

When his father and mother came to him, David was troubled. He knew that if Saul found him, he would kill his father and mother also. So he made an agreement with the king of Moab (1 Sam 22:3-4), and they remained in Moab while David was in the strongholds (caves).

👉 DAVID WAITED FOR GOD'S TIME

David knew God would give him the kingdom at the right time! He was a man "after God's own heart". He waited on God and he waited for God's time.

"I wait for the Lord," David wrote. "My soul waits and in His word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning" (Psalm 130:6).

When David became king, he had a choir and singers. They sang as they went up to worship Yahweh at the temple. They went in a long procession playing musical instruments and singing psalms (Psalm 150:3-5).

David wrote of this: "Your procession has come into view, O God...In front are the singers, after them the musicians...Praise God in the great congregation; praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel" (Psalm 68:24-26).

DAVID'S EVERLASTING KINGDOM

God promised that a person from David's family would always rule over His people. God's people are called "the house of Israel."

God said to David, "The Lord Himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring...and I will establish his kingdom. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me..." (2 Sam 7:11-16).

TALK ABOUT

1. Who came to David while he was at Adullam?
2. Why did he send his father and mother away?
3. Why was David at Gath?
4. What did he do to escape from Gath?
5. What happened to the priests at Nob?
6. Did David take the blame for this?
7. Does good ever come from telling lies?

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Bible Studies

The story of

David

Part 1

Fred Morris

Written in Easy English

To the Reader: This is a short study on King David of Israel. If you have a Bible keep it with you as you study these notes. Find the Bible verses and read them carefully. In this study, verses are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible. "Talk About" is for group discussion. Invite a friend to study with you. Share what you learn from this study with others and you will be blessed.

Unit 1. DAVID, THE SHEPHERD BOY

David was a shepherd boy, the son of Jesse, who was the grandson of Boaz (Ruth 4:17-22). Jesse had eight sons and two daughters. David was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons. David's mother is not named in the Bible.

David's father, Jesse, is called a Bethlehemite (Beth'-le-hem-ite), which means he lived in the town of Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1, 18). Bethlehem means "house of bread." This town was well-known to the patriarchs. It was the original home of Naomi and her family (see Book of Ruth) and the place where Jacob's wife Rachel was buried (Genesis 35:19).

The town lay five miles south of Jerusalem, in a region known as Ephrathah (Eph'-rath-ah) in Judah (Micah 5:2). The town was rebuilt and fortified by King Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 11:6).

In the fertile valleys around Bethlehem, the young man David kept his father's sheep. He took them out to feed, gave them water and brought them into a fold or yard at night to protect them from robbers and wild animals.

David loved the Lord God and God helped him. When a bear rushed on Jesse's sheep, God gave David extra strength and he killed the bear. The same thing happened when a lion tried to get some of the sheep. The Spirit of the Lord gave him the strength to kill the lion (1 Sam 17:37).



DAVID LOVED NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS

David played the harp and watched his father's sheep. He played and sang the songs he wrote. Many of them are in the Bible; we call them "psalms." The psalms of David tell of his love for God which he probably learned at his mother's knee. He wrote poems of his wonder at the creation that lay around and above him. Many beautiful verses tell of God's wonderful creation, the best known being Psalm 19.

David's poems worship God. They were sung when the people went up to the temple to worship and became the 'hymn book' of Israel!

TALK ABOUT

1. Who was David's father?
2. Where did David grow up?

tabernacle choirs to sing (2 Chron 29:25). He, together with Samuel and Nathan, is said to have written an account of David's reign (1 Chron 29:29-30).

SAUL KILLS THE PRIESTS AT NOB

It was not long before Saul got word of David visiting Ahimelek and how the priest helped David with bread and a weapon. Saul was angry and spoke to the soldiers standing around him on a hill in Gibeah: "Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders...No one tells me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse..." (1 Sam 22:6-10).

Doeg the Edomite who was standing with Saul's officials stepped forward. "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelek," he told the king.

"Ahimelek inquired of the Lord for him and also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Saul was feeling sorry for himself and angry at David. This news sent him into a rage. At once, Saul sent for the priest and questioned him. The Saul said to Ahimelek, "You will surely die, Ahimelek, you and your father's whole family" (1 Sam 22:11-19).

Saul commanded his men to kill Ahimelek, but they refused. Then the king ordered Doeg to go to Nob and kill all the priests and their families. So, that day, the consequences of David's lies and trickery caused the death of God's servants at Nob.

ABIATHAR ESCAPES FROM NOB

One son of Ahimelek named Abiathar escaped from Nob and ran to David. As he was leaving the tabernacle, he saw the High Priest's ephod and grabbed it (1 Sam 22:20-23).

When David saw him, he feared the worst had happened. Abiathar told David that Saul had told Doeg to kill all the priests of the Lord.

David said to Abiathar, "That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family. Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also." (The Edomites were always enemies of Israel)

Saul and his army chased David and his men, but every time Saul got close, God spared David's life (1 Sam 23:14).

"My soul finds rest in God alone," David wrote. "Trust in Him at all times, O people." God wanted them to be a holy people and separate.

David and his men hid in a desert cave called Adullam. Many men came to David. Some had debts they could not pay. Many hated Saul and hoped David would kill him. David was a friend to all these men. He showed them that God was greater than Saul, and God was greater than their troubles. God alone would deliver David and give him the kingdom.

Many times David could have killed Saul, but he did not because he knew God had anointed Saul to be king. David knew that God would take Saul out of the way in His own good time!

As hot bread had been baked, Ahimelek gave David the old bread. Jesus said that it was lawful to provide for physical needs (Mark 2:23-24).

Then David asked, "Do you have a spear or a sword here?" Ahimelek answered, "Goliath's sword is behind the ephod here. If you want it take it."

David said, "There is none like it; give it to me," and he left.

Standing in the shadows listening to this was one Doeg, the Edomite. He was one of Saul's spies.

DAVID AT GATH

David fled to Gath, a Philistine city. He was desperate for a place to hide from Saul and he knew Saul would not come to Gath to look for him.

But his plan failed when the men of Gath thought he was one of Saul's spies. David pretended to be mad. King Achish told his officials, "Look at the man, he is insane. Why bring him to me? Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here..." (1 Sam 21:14-15)?

So David escaped from Gath and went into a cave at Adullam.

TALK ABOUT

1. What was the covenant Jonathan and David made with each other (1 Sam 20:16-17)?
2. Why did David go to Nob?
3. What did he ask the High Priest for?
4. How did David escape from Gath?
5. Where did he go after that (1 Sam 22:1)?

Unit 10. DAVID AT THE CAVE OF ADULLAM

Then David ran away to the desert and hid in the cave of Adullam. His family heard that he was at Adullam and his father and mother went to him there (1 Sam 22:1-5).

David was afraid for their sake. He knew that Saul would kill them, too, if he found them hiding with David. The low-class men of Israel gathered around David – all the thieves and robbers, those running away from the law – "and he became their leader."

To protect his father and mother, he took them to Moab. He asked the king of Moab to shelter them and provide for them until he could come and get them. Then he returned to the strongholds (perhaps stone towers, but more likely natural caves and rugged country in which it was easy to hide, 2 Sam 5:17; 23:14).

David was trusting in the strongholds to protect him, so God sent the prophet Gad to him with a message. Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah" (1 Sam 22:5).

So David left the strongholds and went into the forest of Horesh, in the wilderness of Ziph, west of the Dead Sea.

Gad may have been a special friend of David's. He is called David's seer (1 Chron 21:9). After David became king, Gad helped David arrange the music for the

3. He cared for J.....'s sheep?

4. David played the.....and wrote songs called p.....?

5. When did the people of Israel sing David's psalms (Psalm 68:24-26)?

6. Have you read Psalm 19?

7. David's psalms were set to music and sung by the people when they went up to the t.....to w.... ?

Unit 2

ISRAEL HAD NO KING

When God brought His people out of Egypt, the Hebrews (later called Israel) had no king. God was Israel's 'king,' and Moses was their leader. Moses died and Joshua led the people into the land God had promised them.

In those days kings ruled over cities, or small city-states. All the nations around them had 'kings,' but Israel was to look to God alone to guide and protect them. They were God's people (Deut 7:7-9). God had chosen the people of Israel and He wanted them to worship Him only (Ex 19:6). God wanted them to be a holy people and separate. But Israel did not fully trust God. They went after the idol-gods worshipped by the nations around them. They wanted a king to lead them in battle, like the other nations. Because of their sin, God let their enemies oppress them. Amalekites and Philistines attacked them. At that time Samuel, the prophet, called on the Lord. The Lord answered him. God thundered against the Philistines with a loud thunder and threw them into a panic. So Samuel named the place Ebenezer, which means, "Thus far has the Lord helped us" (1 Sam 7:12).

Samuel made his sons judges in Israel, but his sons were corrupt and did not serve the Lord with honour. The people were very unhappy about this.

ISRAEL ASKED FOR A KING

All the elders of Israel gather together and came to Samuel, their High Priest, at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have" (1 Sam 8:4-5).

Samuel was sad, so he prayed to the Lord.

God told Samuel, "It is not you they have rejected...they have rejected Me as their king as they have done from the day I brought them out of Egypt until this day, forsaking Me and serving other gods..." (1 Sam 8:7).

Samuel told the people all the words of the Lord. He said to the people, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots . . . Some he will assign as commanders...others will plow his ground and reap his harvest... He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards...He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage and give it to his officials..." (1 Sam 8:10-15).

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. They wanted a king over them, like the other nations, and they would suffer the consequences.

There was a man of Benjamin whose son, Saul, was a fine young man, a head taller than any of the other Israelites and "without equal in Israel."

God told Samuel, "Anoint him leader over My people Israel; he will deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines" (1 Sam 8:16).

At God's command, Samuel anointed Saul king of Israel. He poured oil on Saul's head saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you leader over His inheritance (1 Sam 10:1)? God spoke of Israel as "His inheritance."

TALK ABOUT

1. Samuel was God's H.....P.....in Israel.
2. What made Samuel sad?
3. What did God tell Samuel to do (1 Sam 8:7)?
4. What did Samuel say a king would demand of the people (1 Sam 8:10-15)?
5. Who did Samuel anoint with oil to be the leader of God's people?

Unit 3. SAUL WAS KING IN ISRAEL

God told Samuel to anoint Saul, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin to be the king of Israel. God put His Spirit on Saul and for a time he served God and the people (1 Sam 10:6).

When Saul went to Ramah where Samuel the prophet lived, the place was alive with God's Spirit. Saul could not believe it! God's prophet Samuel was the center of it. And the young prophets were so on fire with God's Spirit that the Spirit filled Saul, too! Saul 'tasted the Spirit's power'...and he prophesied! For a brief season, the Holy Spirit overcame Saul and he spoke praises to God. That is why the saying went out into the land: "Is Saul, too, among the Prophets" (1 Sam 10:11)?

In a battle against the Philistines, Saul's men were deserting him. Samuel had told Saul, "Go down to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings..." (1 Sam 10:8).

Saul waited for Samuel to arrive, but the Israel's High Priest did not come. Saul's fighting men scattered and he took it into his own hands to make the sacrifice to God. Only Samuel was appointed by God to do this (1 Sam 7-14).

When Samuel arrived, Saul went out to greet him.

"You acted foolishly," Samuel told the King. "Your kingdom will not endure... because you have not kept the Lord's command" (1 Sam 13:13).

EVIL SPIRITS TROUBLED THE KING

God wants us to love Him - supremely! God must be number one in our thoughts and in our lives. "You shall have no other gods before Me..." He told Moses (Exodus 20:3). Do not think that God does not notice when you do not honour Him with your life? The Holy Spirit withdraws. Your life is left open to other spirits. Jesus told a parable to illustrate this (Luke 11:24-26).

King Saul was God's man to be King, but he loved himself and lost touch with God. When Saul did not put God first, he lost his way! God's Spirit withdrew and soon evil spirits came to torment him! Saul opened himself up to spirits of jealousy, lying and murder.

TALK ABOUT

1. What made King Saul angry?
2. What kind of spirit troubled him?
3. Did God send the evil spirit to trouble Saul?
4. How did Saul try to quiet his spirit?
5. How did Saul try to kill David?
6. Was he successful?
7. What happened to Saul when he followed David to Naioth (1 Sam 19:23-24)?
8. What happens to a man's heart when he refuses to obey God?

Unit 9. JONATHAN MADE A COVENANT WITH DAVID

Jonathan would not let David go without first making covenant with him. He made covenant with David and his family saying, "May the Lord call David's enemies to account." The Jonathan had David swear to him again that he loved him and would be his friend forever (1 Sam 20:16-17). So the "house of David" and the "house of Jonathan" were bound together by an oath or covenant which was binding in Israel (2 Sam 3:35).

Oaths were made in the name of God and had to be kept (Lev 19:12). Jesus Himself was bound by an oath (Matt 26:63-64). Even God bound Himself by an oath to keep His promises to Abraham (Heb 6:13-18).

This was probably the last time David and Jonathan met in private. Once, at a later time, while David and his men were hiding in the forest at Horesh, Jonathan went to him and encouraged him in the Lord (1 Sam 23:15-18). Jonathan was a friend who stayed closer than a brother (Psalm 18:21).

DAVID AND THE PRIESTS AT NOB

David, in great distress, fled to the tabernacle which was now pitched at Nob. Nob was a town given to the priests located in the tribe of Benjamin, about three miles north of Jerusalem (1 Sam 22:1-19).

Ahimelek served God there as the High Priest of Israel. The High Priest was afraid and trembled when he saw David and asked, "Why are you alone?"

David told the High Priest that Saul had sent him on a secret mission. This was not true and David's lies brought terrible consequences on the priests and their families who lived at Nob.

David asked for five loaves of bread to share with his men.

"I don't have any ordinary bread on hand," Ahimelek said. "There is consecrated bread here – provided the men have kept themselves from women."

We note two things: 1. The Showbread (Showbread) was baked and set fresh before the Lord on a special table in the tabernacle every Sabbath. The old bread was given to the priests' families who ate it. No one else was allowed to eat the Showbread.

2. The law required that those who ate the consecrated bread must themselves be consecrated. In this case the bodies of David's men must be ceremonially clean.

David was in it and reported, "David is ill" (1 Sam 19:9-17).

The evil spirit drove Saul to madness. He commanded his men, "Bring him up to me in his bed, so that I may kill him."

David fled to Samuel at Ramah "and told him all that Saul had done to him" (1 Sam 19:18). He made God his refuge and Samuel his counselor.

When Saul was told, "David is at Naioth at Ramah, Saul followed him.

Samuel could do nothing to protect David. Then the Spirit took hold of Saul and he lay all day and all night in a trance (1 Sam 19:24). While he lay in a stupor, David escaped and went back to Jonathan at the King's Court.

DAVID APPEALS TO JONATHAN

"What have I done? What is my crime?" David asked his friend Jonathan. "Why is your father trying to take my life?"

"Never," Jonathan answered. "You are not going to die" (1 Sam 20:2-4).

"My father does not do anything, great or small, without confiding in me."

David replied with words with little faith in them: "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live," David said to Jonathan, "there is only a step between me and death."

Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I will do..."

David asked Jonathan to make sure Saul meant to kill him.

At the New Moon Feast, Jonathan learned again of his father evil intent to kill David. He found David in the field and told him what Saul had said. David bowed down before the King's son "three times with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together – "(1 Sam 20:41-42).

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'the Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever'."

Then David left and Jonathan went back to the town.

SAUL TRIED TO KILL DAVID

Many times, Saul tried to kill David. Saul thought of ways to put him at the front lines of the battles Israel fought with the Philistines, but God gave David victory over all Israel's enemies.

Spirits of anger and murder held Saul! Spirits of jealousy and malice came, too! There was only one way he could get free. He needed to repent and tell God he was sorry and turn from his own wicked way!

He did not need to confess his sin to his son Jonathan, or to David,

or even to Samuel the High Priest. He had to repent before God and receive God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

Saul's heart was too proud to repent. And the further the evil spirits drove him, the harder his heart became. All he wanted about was to kill David, kill David.... revenge, revenge! There was darkness in Saul's spirit and terrible confusion! God's Spirit had left Saul and evil spirits had taken control of him.

At last God said, "I am grieved that I made Saul king." And God does not change His mind (1 Sam 15:29). Samuel was sad that Saul had displeased the Lord.

God rejected King Saul and God's Spirit left him. Saul's heart was empty and a powerful evil spirit came upon him. A spirit of jealousy came often and troubled him, so he told servants at his court to find a musician play the harp to him (1 Sam 16:17).

Yes, music does help the mind, but it cannot heal the spirit of a person who does not obey God's commands. That person must repent before God, and Saul did not repent of his sin. God looks for men who will trust Him and obey His commands.

TALK ABOUT

1. Who was Saul (1 Sam 10:9-27)?
2. What enemy of Israel was Saul fighting (1 Sam 9:16)?
3. What did Saul do when Samuel did not come to Gilgal to offer a sacrifice to God?
4. What did Samuel say to the King (1 Sam 13:13)?
5. What did God say about King Saul (1 Sam 15:29)?
6. What happened to Saul after that?

Unit 4. SAMUEL CAME TO BETHLEHEM

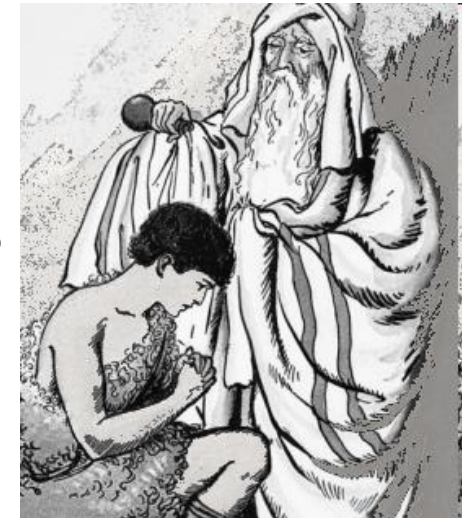
God said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king" (1 Sam 16:1-13).

Samuel stood fixed to the spot. "How can I go?" he asked. "Saul will hear about it and kill me."

The Lord did not answer Samuel's fear. He said to Samuel: "Take a heifer (a young cow) with you and say (to Jesse), 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. And I will show you what to do."

God does not reveal to us all that lies ahead. He leads us forward one step at a time. If He showed us all that will happen in the future, we might be fearful and draw back from following Him.

He is the Great Shepherd of the sheep; we are His flock. He leads us gently, as the shepherds of Israel led their sheep. He leads us one step at a time, no more!



GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING

When Samuel came to Bethlehem where Jesse lived, the whole town trembled. They thought Samuel, the High Priest, had come to announce some judgment of God. Guilty men should tremble in the presence of God's representative. But his was not a visit to warn sinners.

The men of the town asked Samuel, "Have you come in peace?"

"Yes, I have come in peace," Samuel replied, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me."

They consecrated themselves, or set themselves apart to worship God, by washing and putting on clean clothes.

Samuel invited Jesse's family to the feast. All Jesse's sons were tall and good looking. When Samuel saw the firstborn, Eliab, he thought "Surely this is the one." But God told him, The Lord does not look at the things man looks at, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16:7).

All Jesse's sons came before Samuel. Then Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." We do not know why Jesse had not called David to the feast.

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down (to eat of the sacrifice) until he arrives." Soon David came in from the pasture. "He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features."

Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Rise up and anoint him, he is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers "an from that day the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power."

Samuel went back to his house at Ramah and David went back to care for his father's sheep. That day the Spirit of the Lord came on David!

God's Spirit left Saul and a jealous spirit took control of him. We are not told that he knew Samuel had anointed David to be king of Israel, but we can be sure he heard of the sacrifice at Bethlehem.

Saul's servants said to him, "God is tormenting you."

One of Saul's servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him."

Saul sent messengers to Jesse's house to get David. He came to Saul and Saul liked him very much.

TALK ABOUT

1. Where did Samuel live?
2. Samuel was the H..... P..... of Israel.
3. What did God tell Samuel to do (1 Sam 16:1-13)?
4. Why did God keep Samuel guessing, instead of telling him to look for Jesse's son David and anoint him?

said to Saul, "and what he has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, you saw it and was glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason" (1 Sam 19:4-5)?

Saul listened to his son and took an oath, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death."

When Saul left him, Jonathan called David and told him and told him about his father's oath.

But the evil spirit came on Saul while David played the harp and he hurled a spear at David. That night David ran to the house where he lived with his wife Michal. Michal was one of Saul's daughters. Saul had encouraged David to marry her some time before this happened.

Michal knew her father had sent soldiers to watch the house, so she let David down from a window and he escaped. Then she took a household idol and put in David's bed and covered it. When Saul sent men into the house to capture David, Michal told them, "David is sick."

Saul was so angry he said to his men, "Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him" (1 Sam 19:11-16).

TALK ABOUT

1. Who gave David strength and wisdom?
2. Does the Holy Spirit do the same for believers today? 3. Why was Saul jealous of David?
3. What did the evil spirits that came on Saul cause him to do?
4. Why did Michal tell her father lies?
5. Who was David's loyal friend?
6. Was David too popular for his own good?
7. What did God use to keep David humble?

Unit 8. JONATHAN'S FRIENDSHIP

Never was a friend so faithful. Jonathan loved David and:

- Let David know the danger he was in (1 Sam 19:2-6).
- Took David's case to his father and tried to pacify him.
- He interceded for David.
- He had success and Saul swore not to kill David.

David went to the front lines and fought for his country. Everywhere he went God gave him success.

At the court he played the harp for the troubled king. Saul sat in the palace with a spear in his hand. Without warning, he hurled the spear at David. The spear missed him and stuck fast in the wall.

That night Saul sent men to David's house to watch for him to come out and to kill him. But Michal warned him. She lowered him from a window, so that he could escape in the darkness. Michal carefully made up the bed to make it appear that

Unit 7. SAUL IS JEALOUS OF DAVID

Review: Chapters 18, 19 and 20 go together.

1. Jonathan loved David and made covenant with him (1 Sam 18:3).
2. King Saul was jealous of David and tried to kill him (1 Sam 18:11).
3. David ran away from his home and went to Samuel (1 Sam 19:18).
4. Jonathan pleaded with his father for David's life (1 Sam 20:32).

Deep down in his heart, Saul was very angry. He was jealous because everyone liked David and all Israel honoured him for killing the giant Goliath. What angered Saul most was Israel's victory song. As the men marched home from battle, they sang this song: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands" (1 Sam 18:7).

When Israel's fighting men passed through the towns, women and children joined in the victory parade, singing and dancing. People sang about David when they met at feasts and at worship times and even the children remembered the words of the song.

Saul knew David could have anything he wanted. The people loved him and would give him anything. There was only one thing David did not have - the throne of Israel! And the people would give him that if they could.

Yet Saul took David home with him and would not let him return to Bethlehem. He made David a commander over one thousand men in his army second only to General Abner.

"In everything he (David) did he had great success because the Lord was with him" (1 Sam 18:12-16).

SAUL OFFERED DAVID HIS DAUGHTER

One day Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord." Perhaps Saul thought that his daughter would betray David in some way and that he would be killed. But Saul betrayed his trust and did not give him Merab to be his wife.

When Saul heard that his daughter Michal was in love with David, he was pleased. "I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him..." (1 Sam 18:18-27).

Saul made one condition: That David kill one hundred Philistines and bring in their foreskins. David doubled the number of Philistines he killed and completed his contract with Saul.

DAVID FLEES FOR HIS LIFE

Saul told Jonathan and those around him to kill David, but Jonathan was very fond of David and warned him, "My father is looking for a chance to kill you...Go into hiding and stay there. I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I will speak to him and will tell you what I find out" (1 Sam 19:1-3).

Jonathan spoke well of David to his father. "He has not wronged you," Jonathan

5. What happened to King Saul (1 Sam 16:14-23)?
6. Why was he troubled by an evil spirit?
7. What did his servant tell him to do?
8. Who went to the palace to play the harp for King Saul?
9. Which instrument did David play to quiet Saul's spirit?

Unit 5. DAVID PLAYED THE HARP FOR SAUL

God had rejected Saul, and Samuel had anointed David to be king over Israel. Saul was still on the throne of Israel. He probably heard that Samuel had anointed David, and he was an angry man. Besides the Philistines were winning every battle against Saul's army. God was not fighting Israel's battles as He had before!

King Saul's conscience troubled him. Again and again evil spirits came to haunt him (1 Sam 16:14). The officials at Saul's court searched for a man skilled in playing the harp to play for the troubled king. They heard that David, Jesse's son, was skillful at playing the harp, so they sent for David.

David played the harp for King Saul. And very soon he and Jonathan, Saul's son, became friends. They loved each other like brothers!

Saul felt better when David played the harp, but the spirits of jealousy, lying and murder still controlled him. He said he liked David, but that was a lie of Satan. Saul was jealous of David.

"When I get a chance, I'll kill David," he thought to himself. And that is what Saul tried to do! His officials told him about David's bravery, so Saul made David a commander in Israel's army.

DAVID KILLS THE GIANT

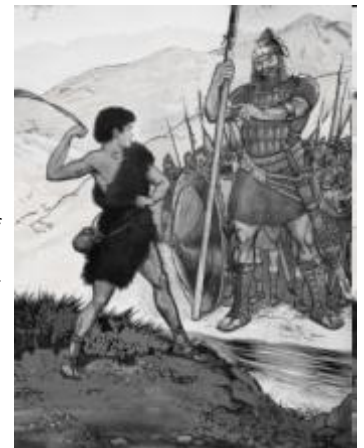
Israel was at war with the Philistines. Jesse's three older sons were in Saul's army. One day Jesse sent David to find his brothers and take food to them (1 Sam 17:12-24). David's older brothers had left the farm in Bethlehem and had gone to the battle front. They had been gone more than forty days.

Jesse told David: "Go and see how your brothers are, and bring back some spoil of battle."

David gathered a supply of dried corn, barley loaves and cheese and went to look for his older brothers (1 Sam 17:18).

When he came into the camp of Israel, his brothers were not at their tent. They were up at the battle lines. So David left the food "with the keeper of supplies" and went to find them. He found the two armies facing each other across a small valley west of Bethlehem, near to Philistine territory.

The men of Israel were afraid of a huge Philistine soldier named Goliath (Go-li'-a th). He was nine feet two inches tall and some think he came from the



Anak people who were very tall and strong (Deut 2:20-21; 2 Sam 21:22).

Goliath's weapons were as big and terrible as he was, but it was his shouting that troubled Israel most. His words were against Israel's God.

Each day he shouted jeers and blasphemy at the men of Israel and his threats put fear into every man's heart (1 Sam 17:11).

GOLIATH SHOUTS THREATS AT ISRAEL

While David was speaking to his brothers, Goliath stepped out of the Philistine camp and shouted, "Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me...If I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Everyone knew what the Philistines did to their slaves (Judges 16:21).

It hurt David to hear this heathen Philistine defy the armies of the Living God. "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel?" he asked his brothers.

They were angry but told him, "the King will give great wealth to the man who kills him..." (1 Sam 17:27-39). David was not turned aside by their anger. He asked another man and got the same answer.

TALK ABOUT

1. What question did David ask the fighting men of Israel (1 Sam 17:26)?
2. How much did Saul know about David?
3. How did David's brother respond to his question (1 Sam 17:28)?
4. Why could David speak to Saul with such confidence?
5. Can we have David's kind of faith in God?

Unit 6. LET NO ONE LOSE HEART

David said to the King, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

"You are not able...you are only a boy," Saul told him, "and he has been a fighting man from his youth" (1 Sam 17:33).

David told King Saul how God had helped him care for his father's sheep. When a lion and a bear attacked the sheep, he killed them. "The Lord who delivered me from the lion and the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine," he told the King (1 Sam 17:37).

"Go, and the Lord be with you," Saul said to David, and Saul put his own armour on David.

"I cannot go in these," David said, "because I am not used to them." So he took the armour off and laid it on the ground (1 Sam 17:39).

He turned toward the enemy camp. As he crossed the brook, David picked up five smooth stones and slipped them into his bag. He carried his sling in his hand. This was a leather strap used to throw a stone.

Saul trusted in his armour, but David trusted in the living God, the God of Israel.

FIVE SMOOTH STONES

Goliath stood in front of the Philistines. A soldier carried his huge shield. Both men saw David coming – "only a boy, ruddy and handsome."

Goliath despised him (1 Sam 17:42). "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks," he roared, and he cursed David.

David did not shout back. He stood his ground and spoke the victory of God: "You come against me with sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me and I will strike you down and cut off your head" (1 Sam 17:45-47).

David knew the Lord Almighty as his friend and protector. He wanted the whole world to know "that there is a God in Israel." He spoke clearly, "All those gathered here will know it is not by the sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands."

Oh that men today knew this! All God's enemies must fall before a true man of faith.

DAVID RAN FORWARD

David ran toward Goliath. He took a stone from his bag and fitted it to his sling. Then he hurled the stone at the giant.

The stone "sank into Goliath's forehead and he fell to the ground. David quickly took the giant's sword and cut off his head" (1 Sam 17:51).

When the Philistine army saw that their hero was dead, they ran. The men of Israel shouted victory and chased them. When night came, the enemy dead lay along the roads leading to their cities.

General Abner brought David to Saul, "with David still holding the Philistine's head" (1 Sam 17:57). Then Saul asked David about his father, "Jesse of Bethlehem."

Saul's son, Jonathan, listened as they talked and "his spirit became one with David's." He loved this brave young man more than anyone else he had ever met (18:1). David became Israel's hero. This made Saul very jealous.

Later Goliath's weapons became a national treasure. At that time, David kept them in a tent. At a later time the giant's head was brought to the city of Jerusalem. David had not captured the city at this time (2 Sam 5:6-9).

TALK ABOUT

1. What did Goliath do that upset David?
2. What weapon did David have to kill the giant?
3. How could David be so sure of victory?
4. How do we win our battles against Satan?
5. Who gave David the victory? Why?
6. What did David say to the giant (1 Sam 17:45)?
7. Why do so many Christians 'fall' in the battles of life if God is fighting for them?