

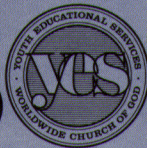
YOUTH



LEVEL 5

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 11



DAVID IS ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL

God searched among the families of Israel for a suitable king—one who would set his heart to obey God's laws. No person perfectly obeys all of God's laws, but God greatly appreciates those who try and who are willing to change when they see they are wrong.

That is the kind of man God chose to be the next king of Israel. His name was David.

DAVID CHOSEN TO BE KING

Saul had been popular with the people of Israel because he was tall and handsome. People are often attracted by the appearance of a person. But God is not deceived by looks. He knows how a person thinks and feels.

Write out I Samuel 16:7 on the lines below. _____

_____.

God rejected Saul from being king of Israel because Saul allowed his human

ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

Samuel pours oil on David's head, anointing him king of Israel.

Illustration by Mike Rider

pride and vanity to get in the way of obedience to God.

God told His prophet, Samuel, that He had chosen the next king from a family in the small town of Bethlehem (I Samuel 16:1).

The surrounding hills and valleys of this town provided good pastureland for grazing sheep and goats. The children there spent many hours watching after the flocks of sheep. Young boys would sometimes sit under a tree in the cool evening breeze playing a harp.

Many of the young Israelite boys learned to use leather slings to hurl rocks at rodents or birds. Some fathers taught their sons to use the sling to scare away lions or wolves. To be good with the sling required many hours of practice.

Once a boy had learned to use the sling, he was sent into a field alone. A small loaf of bread was placed on a high pole. The boy was not allowed any food until he knocked the bread off the pole. He could then eat the bread.

Some who used a sling could hit a small animal several feet away—using either the right hand or the left! Others could hit a target several hundred feet away.

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he went to the home of a man named Jesse. God had told Samuel that the new king would be one of Jesse's sons. The problem was, Jesse had eight sons. Samuel did not know whom to anoint as king.

Jesse's sons were surprised to learn that one of them would be king. One by one, seven of Jesse's sons were brought before God's prophet. But God told Samuel that they were not the ones He had chosen to be king (I Samuel 16:6-10).

Only seven sons were home that day. The youngest, David, was in the fields tending the sheep. Samuel then told Jesse to send for David.

"We will not sit down to eat until he comes," Samuel said.

When David arrived, Samuel may have wondered how this young man would someday be a king. He was a handsome young man, but his reddish, curly hair and youthful appearance did not look like a king.

But God inspired Samuel to know this was the young man who would someday rule as king. Samuel then took his jar of oil and anointed David king of Israel (I Samuel 16:13).

God knew what kind of ruler David was going to be as king. God knows how a person thinks and feels. David had proved to be a faithful worker for his father. He also tried to obey his family's instruction.

David had become a skilled musician, and he composed beautiful poems for songs. He developed his skills and ath-

letic abilities and, on top of all his ability, continued to have the right attitude.

David was humble instead of proud. He was respectful. God found in David a man who could rule Israel. David was a man who would also prove qualified to rule over all Israel in the future Kingdom of God.

DAVID PLAYS THE HARP FOR SAUL

In the meantime, King Saul continued to rule over Israel. He was unaware that a new king had been selected. Because Saul had departed from God's ways, God no longer blessed him.

What began to happen to Saul? (I Samuel 16:14) _____

Saul's servants suggested they find someone who could play beautiful music on the harp. They thought it would make the king feel better. Saul liked the idea. But whom would they find?

One of the servants knew that David from Bethlehem was a skilled player on the harp.

"He is a brave and wise young man," Saul's servant said. "He is also handsome, and God is with him."

Saul sent for David to come to his court. So the future king was invited to live with the present king. It was to be a time of training for David. However, it was not to be without problems. But David was thrilled to be of service to the king.

What happened when David played



David returned from the king's palace to continue caring for his father's sheep.

the harp for Saul? (I Samuel 16:23)

DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH

The Israelites were at war with the Philistines. The two armies had camped on each side of a valley.

The champion of the Philistines was a giant named Goliath. He was nearly 10 feet tall! (I Samuel 17:1-4.)

In those days, the armor of an average-sized soldier weighed about 60 pounds. That is a lot of weight. But do you know how much Goliath's armor weighed? About 270 pounds! His spear alone weighed more than 18 pounds. His coat was made of woven metal and weighed 156 pounds.

The Philistine giant challenged Saul and the Israelites to a one-man battle. Goliath would fight any Israelite who dared to face him. But if the Israelites

lost, they would have to surrender and serve the Philistines.

Not one Israelite soldier wanted to fight Goliath (I Samuel 17:11).

During this time, David had returned home to care for his father's sheep. One day Jesse, David's father, asked David to take food and supplies to some of David's brothers who were in the Israelite army camp.

Shortly after he arrived at the camp, David heard Goliath's challenge. He was shocked that no one would fight the giant (verses 22-23).

David was a man who prayed and was close to God. He knew God had intervened in his life on many occasions. He also knew that God would help him now.

"I will fight the giant!" David shouted to the nearby soldiers.

David's brothers were surprised and angered. King Saul was amazed.

When David was brought before King Saul, Saul said: "You are too young to fight against the giant. You are not experienced in battle. Goliath has been a soldier most of his life. You will surely be killed" (I Samuel 17:33).

What was David's answer to King Saul? (Summarize I Samuel 17:34-36 on the lines below.)

David knew that God had delivered

him from the bear and the lion. And David knew that God would deliver him and the Israelites from the Philistine giant (verse 37).

David was the only man who had that kind of trust in God. Yet he was a young man. You do not have to be old to trust in God. You can learn to trust in God at an early age.

What did Saul want David to do? (I Samuel 17:38) _____

But David had not been a soldier. He did not know how to handle armor and military equipment.

What did David take with him as he crossed the valley to fight Goliath? (I Samuel 17:40) _____

When the Philistine giant saw young David, he became furious. In the name of his gods, Goliath shouted curses and threatened to feed David's dead body to the birds and beasts.

What was David's reply to Goliath? (Summarize I Samuel 17:45-47.) _____

David, with his youthful ability and



In the name of his gods, Goliath shouted curses and threatened to feed David's dead body to the birds and beasts.

his hours of practicing the sling, along with his trust in God, was about to make history.

As Goliath plodded under the weight of his armor, David rushed at him. David quickly placed a smooth, rounded stone in his sling and whirled it around. Then, with all his strength, he hurled the stone from the sling.

Both the Philistine and Israelite armies gasped in amazement as the stone struck Goliath between the eyes.

Goliath staggered forward a few steps, then fell on his face (I Samuel 17:49).

David swiftly ran to the giant, grabbed his huge sword and cut off Goliath's head.

The Philistine army retreated in fear. A boy had slain their champion. In their haste to escape, they left behind jewels, military equipment, food and many animals. The Israelites hurriedly gathered these and took them back to their own camp.

David was a hero. However, it was God who gave David the victory over Goliath, not the greatness of David.

SAUL BECOMES JEALOUS OF DAVID

Saul called for David after watching his courageous deed. What happened at the king's court? (I Samuel 18:1-2)

The king's son, who would some day inherit the throne, became David's best friend.

The friendship of David and Jonathan is one of the most beautiful relationships of two friends mentioned in the Bible. Each was loyal to the other. Each would have given his life to protect his friend (I Samuel 18:1-3).

Saul placed David in a responsible position in the army. Then Saul and his army made plans to parade through the towns after the victory over the Philistines. But by this time, news had spread throughout the land that David

had killed the Philistine giant.

What did the young women sing as the soldiers marched through the towns? (I Samuel 18:7) _____

How did King Saul react to David's popularity? (I Samuel 18:8) _____

Saul was so angry and jealous, an evil spirit again began to trouble him. The king's servants quickly called for David to play soothing music on his harp.

As David played the harp, what did Saul do? (I Samuel 18:11) _____

After David's escape, Saul began to fear David. After all, David now knew Saul had become jealous enough to kill him. Saul knew any normal man would be out for revenge.

But David was not a normal man. David knew that God made Saul king of Israel. He respected the king's office and did not try to hurt the king. He did not even speak an evil word against Saul.

Because of David's heroism, Saul had no choice but to make him a captain in the army (I Samuel 18:13).

SAUL PLOTS TO KILL DAVID

Saul thought of a plan to have David marry one of his daughters. Believing his own daughter would be loyal to him,



While David played the harp, Saul suddenly hurled his spear at David.

Saul thought he would have a spy in David's home.

Saul also planned that David would not live long enough to be married. David was not wealthy and could offer Saul no gifts for marrying the king's daughter. But the king's only request was for David to kill 100 Philistines. Saul thought that no man with a small group of soldiers could kill 100 enemy soldiers (I Samuel 18:21-25).

What happened in the battle with the Philistines? (I Samuel 18:27) _____

Saul did not know he was struggling against God. He had no choice but to give his daughter Michal to be David's wife. Saul became more fearful of David.

Saul's hatred grew for David daily. One day Saul shouted orders to his son and guards, "Go out and kill David!" (I Samuel 19:1.)

David and Jonathan had become the best of friends. How would you feel if

your father wanted something terrible to happen to your best friend?

Risking his own life, Jonathan talked to his father and begged him not to kill David. Jonathan told his father how loyal David was and how wrong it would be to kill him. After listening to Jonathan, Saul changed his mind and let David come back to the city.

A short time later, another battle broke out against the Philistines. Again, God helped David. The Israelites were victorious.

Now Saul could no longer contain his jealousy. The evil spirit came back to trouble him. David was again called to play his harp. While David played, Saul suddenly hurled his spear at David. David darted aside and ran for his life.

DAVID FLEES FROM SAUL

Saul sent several men to watch David's house and kill him in the morning. But David's wife, Michal, warned David of the plot. She helped David escape through a window by night, and the soldiers did not see him leave. David then fled to where Samuel lived (I Samuel 19:11-12, 18).

David knew someday he was to become king. He probably thought he was in training at the king's court and in the army. But instead of training him, King Saul continually tried to kill him. So David stayed with God's prophet for a time.

Later, David and his friend Jonathan met for one of the last times. The warmth and affection they had for one another was renewed (I Samuel 20:1-4).

Jonathan was willing to try to save David. He would again try to speak to his father. But if Saul still wanted to kill David, Jonathan planned how he would warn him.

Jonathan would shoot three arrows into a field where David would be hiding. If he shot the arrows past David, it would be a sign that David should flee for his life. If he shot them short, it would mean it was safe for David to return.

By this time, Saul knew that David would be the next king. Saul also knew Jonathan was David's best friend. This made Saul angry.

Saul was furious to hear that David had gone home to his family. Saul would not accept David. He insisted

David must be killed. In his anger he hurled a spear at Jonathan, who jumped out of the way just in time (verses 29-33).

The next day, Jonathan went to the field where David was hiding. He shot his arrows well past David. David now knew he had to flee for his life.

David escaped to the wilderness where he would spend many months in hiding. When his family learned where he was, they came to join him. Many others who were unhappy with King Saul also came to be with David (I Samuel 22:1-2).

Saul was enraged to learn that one of the priests had helped David. In his anger, the king ordered the priests and their families killed (verses 18-19).



Jonathan's young servant ran to get the arrow that Jonathan had shot past David.



David quietly crept from the back of the cave to cut a piece of cloth from Saul's robe.

We can see from Saul's example how dangerous anger and jealousy can be. It is important that we all learn to control our tempers and emotions. Many people have been hurt or killed because of jealousy and hatred. We should try to follow David's example, and not the example of King Saul.

DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS

Later, David fled into the dark caves of the wilderness near the Dead Sea. It was difficult for David and his men. There was not much food or water. But they knew Saul would have trouble finding them there. The mountains near the Dead Sea were filled with huge caves (I Samuel 24:1).

Saul was so enraged, he led a small

army into the wilderness to find David. One day, while David and his men were hiding deep inside a dark cave, Saul happened into the same cave.

David could have easily killed Saul. But what did David do? (I Samuel 24:4, last part of verse.) _____

After David cut a piece of cloth from Saul's robe, he was sorry. He realized he had made fun of the king of Israel. David knew he should not have done this to someone who was in authority.

That is a good lesson for us today. Sometimes we say bad things about peo-

ple who are in important positions or offices. This should not be done. We should not make jokes about leaders, teachers or our parents. We must learn to respect others.

David felt badly for what he had done in the cave. He rushed out of the cave and shouted to Saul. Saul was shocked to see David and to discover how close he had come to being killed (I Samuel 24:5-16).

Saul then knew how righteous David was. What did Saul say to David? (I Samuel 24:17, 20) _____

Soon after this event, God's prophet Samuel died. He had served God faithfully many years. He is one of the most outstanding patriarchs mentioned in the Bible (I Samuel 25:1).

THE STORY OF NABAL

After the death of Samuel, David and his men continued to live in the wilderness. On some occasions, bands of thieves would attack innocent farmers and their families. Because David and his men traveled throughout the area, the people who lived there were protected by David and his men.

One day, when David and his men were tired and hungry, David sent a group to a sheep rancher named Nabal. Nabal was a very foolish man. The name *Nabal* means "fool." But somehow, Nabal had managed to



Nabal only scowled and continued shearing his sheep as David's men rode up.

marry a beautiful and intelligent woman named Abigail (I Samuel 25:2-3).

David sent his men to get food and drink for his troops. Remember, David had made it safer for this rancher and his family. He and his men protected Nabal's workers from thieves.

What was Nabal's answer to their request for food? (I Samuel 25:10-11)

The men returned to tell David all that had happened. David was so angry with Nabal that he took 400 men and set out for Nabal's ranch. What did Abigail do when she heard what had

happened and realized that many people could be killed? (summarize I Samuel 25:18-23.) _____

This respectful and beautiful woman helped David change his mind. David and his men kindly accepted the food and went their way.

But when Nabal heard what Abigail had done, giving away food to David, he was furious. He quickly became ill and died 10 days later.

David received word that Nabal had died and was glad that Abigail had stopped him from killing the man. David was impressed with Abigail and he sent for her to become his wife (I Samuel 25:39-40).

Meanwhile, events were not going well for King Saul. He now had to battle thousands of Philistine troops. Saul did not know what to do or where to turn. The prophet Samuel was dead. Saul still hated David bitterly, and he had forsaken God's ways (I Samuel 28:1-4).

What did Saul do next? (I Samuel 28:7) _____

Many people today let themselves be influenced by evil spirits. Some of them claim to foretell the future. Some are

lying spirits. God's people should never consult witches or others who deal with evil spirits. This includes fortune-tellers and astrologers.

The woman Saul and his officers went to see claimed to bring Samuel back from the grave. What the king saw was not Samuel, but a lying spirit who appeared as an elderly man. All the vision could tell Saul was that he and his sons would die in the battle with the Philistines (I Samuel 28:14, 19).

THE END OF SAUL'S LIFE

The battle with the Philistines could not be avoided. The Israelites prepared for the first wave of enemy troops.

The Philistine archers fired a volley of arrows into Israel's ranks. By chance an arrow struck Saul, severely wounding him. Knowing the Philistines would capture and kill him, Saul asked his armor bearer to kill him. The armor bearer could not bring himself to kill the king.

How did Saul's life end? (I Samuel 31:4, last part of verse) _____

During the battle, the Philistines killed Saul's three sons, including Jonathan, David's beloved friend. Many other Israelites also died that day. An important turning point in the history of Israel was about to occur.

In our next lesson we will see how David began to rule the people of Israel and take his place as one of the truly great men of history.

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BIBLE MEMORY

I Corinthians 13:1-8

SCRIPTURE MAZE

Help David escape King Saul by leading him through the maze to safety in the cave. As you draw a line through a scripture, write it out on a separate piece of paper. Be sure to write all the scriptures in the correct order.

