS, CTU

Show card with central truth again.

Eventually that stopped too! Mike did not become a Christian; instead Mabel's love for the Lord became very, very weak. If only she had listened to God's warnings about bad company!

Be very careful to choose good friends - above all, when you are older and you are thinking of that special boyfriend or girlfriend whom you may want to marry one day.

David now asked God, "Should I go after the Amalekites and try to rescue the wives and children if they are still alive?"

God answered, "Yes, pursue them, for you will surely overtake them and recover everything" (1 Samuel 30:8).

That message from God must really have encouraged David. He knew that their families were still living and that they would be able to get them back.

They set off in pursuit of the Amalekites and God guided them to the place where their enemies were camped. They were having a great feast. They had not expected David and his men to return so quickly from the war. And there were all the wives and children.

Place family (D-83).

David's soldiers prepared for battle. They were going to fight for their wives and homes. So they fought hard and long (a day and a half, without stopping). God gave them a wonderful victory and they were able to defeat the enemy and take back their loved ones.

The families must have been so happy that they were together again and the anxious, dangerous days were over. Very soon David was able to leave the Philistine land altogether. I am sure that he was very glad to do so. That decision to live with people who didn't love God had brought him nothing but unhappiness and difficulties.

Remember today's warning from God - beware of bad company! If you love the Lord Jesus, be careful about your friendships. If you are not saved, don't let fear of your friends keep you from Him. Leave those other "friends," wrong things that you are holding on to like lies, cheating or whatever it is. Come and trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of your friends may laugh at you, they may stop being your friends, but when you trust Jesus Christ to save you, He will be your Friend forever.

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 What was the wrong decision that David made at the beginning of our story (last week)? (He went to live in the land of the Philistines.)
- 2 Why did he go there? (He was afraid and he had stopped trusting in God's protection.)

- 3 What does God want you and me to learn from David's mistake? (The answer is in the words I put on the board! Beware of bad company.)
- 4 Why should we be aware of bad company? (It prevents Christians living for Christ.)
- 5 Can you remember the name of the Philistine king or the name of the city he gave to David? (King Achish; city Ziklag.)
- 6 Achish asked David to do something very wrong. What was it? (To fight against the Israelites, God's people.)
- 7 He did not have to fight against his own people, but what did he find when he returned to Ziklag? (That some enemies had burned the city, taken away all their families and belongings.)
- 8 What did David's men talk of doing to him when they saw what had happened? (Stoning him.)
- 9 At that difficult moment David did a very wise thing. What was it? (Turned back to God and talked to Him.)
- 10 After David had turned back to God, what promise was he given? (That he would recover everything.)
- 11 Sarah got into trouble in the house next door. What should she have done instead of doing what you heard in the story? (As she knew what the girls did next door, she could have decided not to go there to play. Or she could have said, "I'll come to play, but if you start reading those bad magazines or telling those bad stories, I'll have to leave.")

Carry-over activity

Role play

Have the children act out one or both of these sketches.

After the first sketch, you could discuss with the children how Sarah should have reacted in the house next door, or how she could have chosen better company. After the second sketch, ask the children what John should have said, when his friends invited him to throw stones.

(a) Sarah (the story is on page 9).

- Scene 1 The girl next door invites Sarah (who is saved) to the "den".
- Scene 2 In the "den" - reading magazines that they should not read, shouting, insulting each other.
- Scene 3 Sarah going to bed too late, too tired, out of sorts, and with no desire to read her Bible or pray.

(b) John - who would like to trust Jesus, but bad company keeps him from doing so

Scene 1 John is in the Good News Club®. (The part of the “teacher” could be taken by you, the real teacher, or by a child.)

Scene 2 John goes back to his house and is playing with friends who are “bad company” - rough and loud. He tells them he likes to go to the Good News Club and hear about Jesus, and would like to take Him as his Saviour. They laugh and make fun of him and invite him to throw stones at a tree in an old man’s garden.

Scene 3 John goes off with his friends and gets into their bad ways.

Carry-over activity for older children

Sword drill

Have a “sword drill” based on the verses from Proverbs and Ephesians (given on page 9).

The children have to look up the verses and the one who first finds the quotation reads it, and is awarded a point. He also has to make a brief comment on the verse he reads.

The person with most points wins the competition.

Lesson 1b

Saul consults a medium

Scripture for teachers

- 1 Samuel 28:1-25
- 1 Samuel 31:1-7
- 2 Samuel 1:12,17-27

Central truth

Listening to evil spirits is dangerous

Application

Unsaved: Don't listen to evil spirits - that will keep you from hearing God's voice

Saved: Don't listen to evil spirits - that displeases God

Memory verse

"Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them ..."
Leviticus 19:31

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-2, 1-3 and 2-1

Or

- ◆ Figures: D-81, D-82, D-85, D-86, D-87, D-88 and D-93
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene

And

- ◆ Optional: You could cut pictures of two children (about nine years old) from a magazine to use when talking about Darlene and Nial
- ◆ Wordstrips: "Listening to evil spirits is dangerous" (central truth) and "Don't listen to evil spirits - that displeases God" (application for the saved child)

Note to teachers

Since this is rather a special lesson on the dangers of the occult, it is suggested that you leave the learning of Psalm 23 for this week, and that the children learn the verse from Leviticus. If your children are very young or are not exposed to the occult (don't assume this - they may know more about it than we think!) you could omit this lesson.

Keep in mind that the practice of witchcraft, seeking voices from the dead through mediums, fortune telling by tarot cards, Ouija boards etc is growing alarmingly. The children we teach need to be told that God warns us very clearly in His Word to have nothing to do with these practices.

Lesson outline

Introduction

Story of Darlene and Nial

CT, CTU

Progression of events

- 1 Saul is afraid of the Philistine army
- 2 He asks God for advice
- 3 God will not answer him because of Saul's disobedience **CTU**
- 4 Saul consults with a medium **CTU**
- 5 She puts him in touch with Samuel
- 6 Samuel foretells that Israel will be defeated **CTS**
- 7 Israel defeated

Climax

Saul, Jonathan and his sons are killed

Conclusion

David, on hearing this news, mourns

CTS, CTU

Lesson

You might like to use a picture of two children, about nine years old, cut out of a magazine.

Nial and Darlene burst into the kitchen where mum was making pancakes for supper. They both looked a bit frightened. Mother looked up quickly when she saw the strange look on their faces.

“What kept you so late?” she asked. “I was expecting you home quite a long time ago.”

The two children looked at each other guiltily and then Nial said, “We went to a sort of party at Marie’s house. Several of the kids were there, but Marie’s parents weren’t home yet. We did some strange things.”

“What like?” asked mother, really concerned now.

“Well,” answered Darlene, “we sat around a table and held hands. Marie told us we could ask some difficult questions and that something would answer the questions - it had to be a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer. If the answer was ‘yes’ there would be a knock on the table. If the answer was ‘no’ there would be two knocks.”

“But who knocked on the table?” asked mum.

“We don’t know, Mum,” answered Nial very quietly. “We had to put out the light, sit very quietly and concentrate hard. It was really spooky. It could not have been one of us because we were all holding hands. Marie asked, ‘Will I always live here?’ and there were two loud knocks. Then she asked would she live in some other country and there was one loud knock. After that we felt really scared and we told her that we had to go.”

The two children looked at mum’s face and saw that she had pressed her lips firmly together and was looking serious.

“I am so glad that you two came away from there,” she said. “I don’t want you to do that ever again. You did not know what was happening, but it could have been an evil spirit that was making those knocks on the table.”

“Evil spirits!” exclaimed the two children opening their eyes very wide in surprise.

“Yes, children. There are evil spirits that we cannot see and we must be very careful not to have anything to do with them, nor to ask them to give us messages.”

King Saul did. Remember him? Let me tell you about it. But just before I do, I want to tell you something. You may be here today without the Lord Jesus in your life, or maybe you have even got mixed up with evil spirits. If you want the Lord Jesus to save you from your sin and if you do not know exactly what to do, I am here to help you. Just come and sit in the front row after the other children

CT
Show card with central truth: “Listening to evil spirits is dangerous”.

CTU

have left. Then I will know that you want me to come to show you from the Bible what to do.

After David had left to live in the land of the Philistines, do you remember how they were planning to go to war against the Israelites, God's people?

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

When Saul received the news that thousands of Philistine troops were moving up to fight with him and his army, he was very afraid. The Bible says, "When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly" (1 Samuel 28:5).

Place Saul (D-85) and his army (D-86).

Why do you think he trembled so much? Saul had lived in disobedience to God. Now he wanted to know what would happen in the battle, but God would not tell him. So often God had spoken to him in the past, but he had not listened nor obeyed. Now God had no further messages for him. So Saul decided to do something very strange and very wrong. He knew that it displeased God, but he went ahead anyway. Is it any wonder that God was not giving him any new commands?

Maybe you wonder sometimes why the Bible seems dull to you and God does not speak to you through it. Is it because, like Saul, you don't listen to what He says to you? You must turn from that sin and tell God that you are ready to listen to Him and obey Him.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Saul decided to try and get a message from a dead person! He thought of the prophet Samuel who was dead by now. While Samuel was alive, he had given Saul messages from God, but Saul had not often obeyed them. Now he thought that Samuel, though he was dead, could somehow tell him what to do in the battle. So he sent his servants to look for a fortune teller or a medium who could bring Samuel back to speak to him.

His servants told him where a woman lived who could do this. Saul at once disguised himself so that she would not know who the person was who was coming to ask her to do this wicked thing. And then he went to this woman.

Place medium (D-87) and Saul (D-88).

At first she was afraid to do what Saul asked her, but he persuaded her to.

Flashcard 1-2

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



CTU

Fortune teller - one who professes to tell what will happen in the future.



Flashcard 1-3

“Who do you want to speak to then?” asked the woman.

“Samuel,” he replied.

After a moment she told him that she saw an old man coming up out of the ground and that he had a mantle or shawl over his head.

“That’s Samuel all right,” thought Saul.

CT

God tells us very clearly in the Bible that we are not to have anything to do with people who try to get messages from the dead. Very often they do have strange powers, but these powers do not come from God, they come from evil spirits. A person who tries to get dead people to give messages is called a medium or a witch. Not the kind of “witch” that you see in cartoons riding up in the air on a broomstick. But there are real witches who get their power from the devil. They may look just like anybody else, but when they talk about voices they hear from the dead, they are working for Satan. The voices are not from the dead person, but often from an evil spirit. You should never have anything to do with that kind of thing.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

God tells us in Leviticus 19:31 that if we turn to mediums we will be defiled (made unclean) by them.

At this point you could teach this verse, or do so at the end of the story.

Show card with central truth: “Listening to evil spirits is dangerous”.

So if someone invites you to have your fortune told and they are going to use tarot cards or Ouija boards; or if they tell you that they get answers to questions that will happen in the future by someone knocking on the table - stay right away from these things. They are dangerous.

CTU

If you are not a child of God, if you have not asked Christ to be your Saviour yet, don’t ever listen to mediums or spirits or fortune tellers, who would keep you from hearing God’s voice. God speaks to **us** through the Bible and that is the voice you must listen to. God tells you to turn from all wrong things and to come to Him so that He can forgive you and make you clean. Mediums will lead you deep into sin and many problems, but God will make you clean.

Do you know how He can make you clean? There was only one way possible - that was through the death of the Lord Jesus, God’s beloved Son. He left His home in Heaven to come down to this world where He lived for over thirty years. He never did anything wrong. He always pleased His Heavenly Father in His words, His thoughts and His actions. Then one day He offered to take the punishment that you and I deserve for the wrong things that we have done. That punishment was death. The Lord Jesus died for us, nailed to a cross. He suffered, not for His own sins, but for yours. Because He died for you, now God can forgive you. He invites you to turn away from the sins that He hates. Come to Him and ask Him to make you clean and to give you His life. Listen to His loving voice and come to Him today.

When Saul saw the strange figure whose head was covered, he was sure it was Samuel and he explained, "I am so frightened of the Philistine army and I want you to tell me what I should do."

A hoarse old voice replied, "I do have a message for you. I am going to tell you three very unpleasant things:

"First, you are going to lose your throne because of your disobedience to God. David will be king after you. You already know that.

"Second, the Philistines are going to defeat you and your army.

"Third, tomorrow, you and your sons will be killed in battle."

When Saul heard this terrible news, he fell to the ground and lay there trembling, afraid and with no strength to move. After a long time his servants and the woman helped him up. He had a meal and went out into the dark night.

The night was dark, but Saul was in far greater darkness. He was far away from God Who is the light. That was why he was in darkness. Christian boys and girls, don't ever do what Saul did. Don't fool around with spirits or mediums or fortune tellers or any people who claim to be able to give you messages from another world. And don't look at magazines or books that tell you about magic or wizards or spells, or anything of that kind. If you do, you will displease the Lord who has done so much for you and you will get yourself into serious trouble. You will be walking in darkness, a long way from your Lord, as Saul was.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place Saul (D-85) and his army (D-86).

The next day, as Saul went out with his soldiers to fight against the Philistines, his heart must have been filled with fear and dread. Would he really be defeated?

Well, the battle raged and the Philistines began to win. Some archers with their bows took aim at Saul and wounded him badly with their arrows. He knew he could not recover from these terrible wounds and there on the battlefield he took his life with his own sword.

On the same day Jonathan was killed and two other princes and many, many other soldiers. It was a day of sadness and defeat for the whole land of Israel.

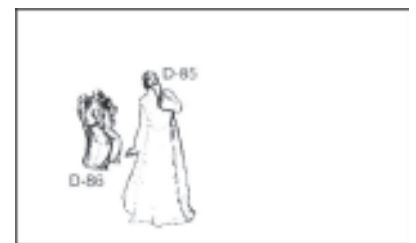
Why did Saul and Jonathan die that day? Because the voice in the medium's house said so? Of course not! It was because of Saul's constant disobedience to God, that God Himself allowed the Philistines to defeat Saul and the Israelite army.

Remove all figures.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Don't listen to evil spirits - that displeases God".

Preschoolers can pretend to be marching soldiers.



Help the children to locate Ziklag on a map.

This scene could be acted out by a child or helper.

Flashcard 2-1



Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

After the battle a messenger started out on the long journey to give the news to David. David was still at Ziklag and he must have been wondering, "How has the battle gone between Achish and the other Philistine commanders against Saul and Jonathan and the armies of Israel?"

Then they saw a man running towards them. He must be a messenger with news.

Place soldiers (D-82), David (D-81) and messenger (D-93).

He was still panting for breath as David anxiously asked him, "How did the battle go?" (2 Samuel 1:4).

The young runner answered, "The Israelite army has been defeated, and both Saul and Jonathan have been killed. Here is the crown that I took from Saul's head and the bracelet that I took from his arm. This is proof that he is dead."

I wonder what that messenger expected David to do? Would he shout, "Great! That cruel king is dead! Now I can be king. He hunted me for years, but now he is dead!" No, David tore his clothes as a sign of his great sorrow, and wept and mourned and fasted (did not eat) in his sadness at the death of both Saul and Jonathan. What a lovely forgiving spirit! Do you behave like that if someone who has done you harm or been nasty to you gets into trouble? Do you feel sorry for him?

That's the way David acted and that's the way the Lord would have you to act too. Then David wrote a beautiful psalm in remembrance of Saul and Jonathan his dear friend, but in the psalm he spoke well of both of them, not just of Jonathan, his friend. He wrote,

"Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives,
And in their death they were not divided;
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions"
(2 Samuel 1:23).

But it was a sad ending for King Saul. He did many wicked things and he ended up consulting a medium instead of God. Will you take warning from his experience? Don't make contact with mediums or people who work with evil spirits. If you are a Christian it will grieve the Lord and hold you back in your spiritual life. If you are not saved yet, listen only to the voice of God as He says, "Him who comes to me, I will not cast out." Come to Him today. He will not turn you away!

Remove all figures.

CTS

CTU

Review questions

- 1 In the story I told you at the beginning, what had Nial and Darlene been doing? (Asking questions in a dark room and hearing knocks as answers.)
- 2 What explanation did their mother give for the knocks in that dark room? (That it was the work of evil spirits.)
- 3 Why did Saul want to hear Samuel? (God would no longer speak to him because of his disobedience and he wanted to know what to do in the battle.)
- 4 He went to see a medium. What is a medium? (A person who tries to get messages from dead people or from the spirit world.)
- 5 What did the voice say to Saul? There were three things. (That he would lose his throne. That Israel would be defeated by the Philistines. That Saul and Jonathan would be killed in the battle.)
- 6 Can you say today's verse by heart? ("Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them ..." Leviticus 19:31.)
- 7 How did Saul die? (He was wounded by arrows and then fell on his sword.)
- 8 How did David react when he heard of Saul and Jonathan's death? (He tore his clothes, mourned and fasted in sorrow.)
- 9 What can we learn for ourselves from his reaction to the death of his enemy? (We should not be glad when something unpleasant happens to someone who has done **us** harm.)
- 10 What were the important words that I put up on the board? (God does not want you to listen to messages from evil spirits.)
- 11 Why is it dangerous to seek information from places or people that might be in touch with evil spirits? (Because they are the enemies of God; or God wants us to get answers from His Word.)
- 12 What should you do if a friend invited you to a séance or to use a Ouija board? (Say "no" and tell them why. Quote Leviticus 19:31 to them.)

Review game

Rally the troops

Divide the group into teams.

Ask one team a question, then the other team.

(The team may huddle and decide on the answer, or each child may think on his own. Try to call on a different child each time, but be sensitive to individual needs. Some children may not want to be called on; others may hesitate to raise their hands but would like you to call on them.)

Provide one bowl for each team, plus a supply of small objects (toy soldiers, pebbles, pennies) to represent soldiers.

When a child answers a question correctly, he may place a "soldier" in his team's bowl. (As a variation, he could roll a die to see how many objects his team gets.)

The team with the most soldiers in its bowl wins.

Lesson 2

David becomes king according to God's Word

Scripture for teachers

2 Samuel 2:1-4,8-10

2 Samuel 3:1,6-12,17-39

2 Samuel 4:5-7

2 Samuel 5:1-12

2 Samuel 7:1-13

Central truth

God's Word never fails

Application

Unsaved: God promises to save you if you call on Him

Saved: Trust every promise of God

Memory verse

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me"
Psalm 23:4

Or

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"
1 Peter 5:6

Explain the verse carefully.

Visual aids

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

Or

◆ Figures: D-94, D-95, D-96, D-97, D-98, D-99, D-100, D-101, D-102, D-103, D-104, D-105, D-106, D-107 and D-108

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene and palace scene

And

◆ Wordstrips: "God's Word never fails" (central truth) and "Trust every promise of God" (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Did your dad ever make a promise? **CT**

Progression of events

1 David is proclaimed king over Judah **CTU**

2 Abner makes Ishbosheth king of Israel **CT**

3 There is a long war, David becomes stronger

4 Abner deserts to David's side

5 Abner killed **CTS**

6 Ishbosheth killed

7 David crowned king of all the land **CT**

Climax

8 He captures Zion (Jerusalem) for his capital

9 Builds his palace

10 Plans to build a temple

Conclusion

God says "no" **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

Did your dad ever make a promise like, "I'll take you on a picnic on Saturday," or "We'll go to Spain on our holidays," or "We'll do something special on your birthday"? Was he able to keep his promise? Our mums and dads try very hard to keep their promises, but sometimes an unexpected thing turns up and they can't do what they promised. But that never happens with God. If He says something, it will certainly happen. He is powerful and He cannot fail.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place David (D-94).

Can you remember something that God had promised to David many years previously and it had not yet come to pass? Yes, that he would become king of Israel. Was God going to keep that promise? Of course - His Word never fails.

One day David asked God, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?"

"Yes, go up," God answered. "Go to the city of Hebron."

How glad David must have felt to be leaving the land of the Philistines at last, to be going to live again in Israel.

Place Israelites (D-95, D-96 and D-97).

And as David, his men and all the families went back to their own land, leaders from the tribe of Judah came out to welcome them.

"We want you to be our king," they said to David.

They crowned him as their king in the city of Hebron. David must have been so pleased. Had God's promise to him come true? Not exactly, yet! Judah was only a small part of the whole land of Israel. But God's Word could not fail to come true; for when God says something will happen, it will. God's Word never fails.

In the Bible we read, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35). God is all-powerful, so He can always do what He says He will do. That is why the Bible is such a wonderful book, and God's promises are so precious to us. One promise that God makes is "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). You can be sure that this is true. If you have never trusted Jesus Christ, God's Word promises that if you call on Him you will be saved. That just means, ask Him to save you; as if you called out, "Lord, save me from my sins." Call on Him today!

If today you want to trust Jesus Christ to save you, and you do not know what to do, I am ready to help you. When the others leave at the end of the meeting, just remain in your seat. If I see you sitting



CT

Show card with central truth: "God's Word never fails".

Preschoolers will enjoy humbly kneeling with you.

Help the children to locate Hebron on a map.



Flashcard 2-2

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

there afterwards, I will understand that you want to know how to be saved. I will explain from the Bible what you must do and what the Lord promises to do.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Palace scene.

Abner had been a general in Saul's army and he decided to fight on against David, though Saul was dead. So he took Ishbosheth, the son of Saul who was left alive, and made him king over the rest of the land of Israel.

Place Abner (D-99) and Ishbosheth (D-100).

So now there were two kings - part of the land followed David and part followed Ishbosheth.

I'm sure some people thought, "How can David be king? Ishbosheth is the true king."

But nobody can stop God's plans. When He says something, we can be sure it will happen. That's what makes the Bible different from any other book. We can be absolutely sure that what we read in the Bible is true. When you read the Lord Jesus' promise, "I will come again" (John 14:3), you can be sure He will. People may laugh at the idea, but that does not change the fact that He is coming. He is coming to be King, not to be born as a baby.

Place crown (D-108).

Ishbosheth was a weak king and it was Abner who made all the decisions. A long war started between David and Ishbosheth. We read in the Bible that David became stronger and stronger, while those who fought against him got weaker and weaker.

One day Ishbosheth and Abner, his general, had a violent disagreement.

Finally Abner said to the king, "From now on I am going to work for David. I will see to it that he becomes king over the whole land. I have finished helping you."

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

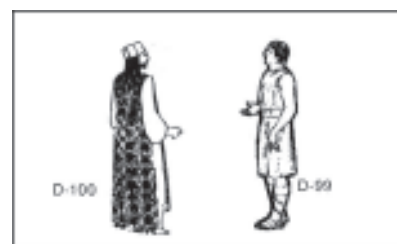
Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Abner now began to urge the leaders of the different tribes of Israel to make David king over the whole land.

Place Abner (D-99) and leaders (D-101).

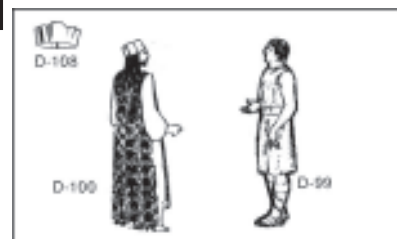
He said, "God promised that he would be the king after Saul - now let's make it happen."

Remove all figures.

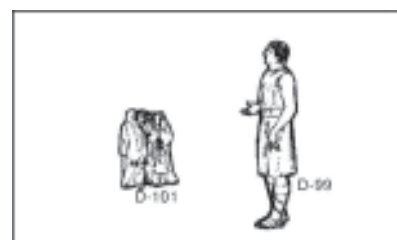


CT

Show card with central truth.



Flashcard 2-3



Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

With a bodyguard of twenty men he also went to David.

Place David (D-98) and Abner (D-99).

He told David that he would bring all Israel together so that they could agree to making him king over them all. Of course David received him very well, gave him a great feast and afterwards sent him away to continue with his good work of uniting the tribes with David as their king.

Remove all figures.



Scene 5

Optional background: Palace scene.

Soon after Abner had left, Joab, David's general came back from a successful battle. He heard that Abner had visited David and had been made very welcome. Joab was furious. He stormed into David's palace.

Place David (D-98) and Joab (D-102).

"King David," he shouted, "what have you done entertaining Abner? Don't you know that he came here as a spy? You should not have let him in here."

Immediately Joab hurried out.

Remove Joab (D-102).



Flashcard 2-4

CTS

Show card with central truth.

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

He sent messengers after Abner to bring him back, pretending that he also wanted to talk with him. But suddenly he attacked Abner and killed him.

When David heard the news, he was very sad and mourned for Abner as he did when Saul died. David was really a very forgiving person, wasn't he? Now Abner was dead. He was the soldier that was really working to have David crowned king over all the land of Israel. Was this another blow to David's chances? Not really! It was not Abner who had promised that David would be king; it was God's promise. And it would happen in God's time. If you know that you are saved, look out for God's promises as you read the Bible each day. Try to remember them - write them down or mark them in your Bible - and you will see that He keeps every promise. When you are afraid, His promise, "Fear not, for I am with you; ... I will strengthen you" (Isaiah 41:10) will help you. It is true. When you are finding it difficult to live for the Lord Jesus, remember God's promise, "Those who honour Me I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30). Each promise is for you. Not one can fail, for it is the Word of God.

Remove David (D-98).

Scene 6

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Abner had died and over seven years had passed since David became king of the tribe of Judah. But God's promise to David was going to be fulfilled.

Up in the north, Ishbosheth the king of that part of the country was killed and now leaders of all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said, "We want you to be our king. Even when Saul was king, you were our leader."

Place David (D-98) and Israelites (D-95, D-96 and D-97).

So a great celebration was planned at Hebron and people from all the tribes came for the coronation.

Replace David (D-98) with David kneeling (D-103). Place priest (D-104) with horn (D-105) in his hand.

A priest poured oil on David's head and he became king over the whole country. I am sure all the people cheered and clapped for their new king. This was one of the greatest days in the history of their country.

Remove all figures.

God had said David would be king, and now he was! God's Word will never fail. God cannot lie or change His mind. Other people cannot stop Him doing what He says He will do. Long, long before the Lord Jesus was born, God promised to send a Saviour - and He did. He said that He would be born in Bethlehem. Where was He born? Right there! Hundreds of years before the Lord Jesus came to Earth, God said He would die for sinners (*place cross - D-107*) and that's just what happened. All of the Bible is true, it is all God's Word. Some people think parts of it are wrong, but one day everyone will see that God's Word is all true and cannot fail.

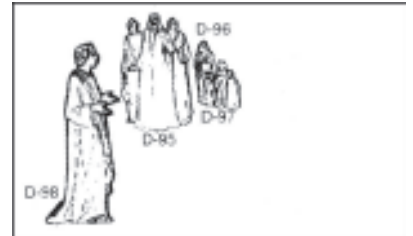
Remove cross (D-107). Place David (D-98).

David took very seriously his job of being king. He knew it was God who had established him as king (2 Samuel 5:12). One of the first things he did was to capture a city up on a hill. Because it was so well fortified it seemed almost impossible to capture the city, but David and his men did so and they called it Jerusalem, the City of David. It became the capital of the country.

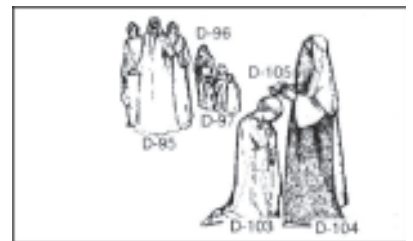
In Jerusalem, David began to build himself a beautiful palace with the finest of materials - stone and lovely cedar wood and decorations of precious metals.

Remove David (D-98).

Flashcard 2-5



Flashcard 2-6



CT

Show card with central truth.



Flashcard 3-1

Scene 7

Optional background: Palace scene.

After the palace was built, he called the prophet Nathan to him.

Place David (D-98) and Nathan (D-106).



“Nathan,” he said, “I am living in a fine palace, but the place where people go to worship God is a tent of cloth. That does not seem right! I would like to build a great, strong temple - more beautiful than my palace. The people will be able to come in there to praise God and to pray to Him.”

He really wanted to please and honour God, didn't he? Nathan thought that was an excellent idea too.

He said to David, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you” (2 Samuel 7:3).

But Nathan had not stopped to ask God if He wanted David to build the temple. That night after he had gone to bed, Nathan was wondering had he given David the right advice. Did God really want David to build the temple?

God Himself spoke to Nathan and said, “Nathan, no, David is not to build the temple. I have been quite happy for people to worship me in the tent. I am going to bless David and be with him, but it will not be he, but one of his sons who will build the temple. This will take place after David has died.”

Next morning Nathan came back to meet David. Maybe he felt a bit ashamed that he had given advice without asking God to guide him. Nathan had given David wrong advice. Now he explained the message that God had given him during the night. King David was quite content that it would not be he, but his son who would build the temple. David was able to help a lot, however. He arranged for much of the materials needed to be got ready.

The temple was not built by David, for God said “no”. God's Word cannot fail. Remember that, boys and girls. In His Word He gives us warnings as well as promises. We need to heed both His warnings and His promises, because they will come true. He warns you that if you go on in your sinful way, you can never be with Him in Heaven. You will be shut out from His presence forever. But if you turn from your sin to the Lord Jesus, there is a wonderful promise for you. God will see to it that it comes true. That promise is, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). Will you call on Him to save you today?

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 People sometimes make promises that they don't keep. Can you suggest some reasons why they don't? (Something happens that makes it impossible, or they change their mind, or forget.)

CTS, CTU

Show card with central truth.

Read the verse from your Bible.

- 2 Why does God always keep His promises? (He is all-powerful, nothing can stop His plans. He does not forget or change His mind.)
- 3 What happened to David when he came back from Ziklag to live in Hebron? (The people of Judah made him king.)
- 4 How long was David king over the tribe of Judah? (More than seven years - to be exact seven and a half years.)
- 5 Had God's promise to David been completely fulfilled when he became king of Judah? (Only partly, because God had promised that he would become king over the whole nation of Israel.)
- 6 Can you give me another example of a promise that God kept? (For example, to send His Son to be born in Bethlehem, and to die on the cross for sinners. Any promise to help and strengthen those who trust in Him.)
- 7 Can you give me an example of a warning that God gives that will also come true? (For example, that He will judge the world one day. That if we die in our sins we cannot be with Him. That if we do not believe in Him we are condemned.)
- 8 What did Abner do in the north of the country that caused a long war? (He appointed Ishbosheth, Saul's son to be king over the rest of the country.)
- 9 After having a disagreement with Ishbosheth, Saul's son, what did Abner do? (He left Ishbosheth and started to work for David so that he would be king over the whole nation.)
- 10 Who was Joab and what did he do? (He was a general of David. He killed Abner.)
- 11 Tell me two things that David did after being made king of all the land? (He captured Jerusalem. He had a palace built for himself.)
- 12 What did Nathan forget to do when he told David to go ahead and build the temple? (He forgot to ask God if this is what He wanted David to do.)

Carry-over activity

Humility sketch

Our memory verse (1 Peter 5:6) tells us to humble ourselves and God will exalt us.

James 2 warns against showing favouritism - exalting some people above others. Have the children act out James 2:1-9. You may wish to hand out scripts before club and have the children practice reading and acting out their parts, or having someone read the passage while the children mime.

Review game

Ask the king

Make a crown from lightweight cardboard to be placed on the head of a child. Cover the crown with gold foil or similar material.

Allow the children to choose a king and have one of the children place the crown on the head of the king (or queen).

The children can then ask the "king" a question from the life of David. If the "king" knows the answer he keeps the crown and another child asks a further question. If he fails to answer, he surrenders the crown to the child who asked the question. He is now the "king" and is questioned.

You could allow the children to read the following questions as well as thinking up their own.

Lesson 3a

The Ark of the Covenant captured and brought back

Scripture for teachers

1 Samuel 4:2-11
1 Samuel 5:1-6:21
2 Samuel 6:1-19
Numbers 4:5,15,20

Central truth

God is holy

Application

Unsaved: Repent of your sin which keeps you away from Him

Saved: You must be holy too

Memory verse

Review verse from previous week - either Psalm 23:4 or 1 Peter 5:6

Or teach

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord” Isaiah 55:8

Visual aids

(There are no flashcards available for this lesson)

- ◆ Figures: D-109, D-110, D-111, D-112, D-113, D-114, D-115 and D-116
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene
- ◆ Optional: The pictures of “Darlene” and “Nial” used in lesson 1b
- ◆ Wordstrips: “God is holy” (central truth) and “You must be holy too” (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Beginning

Nial and Darlene attend church **CT**

The ark is brought into the camp of the Israelites **CT**

Progression of events

1 The ark captured by the Philistines **CTS**

2 The ark put in the house of Dagon

3 Dagon falls broken before the ark **CT**

4 God sends plagues and death to the Philistines

5 The ark is sent back on a cart

6 The Israelites receive the ark

7 Some look inside and die **CT**

8 David brings the ark back on a cart

9 Uzzah touches it and dies **CTU**

10 The ark is left in the house of Obed-Edom

Climax

David brings the ark up to Jerusalem

Conclusion

He puts it in the tabernacle **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

Nial and Darlene went to church each Sunday with their parents.

Use the pictures of the children you used in lesson 1b.

CT

They had been taught to go into the building quietly and sit without talking, remembering that God is holy and we should be reverent in His presence and in His house. When the family was on holiday they went to another church and they noticed that some people in the building were looking around while they sang the hymns. They were not thinking much about God as they sang. During the prayer time they were not at all reverent. Nial and Darlene felt very uncomfortable because they had always been taught that, though God loves us very much, He is also holy and we must reverence and honour Him.

That's true, isn't it? That was something that God Himself wanted to teach His people, the children of Israel.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Many years before David became king, there had been a battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. It was at a time when God's people were being disobedient to God's laws and that day God had allowed the Philistines to do better in the battle. The Israelite soldiers in their camp were discouraged, but then they thought of a plan to get the victory.

Place soldiers (D-110).

A messenger ran from the camp and disappeared over the hill. Not long afterwards he came back, but now he was moving quite slowly and some other people were with him. On their shoulders they were carrying something that was covered with blue cloth.

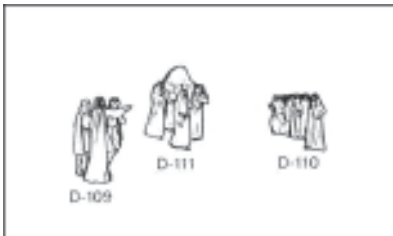
Place soldiers (D-109) and ark (D-111).

The look of worry on the faces of the soldiers changed to gladness and as the men with the burden on their shoulders came close, all the army began to shout and cheer. The Bible says that the Earth shook with their cheering!

The Philistines who were in their camp not very far away heard the shouts and wondered what was happening. They learned that the object covered with the blue cloth was the ark of God. Let me explain to you what that means.

Many years previously God had told His people to make an ark. (I am not talking about the ark Noah built - another ark.) It was made of wood covered with gold. The lid was made of pure gold with cherubim (angel-like creatures) on it. This ark was kept in a special tent called a tabernacle. The tabernacle had two parts and

Show card with central truth: "God is holy".



only one person could go into the part where the ark was kept. And he could go only one time every year. This person was called the high priest. No-one else was ever allowed to see this very special ark. Inside there were several things including two tablets of stone on which God's law was written. They were to remind the people that their God, who was always with them, was a holy God. "Holy" means that God is different, separate and apart from human beings. He is pure and good. He is so pure that He cannot even look on sin. Sometimes we watch on TV things we would not even dream of doing, but we like to watch. But God is so pure that He cannot tolerate sin. He is all goodness. He is all light. Nothing sinful can come near Him: it would be burned by His holiness.

The great shout from the Israelite soldiers went up because they thought that now the ark was with them they would certainly win the battle. The Philistines were afraid. They said among themselves, "God has come into the camp!" (1 Samuel 4:7). They had heard of the great miracles that God had done for His people, but they thought He was just another of the gods. They did not understand that God is the only God and that He is completely holy. The Philistines made up their minds to be brave soldiers and to fight harder than ever.

Soon the battle began again. Who do you think won this time? The Israelites expected to win easily and the Philistines were half afraid that was what would happen. But no! The people of Israel were beaten again. This time 30,000 soldiers were killed and the ark of God was captured! What a terrible day of disaster!

Why did God allow His people to be defeated? Because of their disobedience. They were carrying His laws in the ark. But in their actions and in their hearts they were disobeying those same laws. They were telling lies and cheating and stealing. Worst of all they were not putting God in the first place in their lives.

Christian boys and girls, you are not carrying the ark with God's Word inside it. Maybe you are carrying God's Word in your head. You think, "I know lots about God. I have learned many Bible stories. I can say plenty of Bible verses off by heart." That's very good, but far more important to God is whether you are obeying His Word. He is pure and good, and He expects you to be good and pure too. Do you think about the verses and the lessons that you are taught here in the Good News Club, and then ask God to help you obey? During this past week did you remember that God's Word never fails? Did you thank Him for that? Whenever we learned about avoiding bad company, did you make up your mind to obey that order from God? It's not how much of the Bible that you carry around in your head that is important. What matters to God is how much of it you obey!

The Philistines gleefully carried the ark of God away back to their own land with all the other booty they had captured. They set the

CT

Show card with central truth.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "You must be holy too".

ark in the temple of one of their heathen gods called Dagon and closed the doors.

Remove all figures.

When they opened the temple doors next morning, do you know what they found? Dagon had fallen over on his face on the ground in front of the ark. So they lifted him up again. The next morning when the doors were opened, there was Dagon on the ground again. This time his head and his hands had broken off! Only his body was left. So the people moved the ark off somewhere else. But everywhere it went, God sent disease and death. What was God trying to teach these people? That He is not just another god. He is the only true God. He is the Creator of everything. He is pure and holy. Other “gods” like Dagon are just idols with no power. They are really just bits of wood or stone. Even when they have heads, they cannot see or hear or think. Even when they have hands they cannot do anything. And poor old Dagon did not even have a stone head or hands left!

Finally the Philistines decided to send the ark back to Israel. They found a clean, new cart, put the ark into it and yoked two cows to pull it. Off went the cart on the road towards Israel. When it came to the border, the people of Israel in the nearest town received it with great joy. But some of the men, forgetting what God had said, looked into the ark. They dropped dead! In this severe way God had to remind His own people that He is a holy God and they must obey His Word and be reverent in His presence. Because some people died there, the Israelites were afraid to take the ark any further and it stayed in a man’s house for almost a hundred years - right up to the time when David became king in Jerusalem.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

David wanted to honour and reverence the Lord. He knew where the ark was and he wanted it to be in Jerusalem the capital. So he made great plans to bring it back. He set off with 30,000 men to the town where it was. A new cart was made specially for the ark which was pulled by oxen.

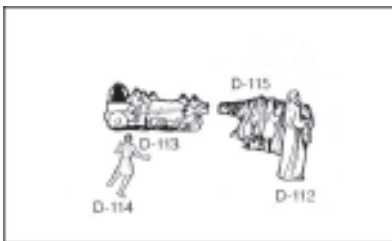
Place David (D-112), men (D-115), cart and ark (D-113) and Uz̄zah (D-114).

David and the 30,000 men marched in front of the ark. There was also a band with all kinds of musical instruments playing hymns to God. It was a great day of joy as the ark was brought towards Jerusalem after being away for so many years.

But David made a serious mistake. He did not follow the instructions that God had given for the moving of the ark. God had said many years before that when the ark was to be taken somewhere, it was to be covered by a blue cloth, that poles were to be put through the

CT
Show card with central truth.

CT
Show card with central truth.



rings in the sides of the ark and it was to be carried on the shoulders of some men called priests. They had this special job of looking after the ark. But God said that even they must never touch the ark.

David did not obey what God had said. Either he forgot or he thought it was not important. He had the ark put into a cart and pulled by oxen. As the great procession moved forward, suddenly on a piece of rough ground, the cart was jolted and the ark began to slide. A man called Uzzah who was close by, put out his hand to steady the ark and immediately he dropped dead. The Bible says that God was angry with Uzzah and He struck him dead.

Replace Uzzah (D-114) with Uzzah dead (D-116).

Why did Uzzah die? That was what David asked too. Because he touched the ark and God had clearly said that it must not be touched. He had to teach His people that He is holy and that they could not take Him lightly; sin cannot be in His presence. And God had this story written in the Bible so that you and I can learn too that God is holy. If your life is full of sin you cannot be where God is. Have you a sinful life? Do you tell lies and disobey? Do you break God's laws by stealing and cheating? Your sins are very serious in the sight of a holy God and they keep you away from Him.

But though you have sinned and God hates sin because He is so pure, He loves you very dearly. He sent the Lord Jesus to be punished for your sin. He died on the cross for you. Will you turn to Him today, confess your sin and ask Him to forgive you and make you His child? Today He will save you, for He promises that, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Remove Uzzah (D-116).

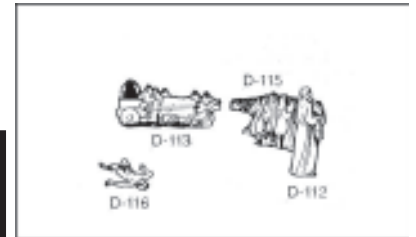
David now was afraid and he decided not to continue the journey with the ark up to Jerusalem. It was left in the house of a man called Obed-Edom. God blessed him and his family while the ark was in his home. After three months David decided to try again to bring the ark on up to Jerusalem. This time he did it the right way.

Replace cart and ark (D-113) with ark carried (D-111).

He obeyed the instructions of God for transporting the ark. Again there was a great procession and music with trumpets blowing and people dancing for joy as the ark was slowly carried up the hill towards Jerusalem. It was put into the special tent that David had constructed there for it. That day many animals were sacrificed to the Lord, as the people worshipped Him and gave thanks to Him.

It had taken a long time to bring the ark back again and on the journey several people had died for disobeying God's Word. Had they finally learned that God is very holy and pure?

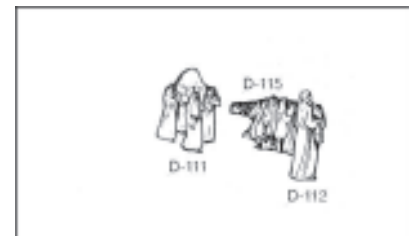
Allowing children to handle a piece of blue fabric will help them to remember.



CTU

Show card with central truth.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



CTS

Boys and girls who love the Lord, do **you** realise that God is holy and that He expects you to be holy too? He lives in you by His Holy Spirit and He can help you to live a good, pure and holy life.

CTU

But if you are not yet saved, turn from your sin today and turn to God for forgiveness. If you don't, your sin will keep you away from God now and even forever!

Remove all figures.

Review game**Sit/stand**

Divide the class into teams and have each group sit together.

Ask questions alternately between the teams.

When a child answers a question correctly, he or another child on his team may stand up. If he answers incorrectly, a child on his team must sit down.

Once all players in his team are standing, he may ask a player from the other team to sit when he gives a correct answer. Likewise, if he answers incorrectly but all players on his team are sitting, a player on the opposite team may stand.

Once all questions have been answered, the team with the most players standing wins.

Review questions

- 1 Why did the soldiers of Israel raise a great shout one day in their camp? (Because the Ark of the Covenant was brought.)
- 2 Name one thing that was inside the ark. (The tablets of stone with the commandments of God.)
- 3 What did the Israelites expect to happen now that the ark was in their camp? (They expected that their defeat by the Philistines would turn to victory.)
- 4 Why did God allow them to be beaten once more? (Because they were disobedient to God. His laws were in the ark, but not in their hearts and lives.)
- 5 Where did the Philistines put the ark? (In the house of their god Dagon.)
- 6 What happened to Dagon? (He fell down before the ark, the second time his head and his hands were broken off.)
- 7 What was God teaching the Philistines? (That He is not just another god. That He is the only true God, the creator of all.)
- 8 When the Philistines sent the ark back, it stopped in a little town for almost 100 years. Why did it stop there? (Some people had looked inside the ark and had died, so the people were afraid of the ark.)
- 9 How had God said that the ark was to be carried? (Covered by a blue cloth, on poles through rings in the sides of the ark, carried on the shoulders of men called priests.)
- 10 What serious mistake did David make and what was the result? (He decided to carry the ark in a cart. Uzzah touched the ark and died instantly.)
- 11 What were the important words that I put on the board and repeated several times? (God is holy.)
- 12 If God is holy, what does He expect us to do? (Unsaved: turn from our sin which separates us from God. Saved: be holy too.)

Carry-over activity

A sketch

- Scene 1 Some of the children could act out the introduction to this lesson in which Nial and Darlene see other kids being inattentive and irreverent in church or Sunday school.
- Scene 2 After church they explain very gently and politely to the other children that their conduct is not right because God is holy. They could explain to them the story of Uzzah.

Lesson 3b

David and Bathsheba

Scripture for teachers

2 Samuel 11:1-27

2 Samuel 12:1-24

Central truth

You shall not commit adultery

Application

Unsaved and saved:

God wants you to live a clean life

Turn away from impurity that separates you from God

Memory verse

For this extra lesson, you could leave Psalm 23 and have the children memorise 1 Timothy 5:22b “Do not ... share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.”

Visual aids

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

Or

- ◆ Figures: D-117, D-118, D-119, D-120 and D-121
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Roof-top scene, indoor scene and palace scene
- ◆ Optional: The picture of “Darlene” (used in lesson 1b) and a picture of another girl of similar age
- ◆ Optional: If you have the lessons “David, A Man After God’s Heart”, you may wish to use figures D-28-a-b-c-d

And

- ◆ Wordstrips: “You shall not commit adultery” (central truth) and “God wants you to live a clean life” (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

“What’s the matter, Janette?”

CT

Progression of events

1 David stays in Jerusalem

2 He commits adultery with Bathsheba

CTS

3 He plans Uriah’s death

4 Bathsheba becomes David’s wife

CTU

5 The baby is born

6 Nathan reproves David

Climax

David repents and God forgives

CTS

Conclusion

The baby dies despite David’s prayers

CTU

Use this object lesson to introduce the invitation or to supplement another part of the teaching hour.

Gospel presentation

Ticket to Heaven

Photocopy and cut out sample ticket. Hold it up so the children can see it.

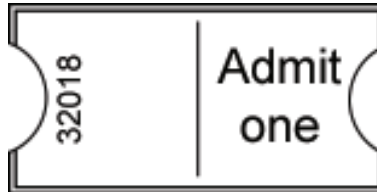
If I want to get into the cinema, an amusement park or a sporting event, what do I need?

Allow response.

That's right, I need a ticket. Without the ticket, I can't get in. Heaven is the same. There's a "ticket" I need in order to get in, but it's different to this one. Listen to this verse from the Bible and see if you can guess what you need to get into Heaven.

Read John 3:36 from your Bible. Let the children share answers.

This verse says you need the Son - that's Jesus! The only way to have your sins forgiven so you can get into Heaven is to believe on Jesus.



Lesson

For the introduction, you could use the picture of Darlene used in previous lessons, and the picture of another girl of similar age.

“What’s the matter, Janette?” asked Darlene.

Janette, her best friend at school, was looking so sad and at break-time she had put her head down on the desk and sobbed quietly. She had not eaten any lunch and looked really miserable.

As Darlene kept being very kind and comforting to her, Janette finally told her what the problem was.

“Something awful has happened in our family,” she said. “Dad has just gone off to live with another woman and has left Mum and me. We feel so lonely and unhappy.”

Boys and girls, there are many unhappy homes where a dad has left his family to live with another woman and love her instead of his wife. Or sometimes it is the mum who has gone off with another man. People who do this are doing a great wrong against their families, but even more they are doing wrong against God. In the Bible God says very clearly, “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14 and Deuteronomy 5:18). That means that a man should be faithful to his wife. He should never go to bed or make love with another woman. Or a wife should never have another man except her own husband.

God has made marriage so that a man can have one special woman to be his wife to love and care for. A woman in the same way has one special man that she loves and lives with - and no other man. That’s what God teaches us in His Word. Even David greatly displeased God by committing adultery.

Scene 1

Optional background: Rooftop scene.

It all began in the springtime. King David’s soldiers had marched off to battle once more. But David stayed at his palace in Jerusalem.

Place David (D-117).

He went out one evening to walk on the flat roof of the palace. Looking over towards his neighbour’s house he saw a beautiful woman washing herself.

“Who is that woman?” he asked one of his servants.

“She is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah,” was the answer.

Remove David (D-117).

Please note:

This lesson deals honestly with issues of adultery and sexual purity. You will need to decide, according to the age of the children you teach, what type of examples to share in the applications. Sexual purity is an important issue that today’s child needs to be taught. Ask God to give you wisdom to know how much to say and how to say it.

CT

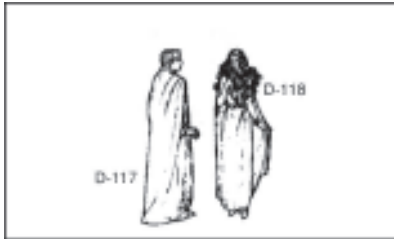
Show card with central truth: “You shall not commit adultery”.

Read Exodus 20:14 or Deuteronomy 5:18 from your Bible.



Flashcard 3-1

Flashcard 3-2

**CTS**

Show card with application for the saved child: "God wants you to live a clean life".

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Scene 2

Optional background: Indoor scene. Place David (D-117) and Bathsheba (D-118).

David was a married man and he knew now that Bathsheba was married too, but nevertheless, David went ahead and sent his servants out to bring Bathsheba to the palace so that he could make love to her.

His sin began with looking, then letting his mind fill with evil thoughts and finally it led to adultery. Be careful, boys and girls, what you look at - that's where it all starts, so often - those videos that you rent, the TV programmes that you look at, the magazines that come into your home. Sometimes they are full of "dirty" stories and "dirty" pictures. If you are a Christian and something "dirty" (like a man making love to a woman who is not his wife) comes on in the TV programme or on the video - just leave the room, or turn it off if you are on your own. Don't listen to "dirty" jokes about sex. Walk away or ask that person not to tell that kind of joke to you. Don't tell them yourself, either. God wants you to be clean in mind and action. The Lord Jesus said that it is just as bad in His sight to think "dirty" thoughts, as it is to do "dirty" actions (Matthew 5:28). Ask your Heavenly Father to give you strength when you are tempted, so that you can be pure and not look at something that is "dirty" or do something unclean, just because the others are doing it. He promises to help you if you ask Him. He says, "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

Bathsheba went home again that night.

Remove all figures.

But one day she sent a message to the king which said, "King David, I am going to have a baby. You are the father of this baby and not Uriah, my husband."

Things were getting really complicated, weren't they?

Scene 3

Optional background: Palace scene.

Uriah was a soldier and he was away fighting under Joab, David's best general. So David sent a message to Joab that he was to allow Uriah a few days' leave of absence to report back to King David in Jerusalem.

Place David (D-117) and Uriah (D-119).

Back came Uriah and gave the king a full report of how the war was going.

"Now go back to your wife," said David, "and I'll send you some good food for your supper."

**Flashcard 3-3**

Have a child pretend to be King David as he says

But Uriah would not go home. He slept with the other servants at the door of the palace.

The next day the king asked, "Why did you not go home?" and Uriah replied, "I keep thinking of all the other soldiers camped out there in the open fields, even General Joab. How could I go home and relax and rest in a comfortable bed and all the others don't have that privilege?"

Again David invited him to stay all day in the palace, fed him very well and gave him lots of wine to drink and urged him to go home and stay the night with his wife.

If you have very small children and the ideas of the next paragraph are too "adult" you could omit it.

You see David wanted people to think that the baby Bathsheba was going to have, started when Uriah came home and spent the night with her. But that night also Uriah slept at the palace door and did not go back to sleep with Bathsheba.

David realised that it would be obvious to everyone when the baby was born that Uriah could not be the father, because he had not been home with his wife for many months, so he planned another wicked step. He decided to have Uriah killed. He prepared a letter for Joab which said, "When you go up to fight against the enemy city, put Uriah right in the front line, and then when the enemy attacks, move back the other men and leave Uriah on his own."

Remove Uriah (D-119).

Poor Uriah carried this sealed letter back to Joab. I am sure that he did not realise he was carrying the instructions of how he was to be put to death!

When Joab received the letter, he did as David commanded him, and Uriah was shot by the enemy archers as he stood alone in that dangerous place in the front line of the battle. Really David had committed murder, hadn't he? It was he who made sure that Uriah was killed.

Remove David (D-117).

Scene 4

Optional background: Palace scene.

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. But then one day David came and invited her to go with him to the palace and she became his wife.

Place David (D-117) and Bathsheba (D-118).

Very few people knew all that had happened, and how David had Uriah killed to have her as his wife. But God knew and we read in the Bible "the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:27).

to Uriah, "Now go back to your wife."

Child continues, "Why didn't you go home last night?"

Pretend to write David's message on a scroll, then roll it up and pass it to a helper.



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTU

Show card with application for the saved child.

Yes, it certainly did. He had now broken two laws of God - he had committed adultery and he had murdered. One sin leads to another. Have you found that? You don't do your homework, just because you're feeling lazy; then you have to tell a lie to cover up your laziness and so it goes on. One sin leads to another. Or maybe you looked at something "dirty" or ugly on a video or in a magazine. Then it gets into your mind and you think quite a lot about it, and then maybe you tell a "dirty" joke or do something that you are ashamed of later. A look leads to a thought and a thought leads to an action. Just as David's sin displeased God, you too displease Him. Maybe like David, very few people know about your sin, but God certainly does and what you are doing displeases Him.

God knows all about your sin, but He loves you too. He loves you so much that He sent the Lord Jesus, His only Son, from Heaven down to this world, for your sake. Jesus lived for over thirty years without ever thinking one single wrong thought or saying a wrong word. He was sinless, but He went to the cross for your sin and for mine. He took the punishment that we deserved for our sins. However, the Lord Jesus Christ did not stay dead. He rose from the dead and is alive again forever.

Because His own Son took your punishment, God can forgive you. Come to God today! Tell Him you are sorry for your sin! Ask Him to forgive you and to come into your life to be with you always! When He lives in you, He can give you the strength to overcome the temptations that are all around you.

Would you like to know more about how to have the Lord living in your life? Have you a question about overcoming temptation? You can talk to me after the club. Just come and sit on one of the seats in the front row.

Flashcard 3-4

Not very many months later, David and Bathsheba had their baby boy. It was a happy day in a way, but really David was very, very miserable for a long time. He knew that he had done wrong and it made him unhappy. At this time he wrote several Psalms and in them he tells how unhappy and miserable he felt because of his sin. It was like a great weight pushing him down. Sin always does that. We feel unhappy inside as our conscience tells us that we have done wrong and that God is displeased with us.

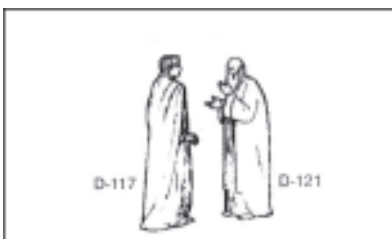
Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: Palace scene.

One day David turned to see a visitor in his palace. It was Nathan, the prophet.

Place David (D-117) and Nathan (D-121).



They were good friends and had often talked together.

“David,” said Nathan, “I have something important I must tell you. There were two men who lived near each other. One was very rich and the other very poor. The rich one had big flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. The poor man had nothing except a little lamb.”

If you have the figures of “David, A Man After God’s Heart” you could use pictures of lambs (D-28-a-b-c-d) on the side of your board.

“This lamb was a real pet for his family. They fed it with their own food and the children played with it. It was like another little daughter in the family.

One day a visitor came to stay with the rich man and he knew he would have to offer him a meal. But instead of killing one of the many animals he had to provide meat for the meal, he went over to the poor man’s house and took his little pet lamb and killed it.”

When David heard that, he was furious. “That man deserves to die,” he said.

Nathan looked David straight in the eye. “You are the man,” he said. “The message is from God,” added Nathan. “You are like the rich man because God has given you so many good things - He protected you from Saul, He made you king, He gave you the whole land to reign over and many other blessings. But you went and took from a poor man like Uriah the little that he had - you took his wife whom he loved so much. And God is going to punish you for what you have done. You are going to have constant wars to fight and even some of your own family will rise up against you.”

Replace David (D-117) with David kneeling (D-120).

David knew he had done wrong. God had been telling him that already, and now he was telling him again through the prophet Nathan. Sorrowfully he said, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan answered, “The Lord has forgiven you.”

David did not confess his sin to Nathan. It was not Nathan who forgave, but God Himself.

David did the right thing at last, didn’t he? He confessed his sin sincerely to God. And the Lord promises, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Now David could say, “Blessed is he ... whose sin is covered” (Psalm 32:1). David loved God and yet he fell into sin. Have you too fallen into some sin, though you are truly a child of God? Maybe not as awful as David’s sin, but it still is a sin that displeases God. As David did, confess your sin to the Lord and ask Him to make you clean.

Nathan’s illustration could be very effective with a stuffed lamb.

Flashcard 3-5

Flashcard 3-6



Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

When you are grown up, you probably will marry. God wants you to be faithful to your husband or to your wife. There must be no other person whom you will live with, except that one special person. Make up your mind about that!

On the TV you often see married men who live with other women, who are not their wives, or married women who have other men as their lovers. That is wrong. It is what the Bible calls "adultery" and it makes God very sad and displeased. It is not for you.

Nathan had one more thing to tell. "David," he said, "God has forgiven you, but because of your sin the baby is going to die!"

CTU

Sin does bring suffering! For example, if you take drugs and then you confess it sincerely to the Lord and ask Him to forgive you, He will do so - but you will probably have bad health because of the poison in your body. Or let me give you another example - a man who lives with lots of different women. If he truly turns to the Lord, God will forgive him, but he may have caught a terrible disease called AIDS because of his wicked life.

David prayed and fasted, but on the seventh day the baby did die, as God said it would. What a sad chapter in David's life! Remember to turn away from all kinds of unclean things that displease God and separate you from Him.

Remove all figures.

Review game

Choose the right way

Provide two envelopes, one labelled "The right way" and the other labelled "The wrong way".

Place slips of paper with positive numbers in the "right" envelope and negative numbers in the "wrong" envelope.

When a child answers a question correctly, hold the envelopes behind your back and call the child to the front to choose a hand and draw a number from the envelope in that hand.

Positive numbers are added to the team's score; negative numbers are subtracted.

Review questions

- 1 What sin did David commit when he took another man's wife? (Adultery.)
- 2 What was the name of the woman? (Bathsheba.)
- 3 What was the name of the husband? (Uriah.)
- 4 What message did David send Joab with Uriah? (That Uriah was to be put in the front line and left alone, so that he would be killed by the enemy archers.)
- 5 When David committed adultery he sinned against several people. Who were they? (Against God; against Bathsheba by causing her to sin; against her husband; against his servants by giving them a bad example.)
- 6 How did David feel after he had sinned? (He felt miserable.)
- 7 What story did Nathan tell him? (About the rich man and the poor man with only one lamb.)
- 8 In what way was David like the rich man? (God had blessed him with protection, had made him king, etc, but then he took all that was precious from Uriah.)

- 9 How is it that God can forgive your sin and mine? (Only because the Lord Jesus died for our sins, as He was going to die for the sins of David.)
- 10 Nathan told David that something bad would happen because of his sin. What was it? (Mainly that the baby would die. Also that he would be involved all his life in battles and some of his own family would rise up against him.)
- 11 How long did the baby live? (Seven days after Nathan talked to David.)
- 12 Give me an example of how our sin brings suffering even after God has forgiven it. (Taking drugs or immorality can lead to disease.)

The team with the most points at the end of the game is the winner.

Carry-over activity

Discussion: Listen and obey

Ask the children to tell how these Bible characters obeyed God: Jesus (Luke 22:42, Philippians 2:8), Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18) and Noah (Genesis 6:22).

Ask how Christians today can know what God wants them to do. Add to their ideas by discussing how God speaks to us through the Bible, Holy Spirit, friends, parents and situations.

If time permits, role play a situation a child may face and demonstrate how God might use each of these ways to speak.

Carry-over activity

Mother, may I?

Discuss why God wants us to obey parents (Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1-3 and Proverbs 6:20-22). Then play a variation of "Mother, may I?"

(The children form a line across the room from the teacher, or "Mother". Mother gives each child in turn a command such as, "John, take three baby steps." Before the child obeys the command, he must ask, "Mother, may I?" Mother responds, "Yes, you may." If the child forgets to ask, he must return to the starting line. Try to word your commands so that the children have an equal opportunity to progress toward the finish line where Mother is. The first child to reach the finish line is the winner.)

Lesson 4

David and Mephibosheth

Scripture for teachers

2 Samuel 4:4
2 Samuel 9:1-13
2 Samuel 16:1-4
2 Samuel 19:15,24-30

Central truth

God is kind to sinners

Application

Unsaved: He will make you His child, if you trust in Jesus Christ

Saved: Be thankful to God for His kindness to you

Memory verse

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over” Psalm 23:5

Or

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” Ephesians 4:32

Explain that God makes a way for His people, even in the midst of their enemies, and provides for their needs.

Visual aids

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

Or

◆ Figures: D-122, D-123, D-124, D-125, D-126, D-127, D-128, D-129, D-130, D-132 and D-133

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene and palace scene

And

◆ Print the words “poor”, “lame” and “enemy” on three pieces of card or paper and back them. Place them on the board when indicated in the text.

◆ Other wordstrip: “God is kind to sinners” (central truth)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Mephibosheth had a bad start to his life!

Progression of events

- 1 Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son, lamed as a child
- 2 When David becomes king, he searches for sons of Jonathan **CTU**
- 3 Mephibosheth, poor, lame and of an enemy family, comes before David **CTU**

Climax

- 4 He adopts Mephibosheth as his son **CTU, CTS**
- 5 Ziba, Mephibosheth’s servant, tells lies about him
- 6 Mephibosheth continues loyal to David **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

Mephibosheth had a bad start to his life! Mephibosheth was one of Jonathan's sons.

Place nurse with Mephibosheth in her arms (D-122).

That's a difficult name to say, isn't it? Let's say it together: Me-phi-bo-sheth!

One day when he was only five years old, he could hear a lot of noise and shouting and crying outside the room where he was playing. He did not understand but some terrible news had just arrived. It was when the Philistines had beaten the armies of Israel and Saul and Jonathan and his brothers were killed. (Do you remember I told you the story some weeks ago?)

Well, you can imagine the sadness in the palace as they heard of the defeat of their army and the death of their king Saul and his son Jonathan and the other princes. The people were frightened.

They thought, "Very soon the Philistines will be here to kill us also and to rob and carry away all the things they can take. Let's escape while we can."

Then the nurse who cared for Mephibosheth picked him up quickly and ran with him to hide. She must have felt so sorry for this little boy who had lost his dad. But as the nurse ran, somehow Mephibosheth slipped from her arms and fell to the ground.

Replace nurse and Mephibosheth (D-122) with nurse (D-123) and boy on the ground (D-124).

He had a very bad fall and a terrible pain shot into both of his feet. He could not stand up. He must have cried hard with the pain.

Replace nurse (D-123) and boy on the ground (D-124) with figure D-122.

The nurse picked him up again quickly and ran on. I am sure that little Mephibosheth was really sobbing as she held him close in her arms. But she could not stop. They were in danger. Maybe she could feel the broken bones in his feet, but she had to run on to safety.

Finally they came to a safe place to hide, far away from the palace. The weeks and months went by and gradually the pain in his feet went away, but little Mephibosheth could not walk or run or play like other children. He was going to be lame for the rest of his life.

Remove all figures. Place Mephibosheth as an adult (D-133).

Even now the people who were caring for Mephibosheth felt that he was still in danger and could not return to the palace. They heard that David was now the king and they feared that if he heard that Mephibosheth was still alive, he would have him killed. In those days, when a new king came to the throne, he searched out the sons



Hold up five fingers as you tell the boy's age.

Flashcard 4-1



Flashcard 4-2

of the former king and had them put to death so that they could never be king in his place.

Remove Mephibosheth (D-113).

Scene 2

Optional background: Palace scene.

By now David was king over the whole land. God had put him there and had blessed him greatly.

Place David on the throne (D-125 and D-126).

Mephibosheth did not know it, but David had no plans to harm him. Quite the opposite! He remembered the promise that he had made to Jonathan his friend many years ago. He had promised that, if Jonathan was killed, David would care for his family. (Jonathan had promised the same, if David was killed.) David often thought of the good friend Jonathan had been to him and he wanted to keep his promise.

Because of Jonathan, David was willing to welcome any members of his friend's family. How can a holy God be kind to sinners? Because of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was punished for our sin. Mephibosheth had done nothing to be made welcome by David. We have done nothing to be made welcome by God. Just the opposite - we have done many wrong things that deserve punishment. But God's kindness is very great. He planned a way for sinners to be saved. He gave His own Son to be punished on the cross for our sins. God welcomes each person who trusts in Jesus Christ. If you come, just as you are, with all your sin, God will welcome you because His Son died for you.

David's servants began to look if there was anyone left of Saul's family and finally they brought in a man called Ziba, a manager of some of Saul's property.

Place Ziba (D-127).

David asked him, "Is there anyone left from Saul's family - someone to whom I could show kindness, for Jonathan's sake?"

Ziba must have been surprised. He would have expected the king to say, "Tell me is there any member of Saul's family left, so I can have him put to death." But that was not David's intention.

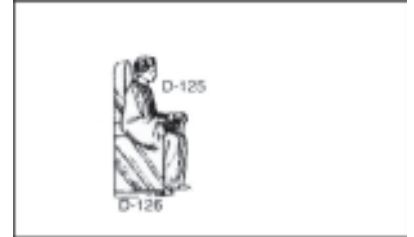
Ziba replied, "Yes, there is one son left who is lame."

"Where is he?" asked David.

Ziba explained that he lived in a little village away out in the country, where he had grown up in secret, never coming near Jerusalem.

"Go and bring him here," ordered David.

Remove Ziba (D-127).

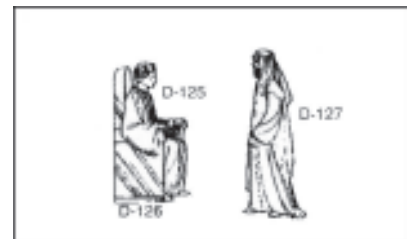


Flashcard 4-3

CTU

Show card with central truth: "God is kind to sinners".

Flashcard 4-4



Scene 3

Mephibosheth had to make a long journey up to the palace, in Jerusalem. I am sure that he was trembling as he entered. Maybe he thought, "Now that the king has found me, he will probably have me put to death."

Place Mephibosheth (D-128).

As soon as he was shown into the palace where David was, he fell down on his face before David. Why was he so afraid, do you think?

Place wordstrip "enemy".

Well, he was from an enemy family. He was the grandson of wicked King Saul who had hated David, hunted him over the mountains, trying for years to catch him and kill him.

Place wordstrip "lame".

He was lame. He could not even walk or work. What could David do with such a useless person, except get rid of him?

Place wordstrip "poor".

He was poor. Because he had had to hide as a member of an enemy family, and because he could not work, he was poor. He had no riches nor anything to give David to make the king value and appreciate him.

CTU

Do you know, boys and girls, that Mephibosheth is a picture of you and me as we come before God? Are **we** enemies? Yes, until you are born again into His family and become His child, the Bible tells us that you are an enemy of God. You displease Him, you break His laws, you have your back turned to God, you go your own way and please yourself. You don't love God. You are behaving like His enemy.

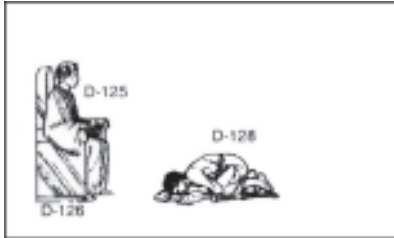
Are you lame? Maybe you say, "I'm not lame. I can walk and jump and run." No, I don't mean physically (in your body). I mean spiritually. Until you are born again, you don't and can't walk in God's ways. Maybe you try to be good, but you fall down again into sin. The devil trips you up, because you are so weak. You are lame spiritually.

And poor? Yes, you are poor too. Not because you don't have money or a house. But you have nothing to give God in order that He might save you. You can't buy your salvation with money, or by going to church, or by being good, or with other good things that you might try to do.

As Mephibosheth lay trembling before him, David stretched out his hand and said, "Mephibosheth, don't be afraid!" What lovely words of welcome and kindness! David went on, "I am going to give you back all the lands that Saul, your grandfather, used to own. And more than that, I want you to be here in the palace with me. I want you to have all your meals at my table. I want you to be like a son to me" (2 Samuel 9:7).

Flashcard 4-5

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



Mephibosheth's mouth must have dropped open in astonishment. He certainly had not expected such kindness. He certainly had not earned it.

All he could say was, "Who am I that you should look with kindness on me, who am just as much use as a dead dog?"

God the King wants to treat you with kindness too. You don't deserve His love and mercy, but He wants you to be with Him, to be a prince in His family, to have forgiveness and sweet friendship with Him. Will you come humbly before Him today? Recognise that you are poor, that you cannot do anything to save yourself, that you are an enemy of God, having displeased Him so many times, that you are lame spiritually - that you have not walked in the right way, you have been stumbling and falling into many sins. If you come to Him, just as you are, He will receive you.

David received Mephibosheth because of his deep love for Jonathan. God will receive you because of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died on the cross for your sins and your rebellion against God. Now you may come to God, through the Lord Jesus and He will receive you. Come today to Him, He promises to receive you and pardon you.

Scene 4

Replace David on throne (D-125) with David standing (D-129), and Mephibosheth (D-128) with Mephibosheth (D-130).

After he had talked with Mephibosheth, David called Ziba (*add Ziba - D-127*) and said to him, "All the land that belonged to Saul and his family, I have given to his grandson, Mephibosheth. You shall work the land for him - you and your sons and your servants. Bring in the fruit, vegetables and grain, so that he may have all that he needs - but Mephibosheth shall eat regularly at my table."

What a wonderful thing had happened to Mephibosheth! King David had received him and made arrangements for him to be cared for during the remainder of his life! He was now a wealthy son, with lands, servants and farm animals.

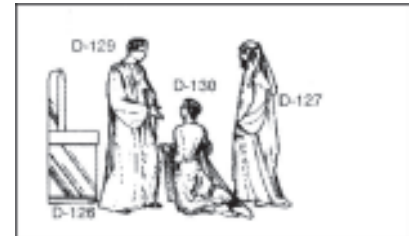
Place laden donkey (D-132).

When you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, your sin is forgiven and you are welcomed by God, but that's not all! God also makes you His child, you come into God's family (John 1:12)! Your Heavenly Father will care for you forever; He will make sure that you have everything you need. He will take you into His heavenly home, where you will live with Him forever. It is far, far better to be a child of God - the King over all - than to be a child of an earthly king.

And so the years went by. Actually it was not always easy for Mephibosheth. One time Ziba deceived him and also told lies about

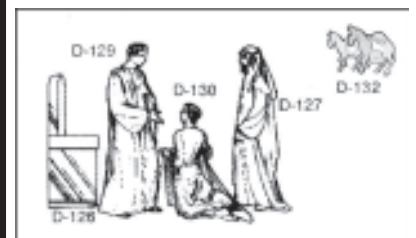
CTU

Show card with central truth.



Flashcard 46

CTS



him to David, but Mephibosheth's love and loyalty to David never changed. He loved David, not just because of the land and wealth and food he had given to him, but because David was so kind and good to him.

CTS

When you are brought into God's family, you are in it forever. You come to know your Heavenly Father better and you love Him more and more. You see how kind He has been to you, and you often thank Him. If you know you are in God's family, thank God right now for His great kindness to you. If you know that you are not in God's family, is God speaking to your heart? You know you don't deserve to be His child, but you long to be. You can be, if you turn from everything you know to be wrong and trust Jesus Christ to take away your sin. Then you will know God's great kindness in your life, you will be His child.

CTU

Remove all figures.

Review game**Family tree**

Draw two family trees (one for each team) on a piece of paper. Each tree should have twelve blanks, one under the other.

As each team answers correctly, add the good kings in David's line to that team's family tree in the following order, starting at the base of the trunk and moving up the branches:

David, Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah, Jesus.

The team that has the most names on its family tree is the winner.

Review questions

- 1 What age was Mephibosheth when he fell? (Five.)
- 2 What bad news had the nurse heard that made her run away with Mephibosheth? (That the Philistines had defeated the Israelites and that Saul and Jonathan had been killed.)
- 3 Even when he was an adult, Mephibosheth felt he could not return to the palace. Why? (He feared that David, the new king, would have him killed.)
- 4 What promise had David made to Jonathan? (That if Jonathan were killed, David would care for his family.)
- 5 There were three things about Mephibosheth that made him feel useless and afraid before David. What were they? (He was of an enemy family, he was lame and he was poor.)
- 6 In what ways are we enemies of God the Heavenly King? (We disobey His laws, and displease Him, we don't love Him.)
- 7 In what ways are we poor before God? (There is nothing that we can give God or do to gain our salvation and acceptance before Him.)
- 8 In what ways are we lame in God's sight? (We don't and cannot walk in God's ways. We are always falling into sin and temptation.)
- 9 How does God treat us, if we come humbly before Him? (He shows us His love and accepts us.)
- 10 Name three blessings that David gave Mephibosheth. (He gave him food every day, he gave him lands and servants, he accepted him as a son.)
- 11 Name three blessings that God gives to us when we come to Him through the Lord Jesus. (He accepts us as His sons, He forgives us, He provides for us.)

12 What is the special truth we learn about God through this lesson? (God is kind to sinners.)

Carry-over activity

Story line

Write the main events of the story (see outline - page 49) along the bottoms of sheets of paper and distribute to the children. Have them draw pictures illustrating the events written on their papers.

Collect the papers, shuffle them and hang them out of order on a rope with clothes pegs. Ask volunteers to help you arrange the papers in the proper sequence.

Lesson 5

Absalom's rebellion against David

Scripture for teachers

2 Samuel 14:25-26

2 Samuel 15:1-37

2 Samuel 16:15-20

2 Samuel 17:1-22

2 Samuel 18:1-33

2 Samuel 19:15

Central truth

Do not be a rebel like Absalom

Application

Unsaved: Rebellion will bring suffering and separation from God

Saved: You show that you are saved, by being obedient

Memory verse

Review verse from previous week - Psalm 23:5 or Ephesians 4:32

Or teach

“The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?” Psalm 27:1

Visual aids

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

Or

- ◆ Figures: D-134, D-135, D-136, D-137, D-138, D-139, D-140, D-141, D-142, D-143, D-144, D-145, D-146, D-147, D-148 and D-149

- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene, palace scene and city scene

And

- ◆ Wordstrips: “Do not be a rebel like Absalom” (central truth) and “You show that you are saved, by being obedient” (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Do you like a good spy story?

Progression of events

- 1 Absalom, David's son, is very popular
- 2 He steals the hearts of the people **CTS, CTU**
- 3 He requests to go to Hebron **CTS, CTU**
- 4 Ahithophel deserts David
- 5 David flees
- 6 David weeps **CTU**
- 7 Hushai goes to Absalom, but as David's spy
- 8 Absalom accepts Hushai's bad advice
- 9 Hushai sends information to David
- 10 Battle is waged between the two armies
- 11 Absalom is caught by his hair in a tree

Climax

- 12 Absalom is killed **CTU**
- 13 David hears the news and mourns

Conclusion

David returns to Jerusalem as king **CT**

Lesson

Do you like a good spy story? There is a spy in our story today. You listen and look like good detectives and see when you spot which man in our story today was the clever spy.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

David had a very handsome son called Absalom.

Place Absalom (D-134).

Everybody thought that he was just about the best-looking person in the whole country. He was very proud of his beauty and his long, thick hair. In fact he was so proud of his hair that, when it was cut every year, he used to weigh it! The crowds came out to see him and admire him.

Place people (D-135, D-136 and D-137).

They watched him as he drove his chariot with fifty men to run before him and shout to the people that Prince Absalom was coming.

Absalom was also very popular. He would get up early in the morning and stand in the gate of the city. This was where people gathered to discuss problems and where disagreements and problems were sorted out. Absalom would call to him anyone who had a problem and talk to him.

He would agree with him and say, "I believe you are right. It is too bad that the king has not sent someone to make a good decision on this matter. If only I were the judge in the land, I would see to it that you got justice done to you."

If anyone bowed to Absalom, he would lift him up quickly and kiss him and be very friendly. The Bible says that by doing these things he stole the heart of the people (2 Samuel 15:6). He really was trying to get them to give him more obedience and respect than they gave to the king, his father David.

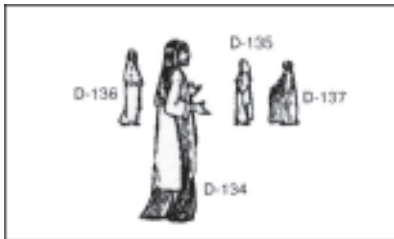
Absalom was very deceitful - outwardly he was so friendly, but inside he was proud and selfish, rebellious and ambitious. He really enjoyed being popular.

Remove all figures.

Perhaps you are a little like him. At school you do things, just to be popular. You make fun of the teacher, you disobey her. Others think you are clever and you like that. At school you are a rebel.

Do you know that God tells us in the Bible that we should obey those who are in authority over us (Romans 13:1-2)? That includes our teachers! So you sin against God, when you disobey at school, or show disrespect for the teacher. You are a rebel at school, and a

Flashcard 5-1



Preschoolers can take turns being Absalom and greeting others as they come to the "gate" and can playact the events surrounding Absalom's deception.

CTS, CTU

Show card with central truth: "Do not be a rebel like Absalom".

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

rebel against God. This is very serious. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you will show this by being obedient in school.

Scene 2

Optional background: Palace scene. Place Absalom (D-134) and David (D-138).

What Absalom really wanted was to be king and he began to plot how he could rebel against his father.

One day he went to David with this request, "Let me go to Hebron to keep the promise that I made to the Lord. For I promised that I would serve the Lord there."

David very happily agreed to let him go to Hebron to worship and serve the Lord.

Remove all figures.

He felt happy to think that this handsome son wanted to follow the Lord. But Absalom had deceived his father. He was simply starting his plans to be king instead of David. Absalom was rebelling against his father and deceiving him. Do you do that? You tell your father that you were in the park, when you were nowhere near it. You tell your mother that your friend gave you the chocolate, but really you bought it with money you stole from her purse. You don't come in when you are told to, you don't tidy up your toys. This is very wrong. God says, "Honour (obey) your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16). God repeats that command time and time again in the Bible. When you are a rebel at home, you are being a rebel against God. Perhaps your parents do not follow Jesus Christ and you do. You can show your love for Him by obeying your parents.

Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

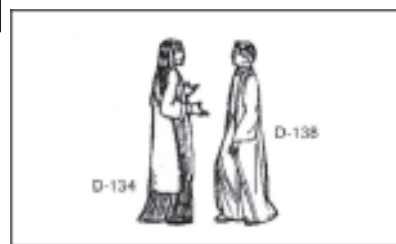
As soon as Absalom left, he started organising the rebellion against David. He sent messengers through the whole country stirring up the people against the king.

Place Absalom (D-134) and people (D-135, D-136 and D-137).

They said, "We need a new king. Young Absalom, who is so popular and friendly and handsome, would make a far better king than old David."

Many people were persuaded by Absalom and his supporters to join the rebellion.

Even Ahithophel, who was one of the wise men who gave David good advice when he needed help in making wise decisions, was persuaded to join Absalom and the rebel army.



Flashcard 5-2

Give Absalom's words printed on a card to an older child to read as he requests his father's permission to go to Hebron.

Point to the word "rebel".

CTS, CTU

Read (or have an older child read) one or both of the verses from your Bible.

Show card with application for the saved child: "You show that you are saved, by being obedient".

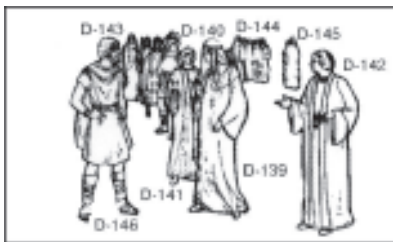


Ahithophel's betrayal of David may have come about because of family disputes. He was

Bathsheba's grandfather, and his son, Eliam (Bathsheba's father) was one of David's mighty men and probably a friend of Uriah's. It may

Flashcard 5-3

have been Ahithophel's disgust over David's actions, which had brought shame to Bathsheba and death to Uriah, that prompted his treason.



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Absalom was rebelling against his father, who also was the king. He was breaking the law. It is a sin against God to break the law of the land. You should respect and obey the police and not go around with people who get into trouble with the law.

Remove all figures.

Finally, when the rebellion was well organized, David heard the news of what was happening. What a terrible shock to learn that his own son Absalom had risen up against him and persuaded men, like Ahithophel and many others, to rebel against their king. David decided that the wisest thing to do for the moment was to escape quickly out of Jerusalem.

Many, many people were loyal to David and he could count on soldiers who had fought by his side in many battles, so he said, "Let's get out quickly before Absalom comes with his army to attack us here and to destroy the city of Jerusalem."

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place David (D-139) and people (D-140, D-141, D-142, D-143, D-144, D-145 and D-146).

So David and many of his people fled out of the city. As they marched on their way, leaving Jerusalem behind them, they were so sad. What a terrible experience to have to leave your home and city, because some of your own countrymen had risen up to fight against you! As they went across the river Kidron and started to climb the Mount of Olives, we read in the Bible that "all the country wept with a loud voice" (2 Samuel 15:23). And David too wept bitterly as he went.

People get badly hurt when children rebel. If you have a good father and mother, they will be heart-broken by your disobedience. Think of the sadness you bring to your home. Think of how God must feel when children rebel against their parents, teachers, the law, and worst of all against Him. God is holy and good, and rebellion really grieves Him.

But God is not weak as David was. When you rebel against Him, He does not just give up and let you do what you please. God loves you and wants the very best for you. He loved you enough to punish His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for your sin and your rebellion. Jesus died on the cross for your sin. God invites you to turn back to Him. He wants to forgive you and make you His child. Tell Him today that you are sorry for your rebellion. Come to Him and ask Him to receive you and forgive you. He will do that, for He promises, "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

As David and his people walked away from the city, they went barefoot and their heads were covered. This was a way of showing their sorrow in those days.

Place David (D-147).

When David reached the top of the hill, one of his advisors met him. He was called Hushai.

Place Hushai (D-148).

He was in mourning, with his clothes torn and dust on his head. He was a loyal friend of David and was showing his sorrow that David was leaving Jerusalem.

David asked Hushai, "Will you go back to Jerusalem for me? Go and tell Absalom that you have decided to obey him instead of me. He knows that you are a wise and experienced man and he will ask you for advice. You could give him poor advice and also anything that you hear about his plans, smuggle the news out to me, so that I can be prepared."

Hushai gladly agreed and hurried back to Jerusalem.

Remove all figures.



Scene 6

Optional background: City scene.

Have any of you good detectives spotted the spy yet that I told you about? Yes, it was Hushai. When he got back to Jerusalem, Absalom had already entered the city and was ready to take over as king.

Place Absalom (D-134) and Hushai (D-142).

Hushai went right up to him and shouted out, "God save the king! God save the king!"

Absalom was delighted! He believed that a very important man like Hushai was on his side. And of course he also had Ahithophel, a person who gave very wise advice.

Place Ahithophel (D-149).

Absalom began to make his battle plans to defeat David. He turned right away to Ahithophel.

Move Ahithophel (D-149) close to Absalom (D-134).

"Give me your advice, Ahithophel, how to begin our campaign against David," he asked.

"What we need to do," answered Ahithophel, "is to attack right away. He has not had time to get organised yet and he is weary from the journey he has made. Let me take 12,000 soldiers right now. I'll



Flashcard 5-4

make an all-out attack to kill David, and when the people realise that we have killed their leader, they will all give up and will acknowledge you as king. The battle will be over more quickly if you follow my advice.”

Absalom thought that sounded like a very good plan of attack. But he decided to ask Hushai and see what he suggested.

“Hushai,” he said, “what do you think about Ahithophel’s plan?”

Hushai knew that Ahithophel had given good advice that would lead to the defeat of David. He was really concerned.

“I don’t think that would work at all,” he replied quickly. “You know very well, Absalom, that David and his men are experienced and brave soldiers. Right now they are as angry as a female bear that has been robbed of her cubs. Also it would not be easy to find David and kill him. That plan of attack could easily fail, some of our men could be killed and the rest become frightened and discouraged. My advice would be that you take time to gather a very large army and lead it yourself. Don’t be in too much of a hurry. Then when you go after David with a large army, you will overwhelm him and gain a clear victory.”

Absalom had listened to the advice of the two men. I am sure that Hushai was holding his breath and hoping that Absalom would listen to his bad advice, so that David would have time to prepare properly for the coming battle.

God was in control and he caused Absalom to listen to the advice of Hushai, the spy. Hushai was so glad and he was able to get a message sent to David. It said, “Don’t stop where you are. Keep going away until you have time to prepare your army properly for the big battle.”

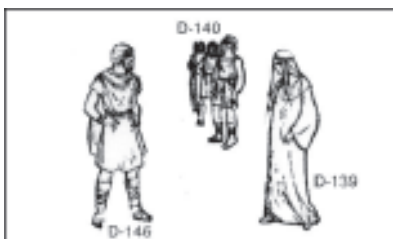
Remove all figures.

Scene 7

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

David organised his army for the fight with Absalom.

Place David (D-139), the army (D-140) and Joab (D-146).



They were out in wooded country beyond the river Jordan. He put Joab and two others as generals over the troops. He himself wanted to march with his soldiers to battle, but the people said, “No, you are worth 10,000 of any of us. You must not be killed. That would be a disaster for everyone. You must stay here in the army camp.” So David did that. He stood at the gate as the army marched out, and as each captain passed him, David said, “Captain, deal gently for my sake with the young man, Absalom.”

He still loved Absalom very dearly, though he had rebelled against him.

Remove David (D-139).

The army of Absalom was no match for the valiant troops on David's side. That day 20,000 soldiers of Absalom's army were killed.

During the battle, Absalom was riding through a wood on his mule, and as it went under the low branch of an oak tree, his head was caught in the branches. The mule galloped on and Absalom was left hanging in the tree.

One of the soldiers of David's army saw what had happened and ran to tell Joab, "Absalom is hanging in a tree, caught by his head."

"Why did you not kill him?" said Joab. "I would have given you a prize of silver (10 shekels)."

"I would not have killed him for a purse of silver, a hundred times more than you offered me," (1,000 shekels) the young man replied. "You heard what David said about treating Absalom gently."

Joab did not wait any longer. He and ten young men rushed to the place where Absalom was still hanging in the tree and killed him. Joab then blew his trumpet to signal that the rebellion was over. What a sad end to the life of this young rebel!

Rebellion will lead you into serious trouble too. But worst of all, if you continue to be a rebel, you will suffer the punishment you deserve, being separated from God forever. Think very seriously about this. Remember that Jesus Christ took the punishment which rebels like you deserve. He can make a rebel against God into a child of God.

Perhaps you are thinking seriously about your sin and want to trust in Christ as your Saviour. But maybe you are not quite sure how to do so. If you would like me to help you, I would love to do so and show you from the Bible how to trust in the Lord Jesus. Of course, I can only explain things to you. If you want help, come to me after the class. I will be glad to talk to you about these important matters.

(Name a specific place where you will wait for children who might want counsel.)

Remove all figures.

Scene 8

Optional background: City scene.

Back in the city, David was at the gate waiting for news.

Place David (D-139).

A guard up on a watch-tower called out, "I can see a man running towards us. He must be bringing news from the battle-field."

Soon he came up to where the king was.

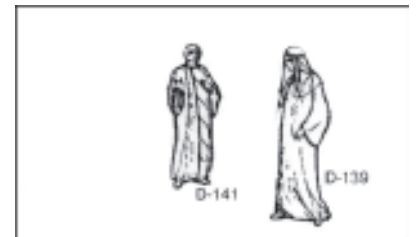
Place messenger (D-141).

Flashcard 5-5

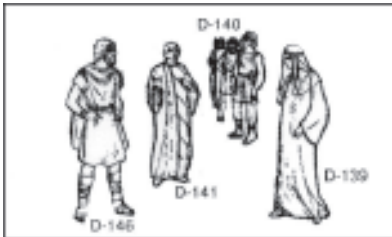
Use voice inflection to add drama to this part of the story.

CTU

Show card with central truth.



Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



Flashcard 5-6

CT

Show card with central truth.

Review game

Don't be a rebel

You might like to put up the word "rebel" on the board.

He was panting for breath after his long run, but he gasped out, "Good news, King David, the Lord has given you the victory over all those that have rebelled against you."

"And what about Absalom? Is he safe?" asked David. His first question was about his son.

There must have been silence for a moment before the messenger replied quietly, "May all your enemies be as that young man is."

David understood that Absalom was dead.

Remove messenger (D-141).

David went up to a room over the gate of the city and he wept. "O my son Absalom - my son, my son Absalom - if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33).

Replace David (D-139) with David mourning (D-147).

King David was deep in grief over his son. As a father he was sorrowing over his son's death. But perhaps even more, he was sorrowing because of Absalom's rebellion against God.

Remove David (D-147).

King David's victorious army almost crept back into the city (2 Samuel 19:3). Because of the king's sorrow, there was no rejoicing over the victory.

Place Joab (D-146).

Finally Joab had to speak to David and show him that he had to stop weeping for Absalom and show appreciation for the soldiers, who had fought bravely to defend him. David did this and came down to the gate of the city.

Place David (D-139), soldiers (D-140) and messenger (D-141).

Soon the whole nation returned to David and with great joy David was brought back to Jerusalem as their king once more.

I am sure that there was still sadness in David's heart as he often thought of Absalom. Listen to God's warning, "Do not be a rebel." If you have been one, and you want to turn from that way, tell God that in the quietness of your heart; ask Him to forgive you and to change you from being a rebel, into being a child of His. When you are a child of God, you show that you belong to Him, by obeying Him.

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 Why was Absalom so popular? (He was very handsome. He talked to the people about their problems. He was very friendly on the outside, though deceitful and proud on the inside.)

- 2 When he wanted to leave Jerusalem to start the rebellion, what did he say to deceive David? (That he wanted to go to Hebron to keep a promise to serve God.)
- 3 Suggest four people against whom men and women, or boys and girls, rebel. (God, teachers, parents, the law of the land - the police, the government.)
- 4 Give me an example of what being a rebel against a teacher means. (Making fun of a teacher, disobeying her, disobeying school rules.)
- 5 Give an example of what being a rebel against parents means. (Telling lies to parents, stealing money to buy chocolate, not coming when called, not tidying up toys, etc.)
- 6 Why was David sad when Ahithophel joined Absalom? (Because he was a wise adviser on whom David depended.)
- 7 What was Hushai's job? (To spy, to keep Absalom from listening to Ahithophel's advice and to send information to David about Absalom's plans.)
- 8 What bad advice did Hushai give to Absalom? (He advised Absalom not to go out at once and attack David, but to wait and gather up a big army to attack later.)
- 9 Why did David not go to battle with the people? (They persuaded him to stay in the city. They told him that he was too important a person for them to lose in the battle.)
- 10 Absalom's rebellion ended in a very sad way. How did he die? (Joab killed him as he was hanging by his long hair in a tree.)
- 11 What is the result of rebelling against God? (It is to be separated forever from God - unless we have asked His forgiveness and have come back to God.)
- 12 David was very sad at the death of his rebellious son. How do you think God feels when a person dies, while still a rebel against Him? (God too must feel very sad because that person rejected Him though He loved him so much.)

For every correct answer you take off (or rub out) one of the letters of the word "rebel".

Then you start to make the word "child". For every correct answer you put up a letter.

Our prayer is that each child will be changed from being a rebel against God to being a child of God.

Lesson 6

Solomon succeeds David as king

Scripture for teachers

1 Chronicles 22:2 - 23:5

2 Samuel 7:11b-29

1 Kings 1:33,34

1 Kings 2:1-4

1 Chronicles 29:28

Luke 1:26-33

Luke 11:31

Zechariah 14:9

Revelation 11:15

Central truth

Jesus Christ is King

Application

Unsaved: One day you will have to bow before Him as your King

Saved: Obey Him

Memory verse

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” Psalm 23:6

Or

“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” Psalm 16:11

Explain the verse carefully.

Visual aids

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

Or

◆ Figures: D-150, D-151-a-b, D-152, D-153, D-154, D-155, D-156, D-157, D-158, D-159 and D-160

◆ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene, palace interior scene and street scene

And

◆ Wordstrips: “Jesus Christ is King” (central truth) and “Obey Him” (application for the saved child)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Nial and Darlene’s grandfather was quite poor

Progression of events

- 1 David prepares material for the building of the temple
- 2 His advice to Solomon **CT**
- 3 God’s promise to David **CT**
- 4 Solomon appointed king
- 5 David’s death **CTS**
- 6 The temple destroyed and the kingdom ended
- 7 The angel’s message to Mary
- 8 Christ a greater King than Solomon **CT**

Climax

His coming again and future reign **CTS**

Conclusion

All will know that He is King **CTU**

Lesson

Nial and Darlene's grandfather was quite poor when he was young. He only went to school till he was 14 years old. After that he had to go to work, though he would have enjoyed going on to high school. When his first son was born (Nial and Darlene's dad), Grandad was determined that his son would get the chance to have a good schooling. His son was a good student and he went on to study at the University and became a doctor. He was able to do many things that Grandad never could.

In a way that was what happened to David. One of his sons was going to do great things that he would have liked to have done, but could not. It was not because he was poor, however, but because God did not allow him to do so.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene.

King David was an old man.

Place David (D-150).

God had given him rest from his enemies. No more would he march out to war. These were days of peace. But King David was busy. There was a lot of activity in the city of Jerusalem.

Place building materials (D-151a and D-151b).

David had assigned one group of men to cut beautiful stones. Other men were making iron into thousands of nails. There were stacks of bronze - too much to weigh. And cedar logs - too many to count. What was going on?

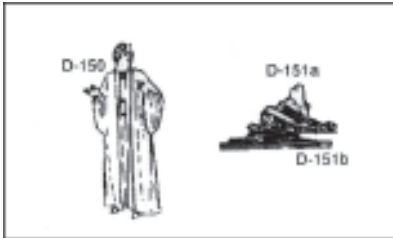
David himself explained what it was all about. It had to do with the temple he wanted to build for God so many years before this. Because David loved the Lord so much, he wanted to do this special thing for Him. But God had said, "Not yet. Your son shall do it." Now the time was very near.

"My son, Solomon, is still young and inexperienced," David said. (Solomon was probably not yet twenty years old.) "The temple that is to be built for the Lord is to be made most magnificent. Its fame and glory will be known everywhere. I am making preparations for it."

David knew he would not live much longer. He must have been looking forward to the time when he would be in the very presence of God - "In the house of the Lord forever."

David had a number of sons. God had said that Solomon was the son who was to be the king after him.

Place Solomon (D-152).



Flashcard 6-1

Preschoolers would enjoy gathering materials (large boxes or blocks, toy hammers, nails and logs) for the temple.



Flashcard 6-2

“My son,” he said, “I had in mind to build a temple to the name of the Lord my God. I wanted to do this myself. But God said to me, ‘You have shed too much blood and carried on great wars. Because of this, I will not permit you to build my temple. But a son will be born to you who shall be a man of peace. I will give him rest from his enemies. Solomon will be his name. There will be peace and safety over Israel as long as he lives. He will build a house for me.’”

Thinking of building a temple must have made young Solomon feel afraid and discouraged. How could he ever take charge of such an important work?

David seemed to look ahead to the time when Solomon would be on the throne.

David encouraged him, saying, “Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may prosper and build the temple as He has said. The Lord grant you understanding, so that, when He makes you king over Israel, you may keep the law of the Lord your God.”

We could say that in just two words. Obey God. It was good advice for Solomon, and it is good advice for you and me.

“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid.” David saw fear and sadness in Solomon’s eyes. “Do not be sad,” David said. David wanted Solomon to know the joy he was feeling in preparing for the building of this temple. “Look at what I have brought together for this temple.” In addition to the stones and iron and bronze, David told Solomon how much gold and silver and brass he had collected. It was an enormous amount.

“You will want to add to the things I have collected,” David told Solomon. “There are many experienced men here to work for you - stonecutters, wood-carvers, men to work with gold and silver and bronze and iron. Get up and do it, and the Lord be with you!”

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Palace interior scene. Place leaders (D-154), David (D-150) and throne (D-153).

David called the leaders of Israel together.

“I am expecting you to help my son, Solomon, in the building of the temple,” he said. “Is not the Lord your God with you? Now set your minds and hearts to seek the Lord God, so that the ark of God may be brought into the temple that is built for the Lord’s name.”

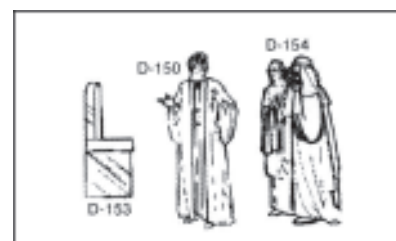
Remove leaders (D-154).

David even appointed workers for the temple after it was built. Twenty-four thousand of them were to be in charge of the worship there! Four thousand of them were appointed to play instruments

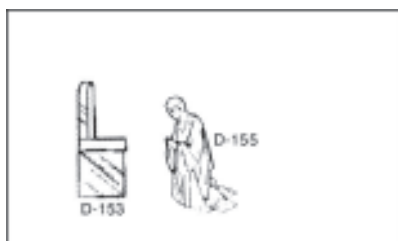
CT

A collection of small-scale objects of the various kinds will help children identify with the type of things David gathered. Children would appreciate feeling the smooth stones and smelling the cedar logs.

Flashcard 6-3



Help children find the book of Psalms in the middle of their Bibles.



and sing praises to the Lord. The services of praise at the temple would be thrilling. David had much for which to praise God. And so have we!

David wrote many songs of praise. They would be sung in that temple. We have a great number of them in the book of Psalms in our Bible. Sometimes we use some of the songs he wrote as our praises to God.

Preparing for the building of God's house, David must have remembered God's promises about his (David's) house. God talked about it the same night He said, "David shall not be the one to build Me a house."

God said, "After your days on this Earth are over, your son will rule from your throne. And I will set up your kingdom forever." That was God's promise - a kingdom forever.

Replace David (D-150) with David praying (D-155).

Scene 3

David believed God, even though it was too much for him to understand. Listen to his prayer (taken from 2 Samuel 7:18-29). "What am I, and what is my family that You have done all this for me? As if what You have already done is not enough."

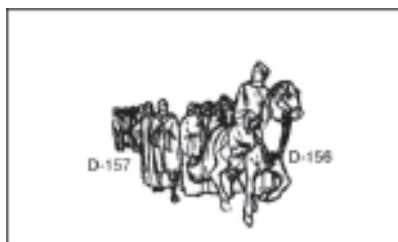
CT

Show card with central truth: "Jesus Christ is King".

David did not really understand God's promise completely that "his kingdom would be forever." He was getting old and knew that soon he would die. What about his son Solomon? He would be king soon, but later he too would grow old and die. No, the only One Who is King forever is the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will be King for as long as the Earth lasts, and even longer. He will be King for ever and ever. But how could He have anything to do with David's family? Let's see what happened.

Remove all figures.



Scene 4

Optional background: Street scene.

As David got older he knew that soon he would die and be with the Lord. It was time to hand over the throne to Solomon, his son.

Place Solomon (D-156) and crowds (D-157).

Flashcard 6-4

Make a pretend trumpet sound then let the children shout, "Long live King Solomon!"

Solomon rode into Jerusalem. The trumpets blew and the leaders cried, "God save the King!"

David talked to Solomon about the path of life. He said it this way, "Walk in God's way; keep His laws. And God will keep His promises about the kingdom for our family."

Remove all figures.

Very soon after that David died. His people mourned for him, but he still lives in the “house of the Lord forever”. One day, if you belong to God’s family, you will see David in Heaven and will be able to talk to him about all the great adventures we have been learning about!

Now Solomon was king. He lived in a time of peace and built the beautiful temple and ruled wisely. But towards the end of his life he started to disobey God. And after him came other kings in Israel who turned further and further from God. God had told David that the people would be punished, if they were disobedient. And God did punish them because of their sin, as He said - enemy nations marched into the land and had one victory after another. All the people of Israel were captured and taken away out of the land, including the king. The palace was destroyed. The beautiful temple was destroyed. The whole city of Jerusalem was destroyed. And it seemed as if the kingdom was finished (2 Kings 25:1-11). But what about God’s **forever** promise?

Well, here is something wonderfully exciting! It happened about 400 years after the palace and temple and city were destroyed.

God sent an angel to bring a message to a young woman whose name was Mary. This was the message. “You shall give birth to a Son. You shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest.” Now listen to these words! “And the Lord God shall give Him the throne of His father David.” You see, Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus, was from the family of David. But that was not all that the angel told her. “And the Lord God shall give Him the throne of His father David. He shall be king over the house of Israel forever,” (from Luke 1:26-33).

That’s the mystery solved! Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, came from David’s family. His Father, though, was God. This baby was different from any other ever born. He was God and man, He was sinless. Though He was King, He was born in a stable and very few people knew He was King.

When the Lord Jesus grew up and became a man, He taught the people many things. One day He said that Solomon was a great and wealthy king, but “a greater than Solomon is here” (Luke 11:31). Who was He speaking about? About Himself. Jesus is a greater King than Solomon ever was. For one thing, Christ’s kingdom is forever.

Was the Lord Jesus ever crowned King of Israel’s capital city, Jerusalem?

Place cross (D-158).

No! The only crown He wore was the crown of thorns. The Lord Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, was nailed to a cross. When He died,

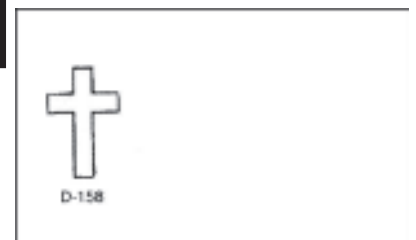
CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

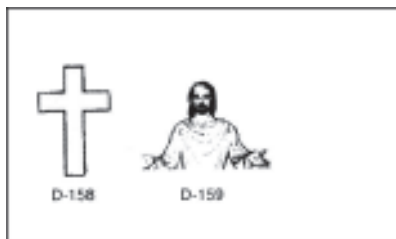
CT

Show card with central truth.

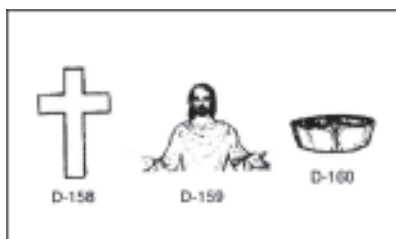
Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.



Flashcard 6-5

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Obey Him".

Flashcard 6-6**CTU****Review game****Logs for the temple**

Draw a line down the middle of a white board.

For each correct answer, draw a log on that team's side of the board.

The team with the highest pile of logs is the winner.

His body was placed in a garden tomb. How then is Christ a King forever?

We know that God's Son did not stay dead!

Place risen Christ (D-159).

He rose from the dead. He went back to Heaven and He is still alive today. He is Lord over all - over death, sin and Satan; they have been defeated by Him. He rules in the hearts and lives of every person here who has trusted Him as Saviour. If He is your Saviour He is also your King. That means you should do only what would please your King. You say what He would want you to say, you go where He would want you to go. Maybe it is quite hard for you to be kind to another boy or girl at school. But you remember that your King wants you to be kind to others and so you obey Him and say a kind word.

And one day the Lord Jesus is coming back again from Heaven. He is not coming as a little baby, as He did when He came to Bethlehem. This time He is coming as a glorious King.

Place crown (D-160).

On that day every person who has ever lived will know that He is King. They will see Him, the Great King over all. It will be a very sad and frightening time for those who have never trusted Him as Saviour and Lord. Will you be one of those? If so, you and others will have to bow before Him and say that He is Lord. It will be too late to be saved. You will have no part in that wonderful Kingdom over which He will rule forever. But that great day is not here yet, we don't know when it will be. Think carefully about being ready. If you really long to be ready, tell Him that. Ask Him to take away your sin and be your Saviour and your King. Be ready for that great day when the whole world, everyone who has ever lived, will see the Lord Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 Why was David gathering great quantities of wood, stone, gold and silver? (For the building of the temple.)
- 2 Why did God tell him that his son and not he was to build the temple? (He had been in too many battles and had shed too much blood.)
- 3 What good advice did David give his son Solomon? (Obey God, be courageous.)
- 4 As well as getting materials together, and encouraging his son, how else did David help in the preparation of the building of the temple? (He appointed men to work in the temple after it was built - to be in charge of the worship, to play musical instruments. David also wrote many Psalms for the worship.)

- 5 What special promise did God make to David? (I will set up your kingdom forever.)
- 6 Where is David now? (“In the house of the Lord [Heaven] forever”.)
- 7 What happened after Solomon died? (The kings of Israel disobeyed God and He had to punish them, by taking the kingdom from them and allowing the people to be carried away into captivity.)
- 8 How was David connected to the Lord Jesus? (Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a descendant of David.)
- 9 What are the special words I put on the board? (Jesus Christ is Lord.)
- 10 Where does the Lord Jesus Christ reign now? (In the hearts of all those who have trusted in Him.)
- 11 Who said “a greater than Solomon is here”? (The Lord Jesus.)
- 12 When will the Lord Jesus be King over all mankind, even those who do not believe in Him, nor love Him? (When He comes back from Heaven.)

Carry-over activity

Picture God's Word

Read verses that tell us to obey God's Word (eg 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Psalm 119:105 and Hebrews 4:12).

Have the children draw a picture illustrating Hebrews 4:12.

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*).