

LESSON 10

DAVID REFUSES TO KILL SAUL

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Saul and David's Army

The development of Saul and David's army took place between the times of Saul and Solomon. Saul collected valiant men around him as personal bodyguards, and this was the beginning of a group of professional soldiers. It was on this basis that David himself first joined Saul (1 Sam 18:5). There were no proper supplies for the army at that time. The supplies were possibly provided for by the families of the soldiers (1 Sam 17:17-18) or by living off the land (1 Sam 25:18-19). Abner, a cousin of King Saul, served as commander of Saul's army.

David's group of bodyguards was larger in size and therefore more developed than Saul's group. While David was on the run from King Saul, a sizeable group of several hundred joined him and proved to be a private army. There were six hundred in the group, and thirty of them became an inner core of officers (2 Sam 23:8-39). Abishai was the nephew of David and a fierce warrior. He was extremely loyal to David and stayed with him during Absalom's rebellion.

The account mentions the Ziphites, who reported David's whereabouts to King Saul. Ziph was a town located in the Judean mountains (Josh 15:21, 24, 48, 55), towards the southern end of Israel. The Ziphites were Judeans, David's own countrymen, and this account was not the first time that they had betrayed David. They had also reported David's location in 1 Samuel 23:19, when David was fleeing from Saul. Psalm 54 was written by David against the Ziphites. It is an imprecatory psalm, written out of David's anguish. David reveals a heart of full trust in God, for deliverance and for justice.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Samuel 26:1-25

BIBLE TRUTH

God wants us to love our enemies.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To resolve conflicts with help from God and pray for others even when we are wronged.
2. To love our enemies and refuse to get even with them by letting God deal with the situation.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love your enemies."

(Matthew 5:44b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We thank You, heavenly Father, for Your love and protection throughout this past week. We are so joyful to be here again to worship You and learn about You. You are a loving, merciful God who came down to earth to die for our sins. Lord, we are unworthy of Your love. When others sin against us, we pray to be reminded of Your love, that we may love our enemies. Help us to be an example of Your love and goodness to others. Since You love us so much, O Lord, please help us to spread Your love to others. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Have your students ever been so upset with someone that they wanted to get even? Maybe a friend did something to them that embarrassed them in front of others; maybe someone said things that weren't true. It is often all too easy to want to get even when someone does mean things to us. This week's story deals with David, who was hunted without cause. He was given the chance not only to seek revenge but, more importantly, to save his own life—yet he chose to do the right thing. In this week's lesson, you will help your students understand that God is pleased when we refuse to get even with our enemies; instead, God wants us to love them and pray for them.

Oftentimes, the reasons why we want to get even are because we are worried about what others will think, we feel hurt or betrayed by someone we trusted, or we want

our own way. But God doesn't want us to get revenge because it shows we do not trust Him to take care of the situation. God's word says, "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord" (Rom 12:19).

Help your students understand that God doesn't want us to look for ways to get revenge; we should instead let God help us control our anger and trust in Him to handle the situation because the "wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (Jas 1:20). God has promised that He will deal with those who wrong us. We can be sure that God will handle everything in His time and in His good way.

VOCABULARY

commander: someone in charge of the whole army

spear: a weapon made up of a long, thin stick with a sharp head

failure: someone who has not done what he should have

faithful: being loyal to someone

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about David and his best friend Jonathan. How did we know that David and Jonathan loved each other? (They promised to be friends always; Jonathan helped David escape danger; etc.) What did we learn from David and Jonathan? (To love and appreciate all of our friends.)

Boys and girls, this week we will learn even more about David and Saul. Remember, Saul was very jealous of David and was trying to kill him. Because of this, David had to run away. In today's story, David gets the chance to get back at Saul, and to save his own life. Let's see what David chooses to do.

BIBLE STORY

[During the Bible story, the piano cues should be played as indicated by the numbers. The music can be played as the story is being narrated, or at appropriate pauses in the narration.]

Saul Pursues David

To help us with our story today, we're going to have a musical treat! We're going to have some piano music to help us imagine what happened in the story. If you want, you can shut your eyes and listen to hear what happens. Last week, we learned how David escaped from Saul again [musical cue 1]. But Saul was still jealous of David and tried to kill him, so David had to run away [musical cue 4]. He had to run far away from his friends and his family. He ended up staying on a mountain near the edge of Israel. One day, some men from the town of Ziph came to Saul at Gibeah and told him that David was hiding on Mount Hachilah near the southern edge of the desert of Judea.

Saul took three thousand of his best soldiers and went to look for David in the desert near Ziph [musical cue 1].

David and Abishai Sneak into Saul's Camp

When David was told that Saul was following him, he sent some men to find out if it was true. David's men found out that Saul really had followed David into the desert.

So, David went to look at Saul's camp. He saw that Saul and his army commander Abner were fast asleep in the middle of the camp, and his soldiers were sleeping all around them [musical cue 3]. David asked Ahimelech and Joab's brother Abishai, "Which one of you will go with me into Saul's camp?"

"I will!" Abishai answered. That same night, David and Abishai went into the camp, tip-toeing and creeping quietly [musical cue 2]. Saul was sleeping with his spear stuck into the ground not far from his head, while Abner and the soldiers were still sleeping all around him [musical

cue 3].

David Refuses to Kill Saul

Abishai whispered to David, “This time God has let you get your hands on your enemy! Let me strike him through right now with his own spear. I won’t need a second try.” Although God had caused these men to sleep, it was not for David to kill Saul. By allowing the men to fall into a deep sleep, God was looking after David—imagine if all three thousand of Saul’s men woke up when David and Abishai were standing all by themselves in the middle. It would have been a disaster!

David knew better than Abishai because his heart was close to God’s. David whispered back, “Don’t kill him! The Lord will punish anyone who kills His chosen king. As surely as the Lord lives, He will punish Saul either by letting him die a natural death or by having him killed in battle. But I pray that the Lord will keep me from harming His chosen king! Let’s grab his spear and water jar and get out of here!” David took the spear and the water jar, and the two men left. None of Saul’s soldiers knew what had happened or even woke up, since the Lord had made all of them fall sound asleep. [Musical cue 4] They ran and ran until they were well away from Saul’s camp, far away at the mountain on the other side.

David Speaks to Abner

David and Abishai crossed the valley and went to the top of the hill, where they were at a safe distance. Then, David shouted to Abner and Saul’s army [musical cue 5], “Abner, do you hear me?”

Abner replied [musical cue 6], “Who dares call out to the king like that?”

David answered [musical cue 5], “What kind of man are you? Aren’t you supposed to be the best fighting man in Israel? Why didn’t you protect your king from his enemies? Abner, you are a complete failure! As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men deserve to die for not protecting the Lord’s chosen king! Look and see if you can find the king’s spear and the water jar that were near his

head.”

Saul Is Sorry for Trying to Kill David

Saul could tell it was David’s voice, and he called out [musical cue 6], “David, my son, is that you?”

[Musical cue 5] “Yes it is, your majesty,” David replied. “Why are you after me? Have I done something wrong or have I committed a crime? Please listen to what I have to say. If the Lord has turned you against me, perhaps an offering will make Him change His mind. But if people have turned you against me, I hope the Lord will punish them! They have forced me to run away and live far from God’s people and pushed me to worship other gods! I am no more than a flea! Why should the king of Israel hunt me down as men hunt birds in the mountains?”

Saul answered [musical cue 6], “I have done wrong! David, my son, come back. You saved my life today, and I will never again try to hurt you. I have acted like a fool, and I have really made many mistakes!”

David said [musical cue 5], “Your majesty, here is your spear! Have one of your young men come get it. The Lord put you in my power today, but I refused to harm His chosen king, because the Lord rewards people who are honest and faithful. Now I beg the Lord to protect my life and keep me safe from harm, just as I saved your life today!”

Saul replied [musical cue 6], “May the Lord bless you, David, my son. You will succeed in everything you do!”

After this, David left, and Saul returned home [musical cue 7].

David did not need to kill Saul to seek revenge, or even to save his own life. He trusted God by doing what he knew was right, and God took care of the rest. Saul went back to his own place and David was safe. It was wrong for Saul to chase David in order to kill him, and God did not forget that. In fact, as we will find out later, Saul indeed was killed in battle just as David had spoken to Abishai. God wants us simply to obey Him and trust Him to do the right thing.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Why did David flee from Saul?** Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him.
- 2. How did Saul hear about where David was?** Some of the men of Ziph came and told Saul that David was among them.
- 3. What did Saul do when he knew where David was hiding?** He and Abner came with three thousand men to hunt for David.
- 4. What were Saul and his men doing when David found them?** They were sleeping.
- 5. What did Abishai offer to do to Saul?** He offered to kill Saul with one strike of the spear.
- 6. How did David reply to Abishai?** David would not allow him to kill Saul, because he was the Lord’s anointed.
- 7. What did they do instead?** They took the spear and water jug from beside Saul’s head and left.
- 8. How did Saul feel when he found out that David had come so close to killing him but did not do it?** Saul felt sorry that he had been hunting David.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

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

"Love your enemies." (Matthew 5:44b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. David did not regard Saul as an enemy. He did not kill him or speak evil of him. He did not repay evil with evil. We must leave all vengeance to God.

"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to [God's] wrath: for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."

—Romans 12:19

Anger and vengeance have no place for a Christian when we are wronged for personal reasons. Scripture reminds us to pray for our enemies and to feed them if they hunger, and in so doing, we heap burning coals on their heads (Rom 12:20).

Whenever our enemies try to do us harm, the first thought that comes to our mind is to repay evil with evil. However, we must not do this. We must love them with the same love that God has for them. We must seek their good and not their destruction. We must readily forgive

them just as Christ has forgiven us.

We must never try to avenge the wrongs they have done to us.

We must do good to our enemies at all times. If they are in need, we must try to meet those needs. The word of God says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16). Whenever we feed and clothe our enemies, men in the world will see our good deeds and we will bring glory to God.

2. Jesus teaches us to pray for our enemies.

Praying for an enemy may be the last thing you think of, but it's one of the best things you can do.

To truly pray for an enemy, you have to love him and have his best interests in mind. This alone can help resolve the conflict.

But more importantly, when we ask God to help an enemy and to help us in our relationship with him, we appeal for divine help. We don't merely pray for a personal victory, but for God's power to aid both parties and bring about a positive outcome.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.**"*

—Matthew 5:43-44

Questions to Think About

1. Are there ever times when you are tempted to get even with someone? Please share.
2. Why doesn't God want us to get even with our enemies? Instead, what should we do for our enemies?
3. What will you do the next time you feel the urge to get even?

ACTIVITIES

1**Showing Kindness**

David showed kindness to Saul many times. We can show our kindness to others like David did.

Instructions

Read each problem below. Ask the students to write down the number of the answer that they choose and have them explain why. These problems should be done in class with each question asked in turn, without revealing the next question until answers for the current question have been obtained from the class.

Problem #1

Your friend wants to borrow a quarter for ice cream. She never paid back the last three quarters she borrowed.

1. What would you do? Why?
 - a) Get back at her. Eat your ice cream in front of her.
 - b) Teach her a lesson. Don't loan her any money until she pays you back.
 - c) Loan her the quarter again and tell her she should pay you back as soon as possible.
2. Would you lend money to your friend if she had money for ice cream and still asked to borrow anyway?
3. Would it be different if your friend was asking for money to buy lunch because she left her money at home?

Problem #2

Your cousin breaks your best model airplane just for fun.

1. What would you do? Why?
 - a) Give him your next-best model. Let him break that one, too.
 - b) Teach him a lesson. Break his toy.
 - c) Don't get angry and then explain that it is wrong to break other people's toys.
2. What would you do if it was an accident?
3. What would you do if it was your best friend who broke the model?
4. What would you do if it was someone from school you disliked who broke the model?

Problem #3

You get in trouble from the teacher for copying during a test. But you weren't copying—someone else in your class was copying your answers.

1. What would you do? Why?
 - a) Start crying because you don't know what to do.
 - b) Get mad at the teacher for accusing you.
 - c) Pray first and tell the teacher the truth honestly and completely.
2. What would you do if it was your best friend who was copying your answers?
3. What if the person was someone you didn't like very much because they were always copying your answers?

Problem #4

There are some kids that you think are cool, and you want to be friends with them. One day, you see them picking on another kid, and they invite you to join in.

1. What would you do? Why?
 - a) Follow what they are doing and pick on the kid, too.
 - b) Hesitate but continue to stand there and watch how they pick on the kid.
 - c) Stand up for what is right and refuse to pick on the kid.
2. What would you do if the person they were picking on was someone you didn't like?
3. What if they were picking on your best friend?
4. What would you do if you knew that they would pick on you if you didn't join in?

2

Love Bookmark**Materials**

- Heart paper
- Posterboard
- Pink and red felt
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue

Preparations

1. Trace patterns onto the posterboard, making enough for every two to three students.
2. Cut the yarn into 10-inch (25 cm) lengths, one for each student.

Instructions

1. Trace the heart pattern onto the posterboard two times. Trace it onto the felt four times. Cut it out.
2. Spread the glue onto a felt heart and place one end of the yarn onto it. Glue the heart onto the posterboard, sealing in the yarn. Do the same for the other heart.
3. Using the markers, write on one heart, "Love your" and on the other, "enemies."

3

Tell the Story**Materials**

- Copies of the storyboard cut-outs, one for each student
- Coloring pencils or crayons
- Glue
- Cardboard on which to stick the cut-outs
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Color the pictures.
2. Cut out the pictures and arrange them in order, then glue them onto the cardboard to form a storyboard.
3. Have the students tell the story (without the caption prompts), calling students in turn to explain what is happening in each picture.

Variation 1: The teacher can vary the position of one or two of the pictures and allow the students to identify which event is out of order.

Variation 2: Keeping the order of events, the teacher can retell the story with varying details. Have the students identify which story details have been altered.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. God, sleep
3. spear, jug
4. enemies
5. False; Saul took three thousand men with him.
6. Ziph
7. David got the chance to kill Saul.
8. No, David did not agree to kill Saul.
9. He felt sorry for trying to kill David.
10. Saul was the Lord's anointed; the Lord rewards people who are honest and faithful.

DAVID REFUSES TO KILL SAUL

MUSICAL CUES

1) OMINOUS MUSIC (PLAYED SLIGHTLY DETACHED)

PIANO *f*

2) CREEPING MUSIC (LIGHT & DETACHED)

PNO. *pp*

8

3) LULLABY (SOFT & SWEET)

PNO. *p*

16

23

4) RUNNING MUSIC (FAST)

PNO. *mf*

30

5) DAVID IN CONVERSATION WITH SAUL & ABNER (FARAWAY & FADED)-PLAY AS LONG AS DAVID IS SPEAKING, TO SAUL

34

PNO. *p*

40 6) SAUL IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID (HEAVY & GRAVE)-PLAY AS LONG AS SAUL IS SPEAKING, TO DAVID

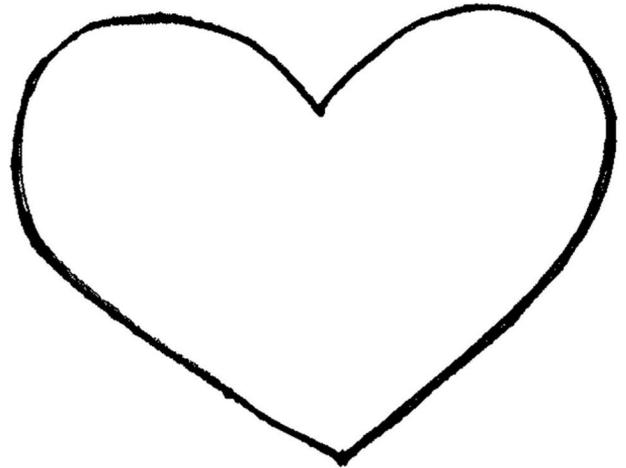
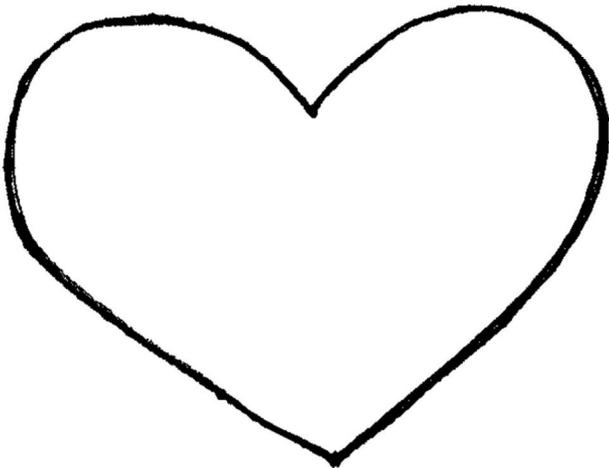
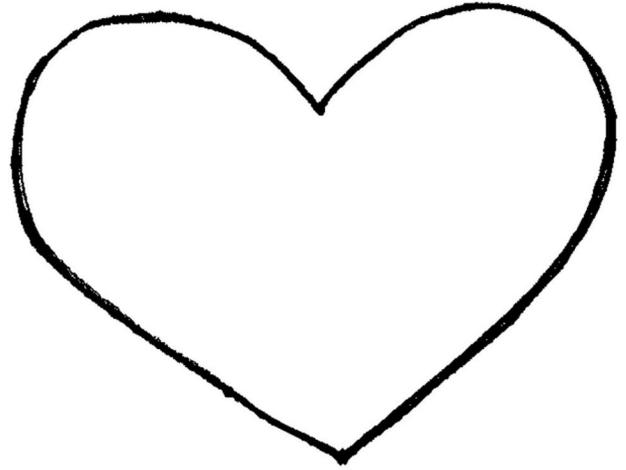
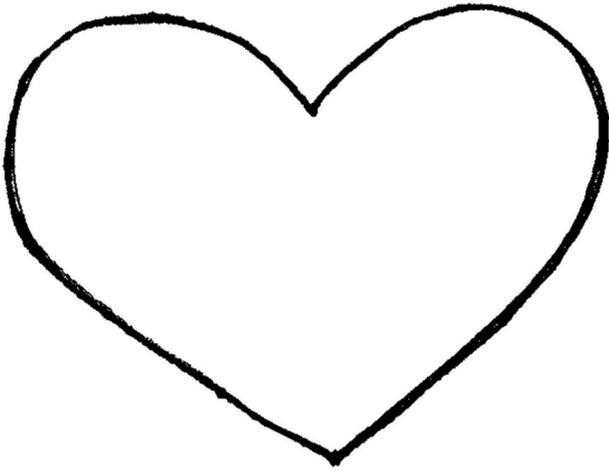
40

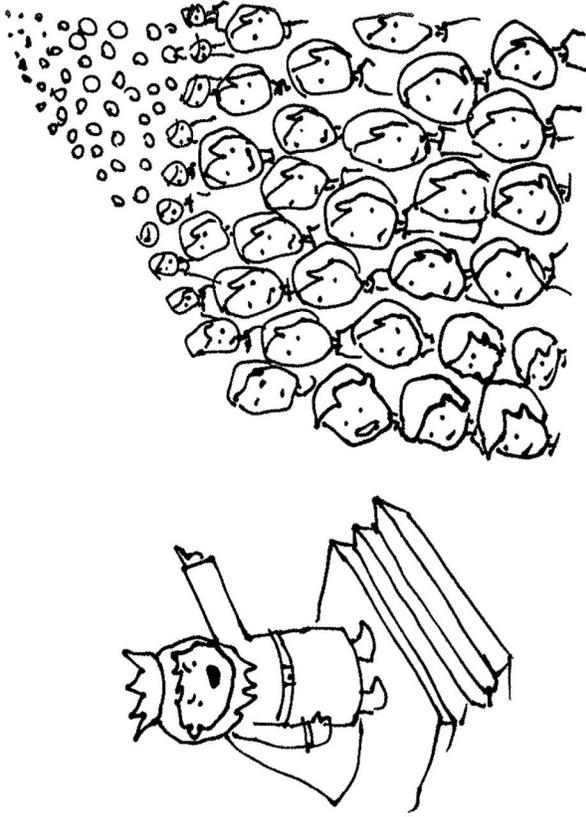
PNO. *mf*

7) CONCLUSION (WITH EMPHASIS)

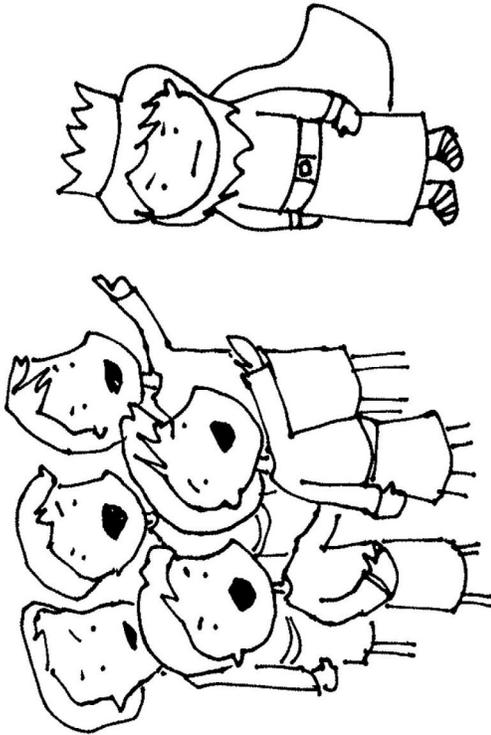
44

PNO. *f*

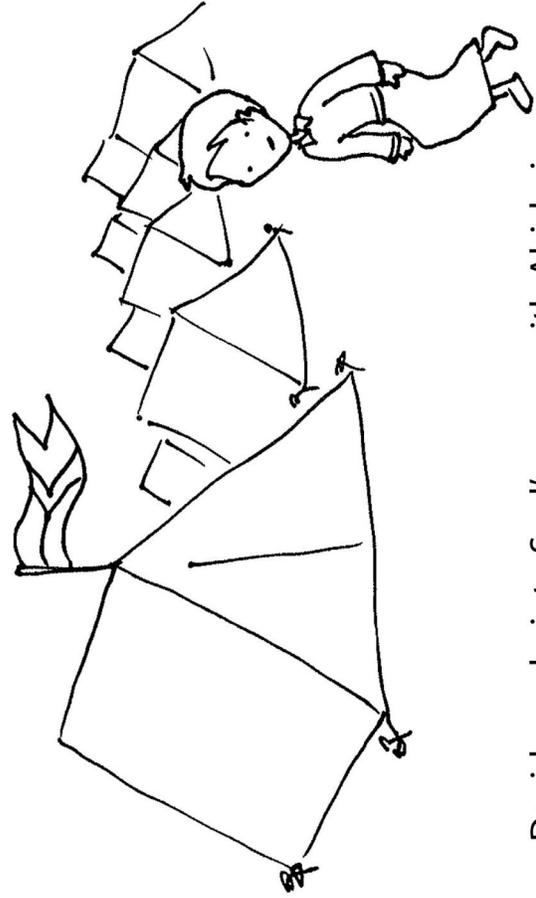




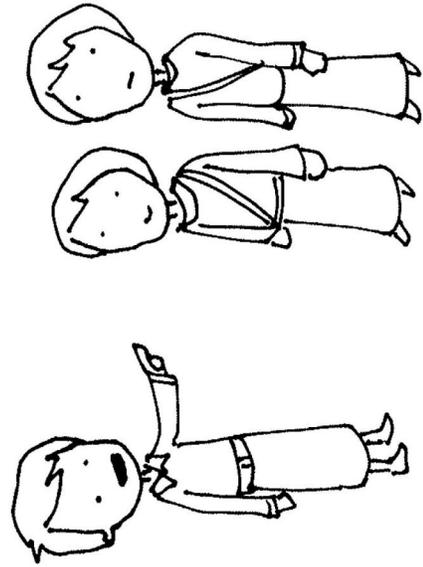
Saul gathers 3000 men to search for David.



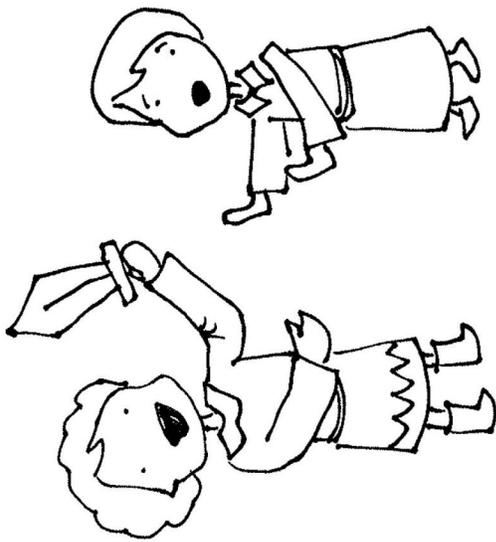
The Ziphites report David to Saul.



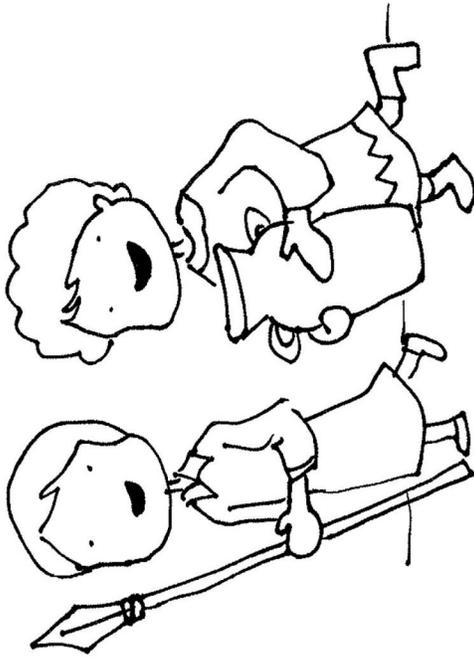
David sneaks into Saul's camp with Abishai.



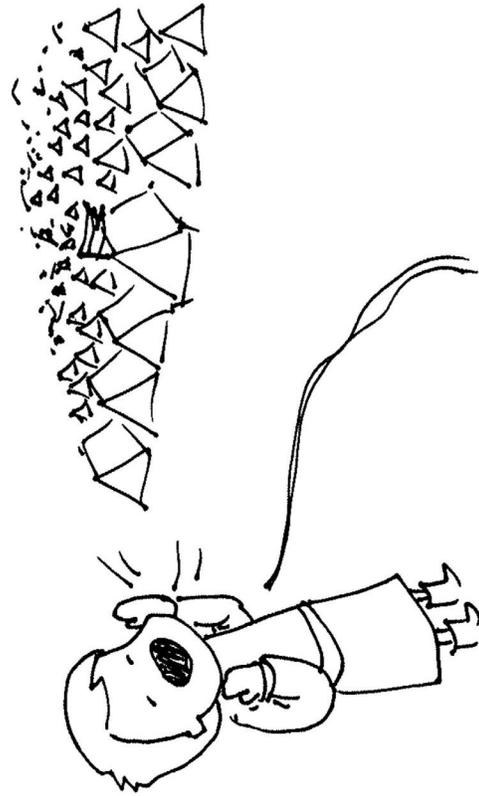
David sends spies to see if Saul really is after him.



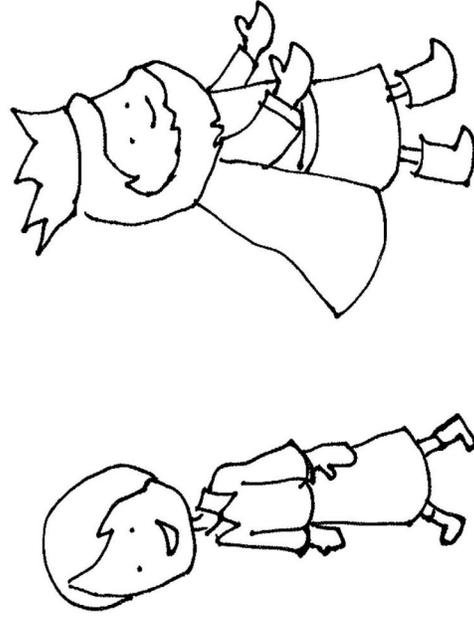
Abishai offers to kill Saul, but David refuses.



David and Abishai sneak off with a spear and a jug of water.



David shouts across to Saul's camp.



David and Saul both depart.

E1 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 10—David Refuses to Kill Saul

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God wants us to love our enemies.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To resolve conflicts with help from God and pray for others even when we are wronged.
 2. To love our enemies and refuse to get even with them by letting God deal with the situation.

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.

(Matthew 5:44b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : Who agreed to go to Saul's camp with David?
 - a. Abner
 - b. Ahimelech
 - c. Abishai

Fill In the Blank

2. David was safe in Saul's camp because _____ had sent a deep _____ to fall on the people.
3. David took Saul's _____ and _____ and left Saul's camp.
4. "Love your _____." (Mt 5:44b)

True or False

5. When Saul heard where David was hiding, he took a thousand men with him to hunt for David. _____

Short Answer

6. What was the name of the place where the people told Saul that David was hiding?

7. When David and Abishai snuck into Saul's camp, what did David get the chance to do?

8. Did David agree to kill Saul?

9. When Saul found out that David had refused to kill him, how did he feel?

10. Why didn't David kill Saul?
