

4.05 DAVID AND SAUL

1 SAMUEL 16, 17 & 18

David, the son of Jesse, was chosen by God to be the next king of Israel. The Holy Spirit came upon David, never to leave him. David would always have God's power and presence with him. But even though David would be the next king someday, he still continued to care for his father's animals.

As the Holy Spirit came to David, it departed from Saul. A sad, gloomy spirit came upon Saul instead. He became fearful and afraid in his heart. Some of Saul's servants came to him and told Saul that he needed a musician to play music for him and the music would calm his sad spirit. "We will find a musician who plays the harp," they said. "Every time this sad spirit troubles you and makes you afraid, the musician will play music and you will feel calm and well again."

One of the servants said, "The man Jesse, from Bethlehem, has a son who can play the harp very well. He is also a brave man and the Lord is with him." Saul sent his messengers to see Jesse. "Send me your son, David," said Saul. "The one who plays the harp." David went to Saul and began to serve him. Whenever the sad spirit began to trouble Saul, David would play the harp. Then, the spirit would go away and Saul would feel better.

Afterwards, Saul sent a message to Jesse, "Please let David continue to serve me. I am very pleased with him." David agreed to stay with Saul. Soon he met Saul's son, Jonathan. Immediately, they became best friends. Jonathan gave David his robe, a bow, a sword and a belt. These gifts were given to show their friendship would be a lasting one. Jonathan decided he would always love David. And David loved Jonathan. This is how a friendship should be.

David was strong and trusted the Lord God. When the Israelites were in a battle with the Philistines—who had a giant man in their army named Goliath—David went to King Saul and told him he could kill the giant, by the power of God. Saul allowed David to go fight. Saul said, "May the Lord be with you." David was able to kill Goliath with a sling and some stones.

When the fight was over and the Israelite army was returning home from their victory, all the women in the town came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy. They played tambourines and cymbals. They sang, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"

Then, Saul became angry. He became jealous of David for getting so much attention and praise. Saul thought the people might want David to be their king! The next day an evil spirit came to trouble Saul. He became like a madman. When David began playing the harp for him, as he did every day, Saul threw a spear at David. But David escaped. Saul realized that God was with David. Saul sent David out of his house and made him commander of over 1,000 men.

David continued to succeed in everything he did because God was with him. This caused Saul to become more fearful of David. And all of Israel loved David because he was so successful at leading the army. But, although David had always served Saul with respect and honor, Saul no longer trusted David. It was the end of a peaceful time between them.

4.05 DAVID AND SAUL - TEACHER'S GUIDE

1 SAMUEL 16, 17 & 18

- 1) David had been told by Samuel that he would be king. The Holy Spirit had come upon David to give him the power and presence of God.
- 2) When the power of God's Spirit came upon David, it left Saul. Saul became troubled with a sad, gloomy spirit. His servants told him about Jesse's son, David, who played the harp.
- 3) David came to stay with King Saul. When the troubling spirit came upon the king, David would play his harp and King Saul would feel better.
- 4) After David killed the giant, Goliath, and the Israelites won the battle between them and the Philistines, David got more praise than King Saul did. Saul became angry. When an evil spirit came upon Saul, he threw a spear at David. But David escaped.
- 5) King Saul became more fearful of David because Saul knew David had the power of the Lord God with him. All of Israel loved David because he was a successful leader of the army. King Saul no longer trusted David.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What happened to King Saul when the Holy Spirit came upon David?
- 2) What did King Saul's servant suggest when Saul was troubled by a sad spirit?
- 3) Who did David meet that would become his best friend?
- 4) After David killed the giant and the Israelites won the battle against the Philistines, what happened?
- 5) What did Saul try to do to David?
- 6) What changed in Saul's heart?

ANSWERS:

- 1) When the Holy Spirit came upon David, it left King Saul.
- 2) King Saul's servant suggested he get David to play the harp for him and calm his spirit.
- 3) David met King Saul's son. Jonathan.
- 4) After the battle was won, David got more praise than King Saul.
- 5) Saul tried to kill David by throwing a spear at him.
- 6) King Saul's heart became fearful of David. Saul no longer trusted him.