

Week 44

Saul's Jealousy [1 Samuel 18-19:12]

Series: **David**

Application: **Jealousy is wrong, it only leads to more trouble.**

Memory Verse: **"The Lord is King for ever and ever." Psalm 10:16.**

Preparation Notes

After David's victory over Goliath, he became a permanent officer in Saul's court. Jonathan became a loving friend to David and made a covenant with him. He took off his robes, tunic, sword, bow and belt and gave them to David. (Although the terms of the agreement are not mentioned, it would suggest that Jonathan and David made a pledge of mutual loyalty and friendship. It may even have signified Jonathan's recognition that David was to succeed Saul as king instead of him).

David was successful at everything that Saul gave him to do and he promoted him to a high rank in the army. As the men returned from war however, the women came out to sing and dance and Saul heard what they were singing!

"Saul has slain his thousands
and David his tens of thousands."

Saul became very jealous and angry. The next day an evil spirit came upon him and David played the harp to him. Saul hurled a spear at David but it missed.

In an attempt to get him killed in battle, Saul sent him away with 1000 troops, but David was successful because God was with him. All of Israel loved him.

One of the prizes for the man who could kill Goliath was to marry one of the king's daughters. So Saul offered his eldest daughter, Merab, to David but only on the condition that he would keep on fighting battles. (He hoped that if David was sent to war enough, eventually he would get killed). But David didn't feel worthy of becoming the King's son-in-law and so Merab married someone else.

Another of Saul's daughters, Michal, loved David and Saul thought he could use her to trap David, so he offered her hand in marriage to David. But David said he was poor and little-known. (In those days, men had to pay a 'bride price' to the bride's father in order to get married). Saul's men assured David that all Saul wanted for a bride price was for him to kill 100 Philistines. David killed 200 Philistines and he and Michal were married.

Saul kept trying to get David killed in battle, but the Lord was with him and he was successful in all he did.

Saul tried a more direct attempt to kill David. He decided to send Jonathan and his attendants to kill him. Jonathan, however, refused and spoke to Saul about how David

was innocent and had never done anything to harm him. Saul listened and made an oath not to kill him. So once more, David returned to stay with Saul.

After David had had yet another successful battle against the Philistines, an evil spirit once more came upon Saul and he tried to kill David with his spear. So that night David Escaped. He went home to his wife Michal and she persuaded him to run away. She lowered him down out of the window and he fled to be with Samuel at Ramah.

Learning Points (Discoverers 1)

- David did well.
- Saul became jealous.

Learning Points (Discoverers 2)

- Jonathan and David made a promise of loyalty and friendship.
- God gave David success in Saul's army.
- Saul became jealous and tried to kill him.

Learning Points (Discoverers 3)

- Jonathan and David made a promise of loyalty and friendship.
- Jonathan was the king's son, but he was not jealous of David.
- God gave David success in Saul's army.
- Saul became jealous of David
- Saul's sin of jealousy led him to try and kill David.

Discoverers 1

Bible Bit.

Jealousy, at least in an abstract sense, is a difficult concept for 3-5 year olds. They will need tangible examples they can relate to.

Suggested Activities.

Possibly use a variant of the D2 Bible Bit, possibly with something other than sweets. Care must be taken not to upset children in this age group.

Discoverers 2

Bible Bit.

A simple example of how easy it is for us to feel jealous. Give out some sweets to the children, but be unfair by giving more to some children than others. Ask the children with fewer sweets how they feel. Do they feel jealous? Do they feel cross with you and with the children who have more? Explain how jealousy is wrong (10 Commandments) and how God wants us to be happy with what we've got.

Suggested Activities.

Using DWK 44:1, make the ‘Be satisfied with what you have’ circles.

Discoverers 3

Bible Bit.

As you tell the story, emphasise that Saul was jealous and it was this that was driving him to pursue David. If he had controlled his feelings of jealousy, perhaps things might have turned out very differently.

Suggested Activities.

Play a game that the children enjoy, but give out points very unfairly so that the losing team start to feel jealous and badly treated. At the end of the game explain that you didn’t tell the children all the rules and that really the winning team is the one with the least points! Give sweets(?) to the team with the least points so that they have a chance at feeling jealous! Try to encourage the children who are obviously working hard at controlling their jealous feelings.

Talk time.

Spend some time talking about the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). Deal with issues of greed, jealousy and being satisfied with what we’ve got. Why is it unwise for us to compare what we have with others?

Prayer and worship.