

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 6 • Week 3

DAVID AND JONATHAN

OBJECTIVE:

To teach that there is a higher level of friendship (a mutual outgoing concern for each other's best interest) than the generally accepted one that is motivated by self-interest (pleasure, fun, usefulness, convenience, etc.).

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Give each student a sheet of paper.

Say: Draw a quick picture of your best friend and write under their picture why you consider him/her your friend.

Do: When everyone is finished, have each child read what he/she wrote under his/her friend's picture and then show the picture to the class.

[NOTE: Children and teens, being guided by emotion, usually think of friendships in terms of fun and pleasure. (Example: The friend is someone you can do fun stuff with like play ball or go to movies, etc.) Sometimes they choose friends because of their usefulness. (Examples: The friend has a computer with a lot of neat games; the friend's mom will drive them to practice, etc.) One can be friendly to another, but not necessarily a friend of that person.]

Ask: What is the definition of friendship? [Answer: Friendship = 1) a favored companion; 2) one attached to another by affection or esteem; 3) mutual outgoing concern toward each other with the attitude of wishing each other only good; 4) having a sense of duty or commitment to helping each other become a better person.]

Ask: Which of these definitions do you think best describes true friends?

BIBLE LESSON:

To the teacher: This lesson is in the form of a radio script. Make a copy for each of the children in the class. Select four boys and two or three girls to take the part of each character in the script (announcer, David, Jonathan, Saul and two or three girl singers). Highlight David's name by each of his lines on one script, Jonathan's on another, etc. and give them to those who will be reading the scripts. Have them read the script as if they were doing a radio program. If possible borrow a microphone (don't turn it on) and a stand to be used as a prop. Make a crown from poster board for the king.

Say: Today's lesson will be about the friendship of David and Jonathan. Listen carefully for the qualities that went into the making of a friendship that grew stronger with each adversity.

DAVID AND JONATHAN

ANNOUNCER: The Israelite and Philistine armies have set up their camps—each on a hill with a valley separating the two. For the last 40 days, Goliath the giant has defied the armies of the living God. Everything has come to a standstill because no one in the Israelite camp will meet Goliath's challenge. They are terrified. (*Speak with excitement.*) Wait! I see a young boy, armed with only a sling, walking toward Goliath who is sneering in contempt. (*Speak as though you can't believe what you are seeing.*) I can't believe it—this is astounding! That young boy has just killed Goliath. He hit Goliath in the forehead with a stone hurled from his sling. Then he rushed forward, pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath and cut off his head. (*Speak a little more calmly now.*) King Saul has been closely watching all that has happened. The young lad has been brought before King Saul. Let's see if we can get closer so we can hear what is being said.

SAUL: What is your name, young man?

DAVID: David, sir.

SAUL: Whose son are you?

DAVID: I am the son of your servant, Jesse of Bethlehem.

SAUL: What did you say to Goliath that made him so angry? I couldn't hear because of the distance.

DAVID: (*Speak with great confidence.*) I said, "You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the God of Israel. Today the Lord will conquer you and I will kill you and cut off your head. The birds and wild animals will feast upon the dead bodies of your men, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. And Israel will learn that the Lord does not depend on weapons to fulfill His plans."

SAUL: David, I want you to meet my son, Jonathan. Jonathan, this is David and I want him to remain with us and train to become an accomplished soldier.

JONATHAN: David, I am honored to have you with us. Your bravery and skill in standing against Goliath has given the army of Israel renewed courage. As soon as Goliath fell, the Philistines turned and ran with our men in hot pursuit. When they have finished killing the Philistines, they will plunder their camp and destroy what remains.

DAVID: Thank you, Jonathan. I am happy to serve both God and Israel in whatever way I can.

JONATHAN: Well, since you will be learning the skills of war you will need proper equipment. I would like very much for us to become the best of friends, and to show my sincerity, I want you to have my robe, my tunic, sword, bow and belt.

DAVID: Thank you. I am honored to be your friend and I will to be there for you whenever you need me.

ANNOUNCER: Word of David killing Goliath and the defeat of the Philistines has spread throughout Israel. In triumph, King Saul leads his army as it returns home from battle. Jonathan and David ride side by side behind the king. The streets are lined with people celebrating and cheering. They are waiting to see the brave young hero who slew Goliath. King Saul is now passing a group of young girls celebrating and singing.

YOUNG GIRLS: The Philistines are dead and gone. Thousands were killed by Saul. And by the sword of David, ten thousand more did fall.

SAUL: *(Speak with an angry voice as if you were thinking these thoughts to yourself.)* They're crediting David with ten thousand and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king! I'll have to keep a close watch on him. *(Change voice to sound like you are scheming.)* Better yet, I'll give him command over a thousand men and send him off to fight the enemy. Maybe he'll be killed in battle.

ANNOUNCER: From this point on David's life will be in danger. Saul's jealousy and fear of David is so great that he has tried killing David by hurling a spear at him several times. Thankfully, he missed. Having failed, Saul has made it known to his aides, officers and even Jonathan that they should kill David on sight and make it appear to be an accident. Jonathan warns David and is able to persuade his father not to have him killed. It is now becoming clear to Saul that God is protecting David. The evil spirit has returned to trouble Saul again and David, dodging Saul's spear, flees for his life.

DAVID: Jonathan, I have been running from your father for some time. Why is he so determined to kill me? How have I wronged him?

JONATHAN: It is not your fault, David. Sometimes my father goes into a serious state of depression, but it doesn't last long. I'm sure he doesn't want to kill you. He always tells me everything he is going to do and if he were planning something, I would know.

DAVID: *(Said with a tone of frustration.)* Of course, he wouldn't tell you. Your father knows about our friendship and about the last time you warned me. Yet as surely as the Lord lives and as you live, there is only one step between me and death.

JONATHAN: Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you.

DAVID: Tomorrow is the New Moon festival, and I am supposed to dine with the king. Instead, I will hide in the field until the morning after the festival. If your father misses me, tell him that I asked permission to go home to Bethlehem to attend an annual sacrifice being made there for the whole family. If he says, "Very well," then your servant is safe. But, if he loses his temper, then you can be sure he is determined to kill me. If I am guilty, kill me yourself but do not betray me to your father.

JONATHAN: *(Speak emphatically.)* I would never betray you! Never! If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, I would tell you.

DAVID: How will I know if your father answers you angrily?

JONATHAN: Let's go out into the field where no one can hear us. If my father is angry and wants you killed, and I do not let you know so that you can escape and live, then may the God of Israel take my life. May God be with you as He used to be with my father. And I ask that you continue to show the love and kindness of God, not only to me during my lifetime but also to my children after God has destroyed your enemies.

DAVID: Because of the love I have for you Jonathan, my loyal friend, I swear by the God of Israel that I will always show love and kindness toward you and your family.

JONATHAN: The morning after the New Moon festival is over, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait. I will shoot three arrows as though I were shooting at a target. Then I will send a boy and say, "Go, find the arrows." If I say to the boy, "Look, the arrows are beyond you," then you must leave immediately. And about the promises you and I made to each other—remember, God is witness between you and me forever.

ANNOUNCER: The New Moon festival has begun and the king is sitting in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, but David's place is empty. He is hiding in the field. It is the second day of the festival, and Saul asks about David.

SAUL: Jonathan, why hasn't David come to dinner these last two days?

JONATHAN: David asked me for permission to go to his home in Bethlehem to attend an annual sacrifice being made there for the whole family—he wanted to see his brothers. That's why he has not come to the king's table.

SAUL: *(Angrily.)* You have sided with David to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you. As long as David, the son of Jesse, lives neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now go and get him, for he must die!

JONATHAN: What has David done? Why should he be put to death?

SAUL: *(Angrier than before.)* You dare question my judgment? See how you like this spear in your chest!

ANNOUNCER: Jonathan dodges the spear as he angrily gets up from the table and hurries out of the room. He now understands what David had been telling him. Grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David, Jonathan does not eat all that day. It is now morning and Jonathan has gone out to the field for his meeting with David. A young boy accompanies him.

JONATHAN: Run, lad, and find the arrows I shoot. Go quickly now. Don't stop! Look, the arrows are beyond you. Hurry now!

ANNOUNCER: The boy has returned, and Jonathan sends him back to town with the bow and arrows. David cautiously comes out from his hiding place. With his face to the ground, he bows before Jonathan three times. With much sadness they shed tears, crying together—and David continued crying until he could cry no more.

JONATHAN: David, it is time to end our crying, for we have entrusted each other and each other's children into God's hands forever and I know our friendship will endure.

ANNOUNCER: David and Jonathan go their separate ways and meet in secret whenever possible. He keeps David informed as to the whereabouts of King Saul and his army. After many years of running from Saul, David receives news that Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle with the Philistines. David is deeply grieved at the loss of his dear friend Jonathan. He now becomes king of Judah. In a little more than seven years, he will become king of all Israel.

DAVID: *(King David is now wearing the crown.) (Speak as though you are reflecting on the past.)* Many years have passed since Jonathan was killed in battle and I became king. It has taken all this time to drive out the enemies of Israel and restore order. I have finally had the time to search for Saul's descendants. Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was the only descendant I could find. His legs aren't normal because of childhood injuries, and he was living in poverty. Since I gave him his grandfather Saul's property, things are easier for him. Ziba, a former servant of Saul, and his fifteen sons have been employed to take care of the estate and to make sure it prospers so that Jonathan's son and his family are well taken care of. Mephibosheth reminds me of my dear friend Jonathan. When he and his family attend the banquets here, he is treated royally, like the son of a prince should be treated.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Say: I am going to take the part of a reporter interviewing David and Jonathan and I would like the whole class to take the part of David or Jonathan and answer the questions as they would. Anyone can answer and more than one person can answer the same question if you have something different to say. Just remember, answer the question that is directed to David as if you were David and the question that is asked of Jonathan as if you were Jonathan.

Ask: Jonathan, how does the friendship between you and David differ from the friendships that were mentioned at the beginning of class?

Ask: David, what qualities did Jonathan have that made for such an enduring friendship?

Ask: Jonathan, why did you choose to help David instead of your father?

Ask: David, do you think the friendships that were mentioned earlier have any of the qualities that you said Jonathan has?

Ask: Jonathan, why did you risk your life for your friend David?

Ask: David, why were you so kind and generous to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son?

Ask: David or Jonathan, why is being a friend to someone the best gift you can give them?

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

family activity

THE POINT:

The lesson for this week has been about the qualities of friendship. The story of David and Jonathan was used to illustrate the many qualities of friendship that are expressed between two friends.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Take turns reading verses in 1 Samuel 20:1-42 with your child. These scriptures are about friendships between people.

To bring the lesson full circle, take turns reading John 15:12-15 with your child. This tells us about our friendship with God. After reading these scriptures draw a parallel between the friendship of David and Jonathan and the friendship we can have with God.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."