

LESSON 8

SAUL IS JEALOUS OF DAVID

BEFORE YOU TEACH

David the Musician and Poet

Although known for his shepherding skills and bravery as a warrior, David was also an accomplished harpist and musician. His introduction into the palace was as a harpist, playing to comfort Saul when evil spirits came to torment him.

In addition, he has been attributed with over seventy psalms of the Bible. These psalms reveal his deep love for God as well as his own very human emotions. Many psalms are written about specific events of David's life.

For example, Psalm 3 describes David's thoughts as he fled during Absalom's rebellion, and Psalm 51 records David's public confession of his sin with Bathsheba. David's psalms are models of truly meaningful, personal prayers.

Harps

Harps were popular musical instruments in Saul's day, and their music is still known for its soothing quality. The simplest harps were merely two pieces of wood fastened at a right angle to each other. The strings were stretched across the wood to give the harp a triangular shape.

Simple strings could be made of twisted grasses, but better strings were made of dried animal intestine. Harps could have up to forty strings and were louder than the smaller three or four-stringed instruments called lyres.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Samuel 18:6-30

BIBLE TRUTH

Jealousy causes people to sin against God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To be content with and thankful for what the Lord has given us.
2. To understand why we should not be jealous of others.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be content with such things as you have."

(Hebrews 13:5b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We thank You, Father, for guiding us throughout this past week and for bringing us here to learn more about You. We thank You for all that You have given us and prepared for us, all of which is good. Please help us to be content with all that You have given us and let us not be unhappy about what we don't have. We know that You love us and have prepared only the best for us. May Your Spirit guide us throughout today's class. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

In this week's lesson, you will help your students become aware of the jealousy that they may struggle with and of how to stop this agent of sin with God's help.

First, help your students understand the meaning of jealousy. It is feeling unhappy (or even angry) because you don't have something that someone else has. How do you react when friends say good things about your brother, but not about you? Do you get jealous?

Perhaps a friend of yours always gets better grades than you do. Maybe your sister seems to get more clothes or toys from your mom and dad than you do. Or perhaps you have a new baby in your family and you don't like him getting more attention than you. These are all different expressions of jealousy.

Jealousy is a terrible thing. The Bible says, "Envy rots the bones" (Prov 14:30). This means that if we allow it, jealousy can control us so much that we can get both

physically and spiritually sick. As children of God, we need to be careful not to become jealous.

We can stop becoming jealous with God's help. If we admit our sins to Him and repent, He will help us overcome our jealousy (1 Jn 1:9).

When we realize that we are even a little bit jealous of someone else, we can start putting off jealousy right away. We can stop comparing ourselves to others, stop wanting things others may have, and stop feeling sorry for ourselves.

What we can start doing is to begin praying for others, to look for the good in others, to encourage others for the gifts God has given them, and to thank God for working in other people's lives. As we rely on the power of God and strive to do the things above, we will notice that God will give us the strength to overcome jealousy.

VOCABULARY

jealous: to want something that someone else has; not being satisfied with what you have

content: being happy and satisfied with what you have

success: when something goes well; achieving a goal

enemy: someone who doesn't like you; someone who makes trouble for you

Philistines: the enemies of the Israelites

celebrate: to be happy and have a party

tambourine: a round instrument with bells on the side that you tap or shake to make sounds

harp: a stringed instrument that you pluck to make music

evil spirit: invisible spirit from Satan (not from God)

spear: long wooden pole with a small pointed metal tip; used as a weapon

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how David fought the giant Goliath. Do you remember who won? (David won.) Why was everyone afraid of Goliath? (He was a big and strong giant; it looked like no one could beat him.) Why do you think that David wasn't afraid to fight Goliath? (He knew that the Lord was with him and would help him win the fight.)

What kinds of weapons did David bring to challenge Goliath? (He only brought 5 smooth stones and a sling.) Why do you think David won the battle, even with no armor? (The Lord helped him to win.) What did we learn from David and Goliath? (Even though sometimes things look impossible or really hard to do, we can always rely on God to give us the strength to do it; God is all-powerful and He can help us to do anything!)

This week, we will learn about Saul and David. Do you remember who Saul is? (The king of Israel.) After David killed Goliath, he became Israel's instant hero. Saul thought that the people of Israel liked David more than him, so Saul became jealous.

In this week's lesson, we're going to see what becomes of Saul's jealousy.

BIBLE STORY

Saul Becomes Jealous of David

When David and the soldiers were returning home after he had killed Goliath, women from every town in Israel came to meet them. They were singing and dancing to the music of tambourines and harps. They celebrated and sang: "Saul has killed a thousand enemies, but David has killed ten thousand!"

How do you think Saul felt when he heard this? (King Saul probably did not like that someone lower than him had killed more enemies and received more praise.)

When Saul heard what the people were saying, he was upset and became so angry that he said to himself, "They say that I have killed only a thousand enemies, but David has killed ten thousand. What more can they do for David besides making him king?" What was Saul afraid of? (That's right! He was afraid that David might be king instead of him.)

From then on, Saul did not trust David.

Saul Tries to Kill David Twice with a Spear

The next day the Lord let an evil spirit take control of Saul, and he began acting like a crazy person. As usual, David had come to play the harp for Saul.

Does anyone know what a harp is? [Show the students a picture of a harp.] The harp is an instrument that makes a very sweet and soothing sound. David was a great musician and played the harp very well.

However, this time Saul had a spear in his hand and thought, "I'll nail him to the wall!" He threw it at David twice. Why do you think Saul tried to kill David? (Because Saul was jealous that someone could be better than him.) What do you think happened to David? [Let students guess.] David dodged and got away both times. David could get away because the Lord was protecting him.

Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David and not with him. He put David in charge of a large group of soldiers and sent him away. David led them in battle and was always a success because the Lord was with him.

When Saul saw what a success David was, he became even more afraid of him. But everyone else in Judah and Israel liked David, since he led their armies in battle.

Saul Offers His Daughter in Marriage to David

One day Saul had an evil plan. He said to David, "You may have my older daughter Merab in marriage; you only have to serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord."

Saul thought to himself, "I won't kill David myself. I'll let the Philistines do that!" What was Saul's plan? [Give students time to answer.] Saul didn't want to kill David himself but came up with a plan so that it would look like the enemies had killed David.

But in response, David said to Saul, "I am nobody. How could I marry the daughter of the king?" So Saul gave his

daughter Merab in marriage to someone else.

Now Saul's other daughter Michal was in love with David. When Saul found out about it, he was happy. He thought, "I will let her marry him, and he will be distracted and will not be able to concentrate on fighting the Philistines."

So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second chance to marry one of my daughters." Why did King Saul want David to marry his other daughter? (Because he wanted David to die at the sword of the Philistines; it was a very evil plan!)

Then, Saul ordered his servants, "Speak to David alone and say, 'Look, the king is very happy with you, and his servants all like you. Everything is working out for you, so just marry his daughter.'" Saul's servants told David what Saul said.

But David answered them, "Do you think becoming the king's son-in-law is no big deal? I'm only a poor man and little known." What was David's excuse for not marrying Michal? (He felt that he was poor and wasn't good enough to marry a princess.)

David Kills Two Hundred Philistines

Do you think Saul was going to give up trying to kill David? No!

When Saul's servants told him what David had said, Saul replied, "Say to David, 'In order to marry the king's daughter, you must kill one hundred Philistines to take revenge on his enemies.'" Killing one hundred men is a very difficult task! Saul's plan was to have David killed by the Philistines. Tricky, tricky Saul!

When the servants told David what the king said, David was happy to become the king's son-in-law. David wanted to help the king kill his enemies. So before the time was up, David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines, instead of just one hundred, because God was with David.

After the victory, Saul let David marry his daughter Michal.

The Philistines continued to fight the Israelites. When David went out to fight against them, he had more success than any of Saul's other officers, and he became well-known and highly esteemed. The Bible said that wherever David went, he behaved wiser than all the servants of Saul.

The Lord Gives David Success

When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, Saul became even more afraid of him. Saul treated David like an enemy; he could never really overcome his jealousy of David.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Why was Saul jealous of David?** The women sang that David had killed more enemies than Saul; David became more popular than Saul, who wasn't happy that someone was better than him.
2. **What did Saul try to do to David because he was jealous of him?** Saul tried to kill David by throwing spears at him, by sending him off to kill enemies, and by marrying him off to one of his daughters.
3. **Who was always with David, giving him success?** God was always with David, protecting him and helping him win.
4. **What did David have to do in order to marry Saul's daughter?** David had to kill one hundred Philistines.
5. **Why did Saul ask David to kill one hundred Philistines?** He was hoping that David would be killed by the Philistines while he was completing the difficult challenge.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Be content with such things as you have." (Hebrews 13:5b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

In this lesson, we see that Saul was jealous of David because the people praised David more than they praised him. Saul wanted to be the best and could not accept that someone could be better than him.

Jealousy is a sin that God does not like. Jealousy is terrible and can make a person sick both physically and spiritually. God wants us to be content and happy with the things we have.

He has made each person special and unique, so of course we will each have our own strengths and weaknesses.

Many children may struggle with jealousy but not even know that it is a problem for them. We need to examine ourselves to see if we are jealous of someone else. Ask your students, "Do we ever feel angry if someone else does something better than us?" "Are we mad if someone praises our brothers or sisters more than us?"

What Is Jealousy?

Jealousy brings decay to our lives because it makes us focus on anger and bitterness (Prov 14:30). It tells us in Ephesians that we should not give the devil any opportunity to get into our lives. Therefore, we must be aware that jealousy can grow into bigger things, and it can take over our lives. If we love to be generous, however, we push jealousy away, meaning that we are less likely to be led astray. Jealousy is evil and God tells us not to do evil. We cannot let bad feelings cause us to hurt our relationship with God and with others.

1. We Must Give Jealousy Over to God

If we find ourselves becoming jealous, we have to give it over to God. That means asking God to give us the strength to overcome it. Only through the power of God can we overcome the weakness. We need to read the Bible because the word is truth. God's word will change us. When our attitude changes, other things change too, including our spiritual lives, so we can go and bear fruit.

As children of God, we need to be careful not to become jealous. We can stop becoming jealous with God's help. If we admit our sins to Him and repent, He will help us overcome our jealousy.

The next time we feel jealous, what can we do? Instead of being mad at someone who can do something better than us, we can learn from their gifts. For example, if another church member is better at playing piano than we are, we can ask them for tips and suggestions that can help us improve. We can also praise God for giving them those gifts to help the church and other people.

2. Speaking in Love. We Must THINK Before We Speak:

- T – Is it **T**RUTHFUL?
- H – Is it **H**ELPFUL?
- I – Is it **I**NSPIRING?
- N – Is it **N**ECESSARY?
- K – Is it **K**IND?

If it is all of these things, we are acting and speaking in love. We are followers of Christ and we are called to speak the truth.

3. Be Thankful

We also need to realize and be thankful for all the gifts that God has given us. What are some things that God has given you that make you special? (Maybe your students can speak more than two languages, are good at certain subjects, can play certain instruments, are good at sports, etc.)

Have your students make a list of things that God has given them. They can thank God for these things instead of comparing things that they don't have.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. jealous
2. harp
3. spear
4. Michal
5. False; David married Michal.
6. True
7. False; Saul asked David to kill 100 Philistines.
8. True
9. True
10. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1

Compliment Card

- Objectives:**
1. To help students compliment others, instead of hating them.
 2. To help students see their strengths, so they won't always compare their weaknesses.

Materials

- Thick paper for each student

Preparations

1. Give each student a piece of paper and ask each student to write his name in the middle of the paper.
2. Have the students sit in a circle.

Instructions

1. Tell the students that they will be learning about how to appreciate, instead of get mad at, other people when they do something better than them. This is a way to praise God and not be jealous.
2. Set a timer for 30 seconds. Tell the students to pass their paper to the right, and then start the timer. The students have 30 seconds to write a compliment for the person whose name is on the paper that they get.
3. When the timer beeps, they need to pass the paper they have to their right again. This means that they will be writing on a different person's card every 30 seconds.
4. After all the papers get passed around, each student should end up with their own paper that is full of compliments.
5. Give the students some time to read the compliments on their paper. This should help the students feel better about themselves. It will also help the students see their strengths, so they won't always feel the need to compare their weaknesses with others.

2

Be Content Mobile

Objective: To allow students to count their blessings and be content with what they have.

Materials

- Hole punch
- Markers
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paper plates
- Brightly-colored yarn
- Construction paper

Preparation: Cut the paper plates in half for the students.

Instructions

1. With the flat side on the bottom, draw a rainbow on the paper plate. Write the words "Be Content" under the rainbow.
2. Punch holes on the bottom row of the plate. Tie pieces of yarn to each hole. About 5 holes should be suitable for this activity.
3. Give each student a few pieces of small construction paper (if you have time, cut these into cloud shapes). Have them write down things for which they can be thankful.
4. Hole punch the pieces of paper and tie them to the ends of the yarn. The end result should look like a rainbow mobile with all the things the students are thankful for hanging from it.
5. The students can take this home and hang it in their rooms as a reminder to be content with the things that they have and not to compare the things they don't have.

E1 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 8—Saul Is Jealous of David

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jealousy causes people to sin against God.**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To be content with and thankful for what the Lord has given us.
2. To understand why we should not be jealous of others.**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Hebrews 13:5b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

(spear, harp, Michal, jealous)

1. King Saul was _____ of David.
2. When David played the _____, it was usually very soothing to Saul.
3. Saul threw a _____ at David twice to try to kill him.
4. Saul's daughter _____ loved David.

True or False

5. David married Saul's daughter, Merab. _____
6. Saul was jealous because the people said, "Saul has killed a thousand enemies, but David has killed ten thousand!" _____
7. Saul told David to kill one thousand Philistines before he could marry his daughter. _____
8. The Lord was with David and that was why he was successful in all that he did. _____
9. Saul was David's enemy all his life. _____

Life Application

10. Please write one way you can overcome jealousy.
