

Week 46 The Fugitive [1 Samuel 24 to 31]

Series: **David**

Application: **Two wrongs don't make a right.**

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

Preparation Notes

Saul was hunting for David, so that he could kill him. David went from this place to that, hoping that Saul wouldn't find him. David was still young and he felt very frightened. It was during these years that David's faith grew. During his time in hiding David gathered about 400 men who supported him.

Saul was returning from battle against the Philistines when someone told him where David was, so he took 3000 men and set out to look for him.

David and his men were hiding in the back of a cave. Without knowing they were there, Saul came into the same cave to rest. While Saul was asleep, David crept up to him and cut the corner off his robe. He told his men not to harm Saul because he was the Lord's anointed.

After a while, Saul woke up and left the cave. David followed, and then from a distance, he shouted to Saul, "My lord and king!" He then bowed down with his face to the ground. He shouted to Saul how he'd had the opportunity to kill him while he was sleeping and showed him the corner of the robe as evidence. He told Saul that he would not lift his hand against him, since Saul was 'anointed by the Lord'. David explained that he was not guilty of trying to harm Saul, despite Saul's attempts to kill him and shouted; "May the **Lord** judge between you and me."

Saul was deeply moved by what David had said. He wept and realised that David had treated him well despite the way he'd pursued him. Saul told David that he knew that one day he would become king of Israel, and asked David to promise that when he was king, that he wouldn't kill him or any of his descendants. David gave Saul his oath.

Saul returned home and David went back into hiding because he knew that Saul couldn't be trusted. Saul soon forgot the incident and continued to hunt David.

Some time later Saul was fighting the Philistines. The Philistines were fighting hard and they killed three of Saul's sons; Jonathan, Abinadab and Maki-Shua. Saul was injured. He knew the battle was lost and so he took his own sword, fell on it and died.

Learning Points (Discoverers 1)

- Saul was trying to kill David

- Saul fell asleep near David, but David didn't kill him because he knew God wouldn't have wanted him to.

Learning Points (Discoverers 2)

- Saul was pursuing David.
- David didn't kill Saul even when given an opportunity.
- David left the judging up to God.
- Saul and Jonathan both died at war.

Learning Points (Discoverers 3)

- Saul, consumed by jealousy, was pursuing David.
- David had the opportunity to kill Saul, and was urged on by his men.
- David didn't kill him.
- David knew that Saul was chosen by God, and left the judging up to God.
- Saul and Jonathan both died at war.

Discoverers 1

Bible Bit.

Although some of the concepts in this story are difficult, we can concentrate on the message 'two wrongs don't make a right'. This can continue last week's lesson on friendship.

Suggested Activities.

Discoverers 2

Bible Bit.

Use the pictures DWK 46:1 to help you to tell the story.

Suggested Activities.

Using DWK 46:2, the children can make their 'Love keeps no record of wrongs' booklets. The idea here is to show the children that it is better to remember the good things about people, rather than the wrong things which make them cross and upset. These booklets are a 'record of rights' or a record of good and happy things in their lives.

Discoverers 3

Bible Bit.

As you tell the story emphasise that two wrongs don't make a right and that David knew he could leave the judging up to God. Remind them of the dreadful time that Saul had put David through, and ask them to imagine being in David's situation. What would they have done?

Suggested Activities.

Using DWK 46:3, give out the sheets of stickers for the children to colour and cut out. This is a short and simple activity, use the time to discuss the following points.

Talk time.

- W.W.J.D.?
- Jesus commanded us to love others, and in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 we are given a definition of love. How easy is it to live up to this standard?
- Discuss the implications of Matthew 5:38-42, 'turning the other cheek'.

Prayer and worship.