

DAVID

1 Samuel 16-1 Kings 1

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People look

at the outside

of a person,

but God looks

at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7b

SESSION 1: A KING AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Big idea: God looks at the heart

God cares about our attitudes, desires and character. People often look at a person's appearance, but God looks at the heart.

10 years +

SESSION 1: A KING AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO PART 1 – SETTING THE SCENE

We are starting a new series on the life of David. Use the Bible timeline to orientate yourselves in the overall Bible story. See [introduction](#)

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called “PLURP!” (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again) Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME –: Shepherd mix up

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

We are going to learn this memory verse

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



INTRODUCTION

Use the Bible timeline to help the children see where they are in the overall story of the Bible.

The Bible is a collection of books that together tell the story of how God created the world and made human beings to be His children and know His love. Very early in the story, however, people turned away from God's good plan and chose to run from God. God is like a loving Father, who keeps searching for His children and rescuing them so they can come home to Him. The whole Bible points to God sending His Son Jesus to come and rescue us.

God chose Abraham's family, the Israelites, to bring about His rescue plan. God rescued them from slavery in Egypt with Moses and brought them into the promised land of Canaan with Joshua. After Joshua was the time of the Judges, when everyone did just as they pleased, because there was no king. Despite the chaos, God had a plan. He was preparing to raise up a King who would unite the 12 tribes of Israel and lead them back to worshipping Yahweh, the God of Israel and Creator of the world.

GAME - LINE UP

The last judge was a man called Samuel and when Samuel grew old, the people asked for a King like the other nations around them. God gave them what they asked for - a man called Saul who was a giant of a man. He looked like a King - tall, strong and impressive. How would you choose a King? The strongest? Oldest? Tallest? Wisest?

Line up in height order, then age order, then birthday order from January to December.

Do you think that is how God wanted to choose a King?

No God, was most interested in people's hearts.

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen?
- 1 Samuel follows the book of Judges in the Hebrew Bible, what are we left longing for at the end of the book of Judges?

WHERE?

- Where is it set? (See map)
- What do you know about Bethlehem?
- Imagine Jesse's home, what might have been like? (sights, smells, feel of the place?)

WHAT?

- What happens?

LOOK

WHO?

- Who is Saul and why was Samuel afraid of him?
- Who was Jesse? Who was his grandfather/grandmother? (Boaz and Ruth)
- What do you think it would have been like to be the youngest of 8 brothers?

10+ years

GAME: SHEPHERD MIX UP

Shepherds have to guide their sheep to safety and look after them. In Biblical times, the shepherds would have directed the sheep with their voices. The sheep would listen for the voice of their shepherd and follow them to safety, food or water.

Equipment:

Blindfolds (scarves) enough for half the group

1. Divide the children into pairs with one person blindfolded, this is the sheep, and one person seeing, this is the shepherd
2. The shepherds have to lead their sheep using just their voice around the room without bumping into another sheep or shepherd
3. Each pair starts with three lives. If a sheep bumps into another person (sheep or shepherd), that pair loses a life
4. Once all three lives are gone, that pair is out
5. If there is a stalemate at the end, the leaders can walk back and forth as potential obstacles for the sheep to try to avoid as well

UNDERSTAND

Who did Samuel assume would be the next king and why?

Who did God choose and why?

Read 1 Samuel 13v14

What do you think it means/looks like to have a heart after God's heart?
Give examples

RESPOND

You could take the response time in a couple of directions:

You could think about how we look at other people and make assumptions about people based on their achievements or appearance or other things. How do we choose who to spend time with or who to follow, for example?

You could also think about our own hearts. Is my heart like God's heart? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you in which ways it is, and in which ways it is not. God loves us and wants to help us. He does not condemn us, but He wants us to live free of sin, so that we are truly free and not enslaved to sin.

PRAY

Depending on which direction your response time went, pray for eyes to see people the way God sees them and for God's wisdom to choose who to spend time with.

Thank God that when we put our trust in Jesus, He gives us new hearts. Ask Him to help us live with our hearts being more and more like God's heart by His Spirit.

SESSION 2 GOD IS STRONG

Big idea: David trusted in God's strength

When facing the threat of the giant Goliath, Saul looked at his own strength and was afraid to fight. David looked at God's strength and had courage to fight. When we are weak, God is strong.

10 years +

SESSION 2: GOD IS STRONG

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap where David's story comes in the Bible

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read and/or act out 1 Samuel 17

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Goliath knock down

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read paraphrase of 1 Samuel 17

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?
- What were we longing for at the end of the book of Judges?

WHO?

- What do you remember about David from last week? (youngest of 8 brothers, shepherd, anointed to one day be King, heart after God's heart, Spirit of the Lord came upon him etc.)
- Who was King Saul? Philistines?

LOOK

WHERE?

- Where in Israel is this happening? (Sokoh in Judah)
- Describe the landscape

(Bushy hills, valley in between two hills was where the enemies would meet)

Does the battle in the "valley" remind you of one of David's most famous songs perhaps? Psalm 23...even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...

WHAT?

- What happens?

10+ years

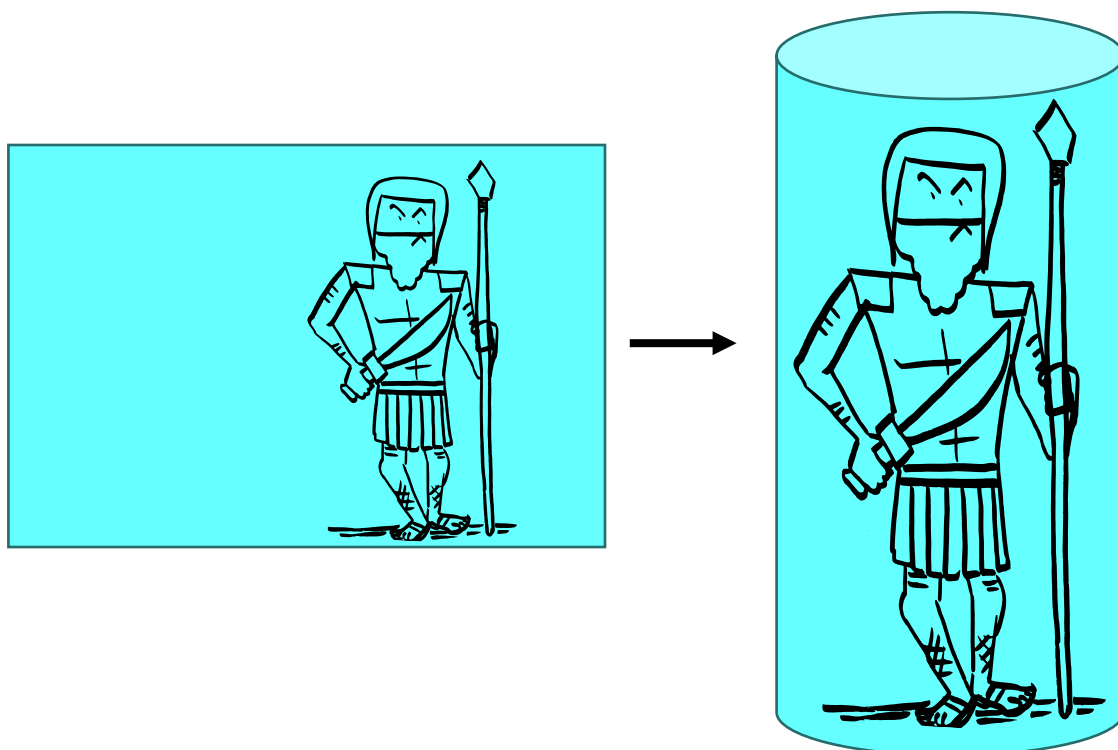
GAME: GOLIATH KNOCK DOWN

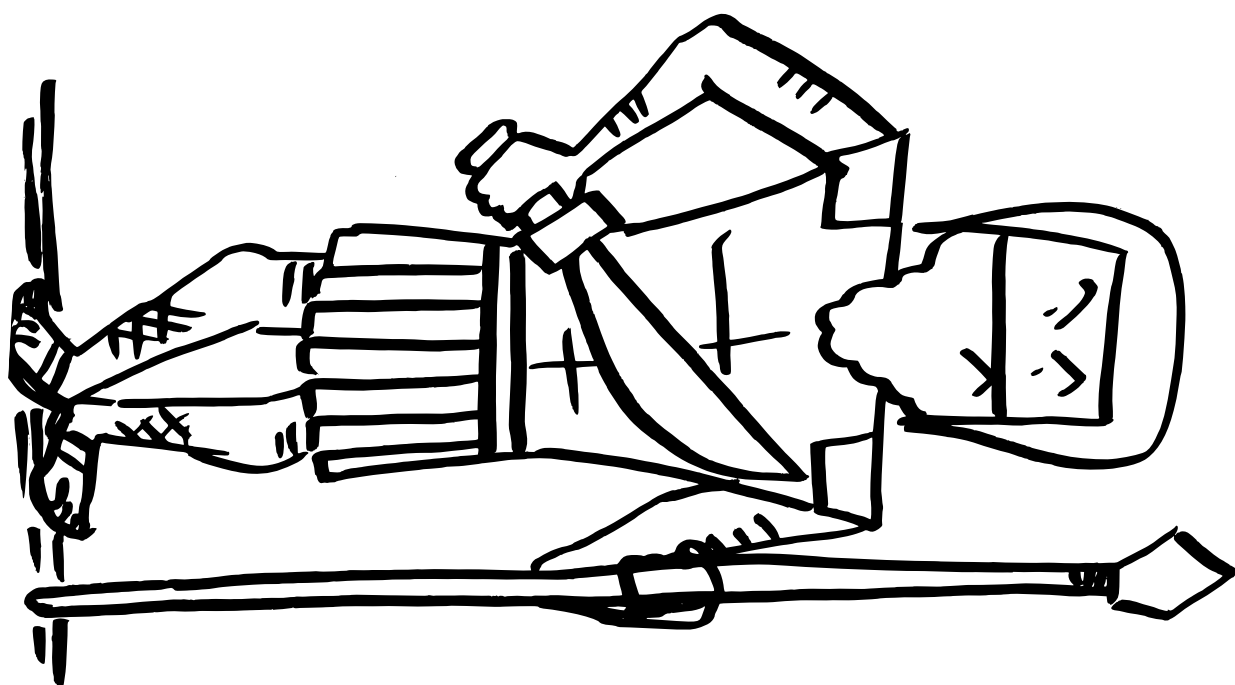
Equipment:

Goliath printed on paper and paper rolled up and taped to stand as a target

1. You could use elastic bands or thrown balls/bean bags at Goliath from set distances in teams to try and knock him down. The team that knocks him down the most amount of times wins.

Use an A4 piece of paper, rolled and taped on short edge to be the target





UNDERSTAND

Why was Saul afraid to fight Goliath?

Why was David unafraid?

Use the two illustrations to show two ways of dealing with the challenge of Goliath.

One shows someone looking in at themselves and realising they are not big and tough enough to take down Goliath.

The other shows someone realising that they are in Jesus, the conquering King and Goliath is no match for Jesus!

Discuss the pictures, how do they depict attitudes of people in the story?

The Bible teaches that, if we have put our trust in Jesus, we are “in Christ” and when we are weak, He is strong.

Paul said in one of his letters to the Corinthian church:

“But [Jesus] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

What do you think Paul means?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Think of one thing you either

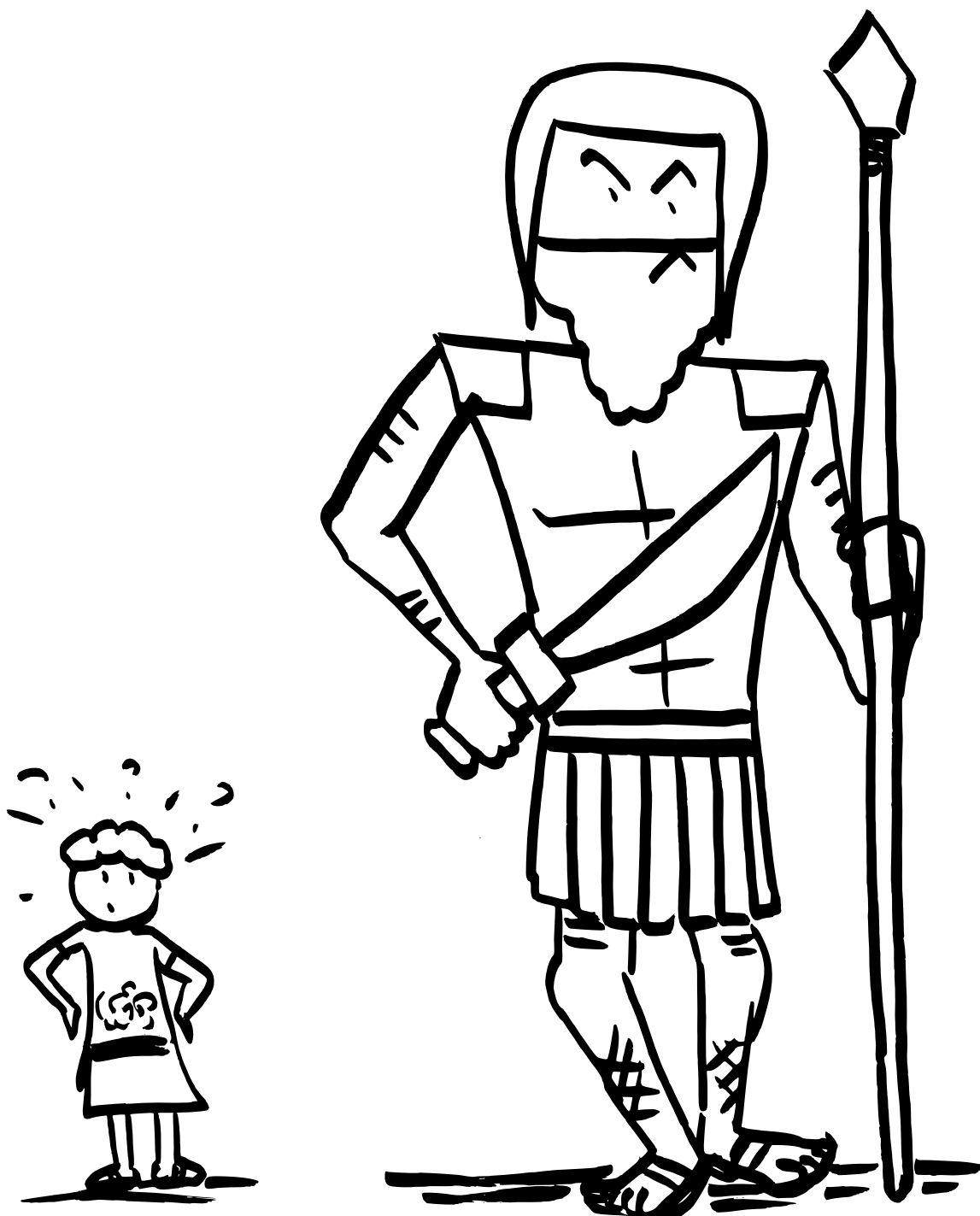
wish you *would stop* doing, but find you keep doing;

or

wish you *would do*, but find that you keep struggling to do.

Confess this to God, saying, “God I want to *do/not do*.... But I keep *not doing/doing* it. I recognise that I am weak, but You are strong. You can help me. Please help me by Your Spirit, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”





SESSION 3 BITTER JEALOUSY

Big idea: Bitter jealousy leads to destruction.
God protects those who trust in Him

When everyone loved David and it became clear God was with him, Saul allowed bitter jealousy to fill his heart. He attempted to kill David, but God kept looking after him

10 years +

SESSION 3: BITTER JEALOUSY

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap the anointing of David as king and his victory over Goliath

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read paraphrase of 1 Samuel 16v14-23 and 18v1-5. Then read 1 Samuel 18v6-17

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Blind dodge

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



4. The Empire of David and Solomon



DAVID'S PROMOTION (1 SAMUEL 16V14-23 AND 18V1-5)

When Saul had been anointed as King (years before David was on the scene), the Spirit of the Lord had rushed upon him and given Saul the power to prophesy, telling people what God was saying, and to defeat his enemies in battle. However, over time King Saul began to disobey God. He cared more about what other people thought about him than about what God thought. Eventually the Spirit of God left Saul and God allowed a harmful spirit, that stirred up rage and jealousy, to come to Saul.

His servants realised that he needed help and they suggested that they look for someone who was skilled in playing the harp to come and bring peace to Saul. They said that David, a man brave in battle and skilled with music should come, so Saul called David to himself.

Whenever Saul was disturbed by the evil spirit, David would play and the sound of the beautiful worship music would send the unclean spirit away. Saul thought David was wonderful. He made David his armour bearer and leader of his best warriors. God gave David victory wherever he went.

Saul's son Jonathan also loved David. He loved him so much that Jonathan gave David his special princely robe, his armour and his weapons. The people of Israel and Judah loved David too, because he kept defeating the Philistines for them in battle.

Everything seemed to be going wonderfully for David until...

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read paraphrase of 1 Samuel 18v6-17

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?

Note: the Bible is not always laid out strictly chronologically. It is likely that these events happened after the battle with Goliath, because the people in chapter 16 call David a man of valour and a man of war.

WHERE?

- Likely to be in Gibeah, where Saul was based, just above Jerusalem (See map)

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was Saul?
- Who was David?
- Who was Jonathan?
- Who loved David?

WHAT?

- What happens?

10 and up

GAME: BLIND DODGE

Equipment:

1 blindfold, 1 foam noodle, cones

Saul was blinded by bitterness and David had to dodge his spear. In this game, one person (this could be a leader if that will be better for health and safety!) will wear a blindfold and hold a foam noodle. They will turn (not too quickly!) around in the centre of a circle marked by cones holding out the noodle.

All other children have to stay in the circle, but dodge the noodle. If they are hit, they are out (or count the hits and the person at the end with the least hits is the winner). As the game progresses, move the cones closer to the centre to make it more difficult.

UNDERSTAND

Why did Saul love David initially and how did he show him honour?

Why did Jonathan love David and how did he show him honour?

Why did the people of Israel love David?

Why did Saul become bitter towards David? Do you think Saul had to become bitter and jealous? What does bitter jealousy lead to? (Ensure people understand what is meant by bitterness/jealousy in this context)

In the story of Cain and Abel which comes right at the start of the Bible in Genesis 4, Cain has bitter jealousy towards his brother Abel, because the Lord accepted his brother's offering of worship but rejected Cain's. Read Genesis 4:7. God warns Cain that sin wants to be master over Cain, but Cain must overcome his sin. Cain gave into his bitterness and killed his brother. Can you see any similarities between Cain and Abel's situation and Saul and David's? How might things have turned out differently if Saul had overcome his bitterness towards David?

How did God protect David?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Bitter jealousy leads to pain, destroys relationships and multiplies evil. In the New Testament, the apostle James warns that where bitter jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and sin, but there will be a harvest of righteousness for those who make peace. (See James 3:13-18)

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there is anyone that you hold bitterness or jealousy towards. Pray "Lord God, I release any bitterness or jealousy towards..... In the name of Jesus. Holy Spirit, please fill my heart with peace and help me to walk in peace towards others".

SESSION 4

HIDDEN IN GOD

Big idea: God is able to protect us from our enemies

David escaped the palace and took refuge with Samuel where the presence of God was powerfully at work. The Spirit of God was so powerful that no one could come near David to harm him there.

10 years +

SESSION 4: HIDDEN IN GOD

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap the anointing of David as king and his victory over Goliath and Saul's bitter jealousy against David

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read paraphrase of 1 Samuel 19v1-17. Then read 1 Samuel 19v18-24

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Under wing

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



SECOND ATTEMPT ON DAVID'S LIFE (1 SAMUEL 19V1-17)

God was with David and helped him to fight against the Philistines as a commander in Saul's army. The people of Israel and Judah loved David, so did Saul's son Jonathan and Saul's daughter Michal. Saul gave his daughter Michal in marriage to David, but as he watched everyone adoring this young hero, he became jealous of him and wanted to kill him. He thought David wanted to steal his throne.

One day, Saul let his anger overcome him and he threw his spear at him while he was innocently playing music. Miraculously, he escaped. Then King Saul sent David into dangerous battles, hoping that he would be killed by the Philistines, but God kept looking after David.

Jonathan tried to speak to his father to persuade him not to try to harm David, but when war broke out again and still David would not die, Saul became enraged. One day, when David was playing music for him on his harp, Saul took his spear again and hurled it at David. David ducked and the spear stuck fast in the wall. David ran to his house where his wife Michal was waiting. She hid him and urged him to climb out the window and flee, otherwise Saul would send soldiers to murder him.

David escaped and, sure enough, soldiers were sent to keep watch and strike David down when he came out of his house the following morning. When David didn't appear, the soldiers demanded to know where he was. Michal pretended David was ill and they reported this to the king. Eventually Saul realised that he had been tricked and that David had escaped with his life *again!*

David ran to Samuel the prophet at Naioth in Ramah and Saul was hot on his heels...

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read paraphrase of 1 Samuel 19v18-24

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?
- What had happened in David's life already?

WHERE?

- Saul's base was in Gibeah and David ran from there to Naoith in Ramah. Can you find them on a map?
- Ramah means "hill". Priests and prophets would often go to hills and high places to speak with God. Can you think why that might be? (Priests and prophets speak with/minister to God in Heaven, so high places like mountains and hills are symbolic of a place where Heaven and earth meet)

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was Saul?
- Who was David?
- Who was Samuel?
- Who was the Spirit of God with?

WHAT?

- What happens?
- What did Saul hope would happen?
- What actually happened?

10 and up

GAME: UNDER WING

Psalm 91 says God is like a bird who spreads its wings over its young to protect them. When David went to Samuel for God's protection, God showed David that He would spread His wing over David to protect him.

“Those who go to God Most High for safety
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the Lord, “You are my place of safety and protection.
You are my God, and I trust you.”
God will save you from hidden traps
and from deadly diseases.
He will protect you like a bird
spreading its wings over its young.
His truth will be like your armour and shield.” Psalm 91

Equipment: a towel or sheet

In this game, one child will act as the parent bird and hold a towel/sheet for its young to hide under. One person will be the catcher and everyone else will be the young birds. The young birds fly around the room until someone shouts “quick hide!” Then they must hide under the bird wing (sheet/towel). The catcher tries to catch a bird before they get under cover. They then switch places with that person for the next round. If you have lots of children, have a pair(s) of children with a towel held between them as the parent birds and more catchers.





UNDERSTAND

Why was Saul chasing David?

Who did David go to for help, guidance and protection? Why?

What kind of spirit drove Saul to hunt David down?

What Spirit was present with Samuel and the prophets?

What did the Spirit of God cause to happen?

What does this show you about the Spirit of God?

Three times, Saul sent groups of men to capture David and every time, the Spirit of God did not allow them to come near him. Instead, they ended up being overpowered by God's presence and began prophesying. In the end, Saul went and even he could not resist the Spirit of God. He was humbled and prevented from harming or capturing David. God is able to hide those who take refuge in Him.

Note for further discussion:

There is a curious parallel between this story and the story of Balaam the prophet in Numbers 22-24, who was hired to curse the people of Israel. 3 times Balak the king of Moab paid for Balaam to curse Israel while they were wandering through the wilderness, because he felt threatened by Israel. Every time Balaam went to speak, the Spirit of God prevented Balaam from cursing Israel and instead made him bless them. He even foretold of a conquering King who would come out of Israel and destroy Israel's enemies. This story pattern suggests that God is determined to look after David in the wilderness like He looked after Israel and even hints at him being a conquering King.

RESPOND AND PRAY

Have you had to trust in God to hide you, protect you or keep you safe? Share stories.

Psalm 91v1-4 says "Those who go to God Most High for safety will be protected by God All-Powerful. I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety and protection. You are my God, and I trust you." God will save you from hidden traps and from deadly diseases. He will protect you like a bird spreading its wings over its young. His truth will be like your armour and shield."

Have a look at the pictures of birds protecting their young. Thank God that He protects us and looks after us. If there are any specific situations where you or someone you know needs God's protection, pray for these.

SESSION 5

THE POWER OF MERCY

Big idea: Showing mercy is powerful

David hid in a cave, because Saul was chasing him. When David had the chance to take Saul's life, he chose not to, but showed him mercy instead. This was more powerful at turning away Saul's wrath than revenge or fighting would have been

10 years +

SESSION 5: THE POWER OF MERCY

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap the anointing of David as king and his victory over Goliath and Saul's bitter jealousy against David

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read 1 Samuel 24

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – King's keys

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read 1 Samuel 24

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?
- What had happened in David's life already?

WHERE?

- Engedi = "fountain of the kid" (young goat)
- In the wilderness of Judah on the western shore of the Dead Sea
- See if you can locate Engedi on a map
- What do you think a cave by sheepfolds would have been like?

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was Saul?
- Who was David?
- Who were the people with him? See 1 Samuel 22v1-2

WHAT?

- What happens?
- What was Saul seeking?
- What did David do?
- What was the result?

10 and up

GAME: KING'S KEYS

David snuck up to Saul in the cave completely unheard and unseen. This is a game of stealth and skill.

Equipment: a set of keys, optional: you could tie a piece of fabric to the keys to be like the corner of Saul's robe

Everyone sits in the circle and one child is chosen to sit in the middle with a blind fold on and a set of keys in front of them.

Another child is quietly chosen to stand up, walk around the circle, sneak into the middle, take the keys and sit down in their place.

Once the thief has sat down, the child in the middle opens their eyes/removes their blindfold and guesses which child has the keys. They have three guesses.

Then choose another person to go in the middle.

UNDERSTAND

Why was Saul chasing David?

How did David's men see the situation in v4?

What stopped David from killing Saul?

How did David feel about "The Lord's anointed"? And what did he mean by that?

In this situation, do you think mercy or revenge was more powerful and why? What effect did mercy have on Saul?

Who did David trust to bring about justice for him?

RESPOND AND PRAY

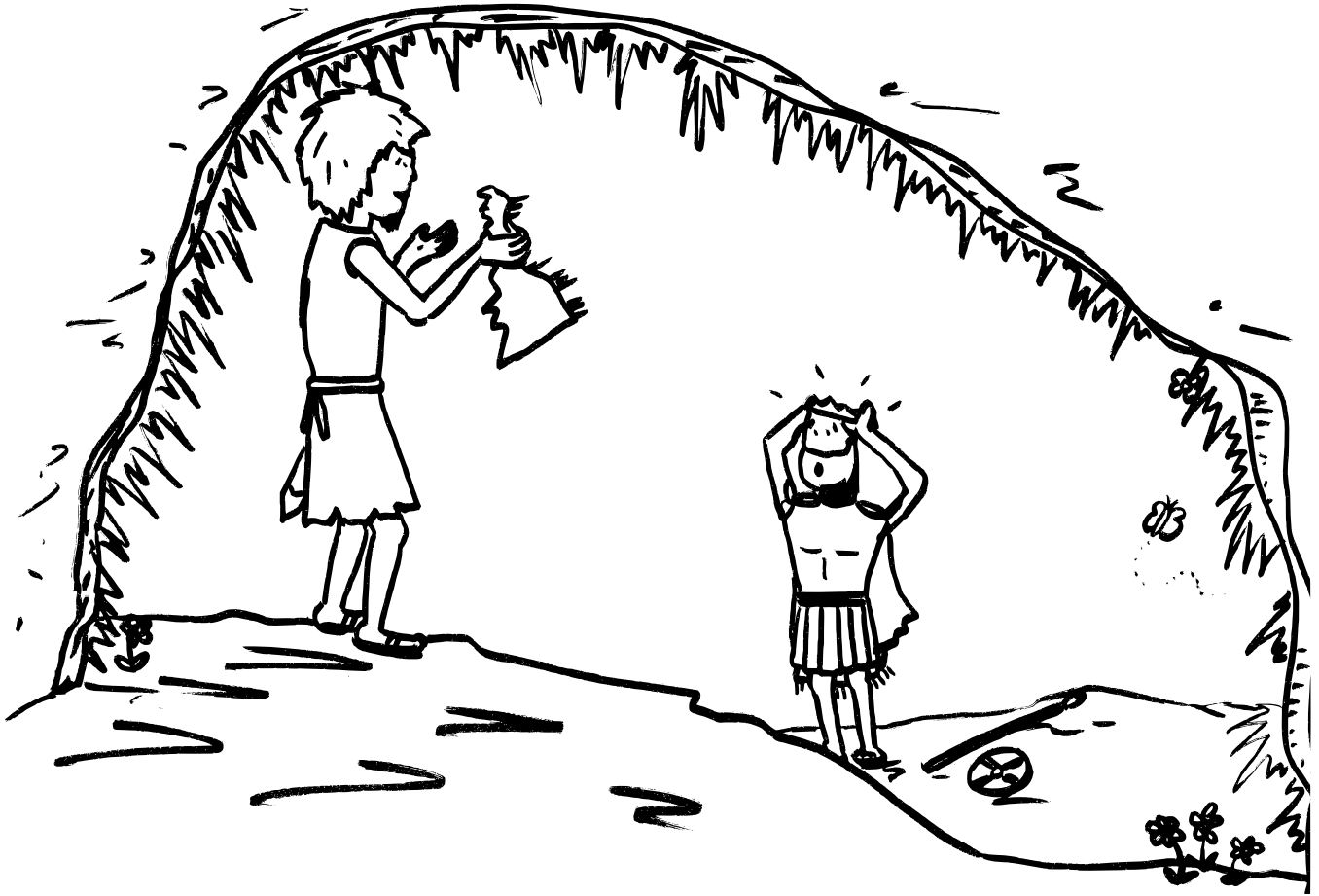
In this story, David trusted God to bring justice and he chose to show mercy to Saul, even though Saul did not deserve it. David trusted God to fight his battles and did not try to take revenge. Mercy was powerful at stopping Saul's anger than revenge or violence would have been.

There is a very helpful verse in Romans 12v21 which says "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Is there anyone you find difficult to get along with or who has wronged you? What would it look like for you to show mercy in this situation and wait for God to bring about justice? Pray for God to help us to be merciful like God is merciful and to overcome evil with good.

Use the worksheet titled "David shows mercy" to help you respond.

1 SAMUEL 24 DAVID SHOWS MERCY



Someone I could show mercy to is... _____

Mercy would look like... _____



SESSION 6

GOD RAISES

DAVID UP AS KING

Big idea: David waited for God to raise him up and defeat his enemies

David had been anointed as King of Israel by the prophet Samuel as a child, but had to wait for many years, being chased around the wilderness before God fulfilled what He had promised. As David trusted God to fight His battles, God defeated David's enemies for him and raised him up as King.

10 years +

SESSION 6: GOD RAISES UP DAVID AS KING

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap the anointing of David as king and his victory over Goliath and Saul's bitter jealousy against David and David's living in the wilderness for many years.

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read 5 stones from a sling (Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 25-2 Samuel 5)

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Saul's footsteps

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



5 STONES FROM A SLING FROM 1 SAMUEL 25 TO 2 SAMUEL 5

You will need: something to be used as a catapult/sling. Either 5 beanbags (or appropriately sized soft missile for the sling) or 5 playmobil/duplo people to be Goliath, Nabal, King Saul, Abner, Ish-Bosheth.

Stone 1 Goliath

When David as a shepherd boy, stood up to battle the giant Goliath who was terrorising God's people, do you remember how many stones he took with him for his sling? 5. When David went towards Goliath to battle him, he said that when Goliath died, "the whole world would know that Israel has a God and everyone will see that God does not need swords or spears to save His people. He is victorious in battle and will put you in my power!" 1 Samuel 17v46b-47

How many stones from his sling did David use to defeat Goliath? 1.

There were 4 more stones and today we will find out why.

Stone 2 Nabal

When everyone started praising David more than Saul, Saul was jealous and chased David around the hills of Judah. David showed Saul mercy and Saul left David for a time. Meanwhile, David and his men went to a place where shepherds belong to a man named Nabal were working. David's men were kind to the shepherds and at the time of a feast, David asked Nabal to give food and drink to his men. Nabal answered him cruelly and would not help David. David was angry and was going to destroy Nabal, but Nabal's wife, Abigail, when she heard what had happened, went quickly to David with food and drink and begged him not to take revenge. She blessed him and prophesied that, because he did not destroy Nabal, but waited for God to bring justice, God would surely throw his enemies away from him like stones from a sling and would give him the kingdom of Israel.

God had already thrown Goliath away (catapult Goliath from the sling). Just as Abigail had said, a few months later Nabal got sick and died. He was the next stone to be thrown from God's sling. (Catapult Nabal away).

5 STONES FROM A SLING CONTINUED

Stone 3: Saul

A short while after that, Saul and his army commander, Abner, were chasing David again. God put Saul and everyone with him into a deep sleep and David had an opportunity to do whatever he wanted to Saul. David's servant wanted David to kill Saul, but David said "no. God will do it." Instead, David snuck up to Saul and took the spear and water jug from next to Saul's head and crept away. From a good distance, David called to wake up Abner and Saul and showed them that he had taken the spear and water jug, could have killed Saul, but had spared his life. Saul blessed David like he did before and turned away from chasing him again.

A while later, the Philistines killed Saul in battle. Saul was the third stone thrown from the sling. (Catapult Saul away).

Stone 4: Abner

When Saul died, the people of Judah made David their King, but Abner, Saul's commander, made Ish-Bosheth, one of Saul's sons the king of Benjamin, Ephraim and many other tribes of Israel.

Abner fought against David's armies, but he kept losing. Eventually, he thought it was better to make David king and he snuck off to David to make a deal with him. David agreed to spare Abner's life, because Abner was going to make David king of Israel, but David's army commander Joab did not trust Abner and wanted to take revenge on him. David did not kill Abner, he showed him mercy and respect, but Joab killed Abner secretly. And so, Abner was the fourth stone hurled from God's sling. (Catapult Abner away)

Stone 5: Ish-Bosheth

Shortly after Abner was killed, Ish-Bosheth, King of Israel was murdered by his own servants. Ish-Bosheth was the 5th enemy thrown from the sling. (Catapult Ish-Bosheth)

After this, all the people of Israel came to Hebron and made David King of all the tribes of Israel. God had thrown David's enemies away from him, like a stone hurled from a sling and given David the Kingdom of Israel, just as He had promised.

ABIGAIL'S BLESSING

“Please forgive your servant’s presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD’s battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. ²⁹Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. ³⁰When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, ³¹my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant.”

1 Samuel 25: 26-31

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read paraphrase of 1 Samuel 25-2 Samuel 5

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?
- David was in the wilderness being chased by Saul for many years. He was essentially a refugee for all that time. What are some of the difficulties you think he would have faced in this wilderness time?

WHERE?

- See if you can find the hills of Judah and Hebron on a map

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was Saul?
- What do you think Abner might have been like?
- Who was Ish-Bosheth?

WHAT?

- What happens?

GAME: SAUL'S FOOTSTEPS

This game is based on Grandma's footsteps

Choose one child to be Saul and have them stand at one end of the room facing the wall.

Have the other children start at the other end. They are David and his men sneaking up on Saul. They call out "What's the time King Saul?"

Saul calls out a number and the children step forward that number of paces.

They call again "What's the time King Saul?"

He calls a number again.

And so on until King Saul shouts "dinner time!" and tries to catch a child before they get back to the start.

If the children manage to tag Saul before he shouts dinner time, then they win the game.

Switch over to have a different person as King Saul.

UNDERSTAND

In the first part of the story, with Nabal and Abigail, what does Abigail prophesy over David? (See 1 Samuel 25v26-29) If David does not avenge himself, God will avenge him. God will throw his enemies away from him like a stone being hurled from a sling.

What does it mean to avenge yourself or take revenge?

How did God destroy David's enemies? Think about Nabal, Saul, Abner and Ish-Bosheth.

Who eventually made David king? The elders of Israel, in God's providence.

David had been anointed as king of Israel by Samuel years before. David had to wait and wait and wait, but eventually, God did it for him. God made him King.

RESPOND AND PRAY

Sometimes we have to wait for our prayers to be answered or our hopes and dreams to be realised or for things God has spoken to us about to come about. Sometimes we want to take revenge for something and pay someone back for doing wrong. In all these things, we must be patient, waiting for God to act on our behalf in His timing.

Is there anything you are waiting for that you need patience for or any situation in which you are tempted to carry unforgiveness and take revenge instead of waiting for God to act on your behalf?

Ask God to act on your behalf and ask for patience while you wait for His timing.

SESSION 7

GOD BUILDS DAVID A HOUSE

Big idea: God promises that one from David's family will rule over the people of Israel forever

David wanted to build God a special permanent house in Jerusalem to show that God would always be their God. But God responds saying He does not need a house. Instead, God would build David a permanent house: someone from David's family will sit on the throne of Israel forever.

10 years +

SESSION 7: BUILDING HOUSES

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap David's journey and how God hurled David's enemies away from him like a stone being thrown from a sling and gave David the kingdom of Israel.

In this story, David has conquered Jerusalem. The Jebusites who used to inhabit Jerusalem told David that even the blind and lame could fend him off, but they did not realise that they were the spiritually blind and lame and so David defeated them and brought the ark of God into the city of Jerusalem. He set a tent up for the ark of God to dwell in, but now David wants to build God a house in Jerusalem.

What does a house do for us? What does having a house give us?

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Enduring house challenge

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read paraphrase of 2 Samuel 7:1-17

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?

WHERE?

- Find Jerusalem on map
- Jerusalem means “city whose foundation is peace”

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was David?
- Who does David consistently trust in as His God?
- Who is Nathan? What is a prophet?

WHAT?

- What happens?

GAME: ENDURING HOUSE CHALLENGE

You will need: 2 or 3 identical or similar trays, spaghetti, marshmallows or jelly babies

Split the kids into 2 or 3 groups (more if you have lots of kids)
Give each group a tray, a bunch of dry spaghetti and a pile of marshmallows or jelly babies

Give them about 10 minutes to construct a house on their tray using the spaghetti and marshmallows/jelly babies as building materials

After 10 minutes, get them to place their trays on a table. The idea is to see how enduring they are, so you are going to stress test them. Start by using another tray to flap wind at the houses, then gently shake the trays, then increase the strength of the shaking to see which house is the strongest.

God promised to make David a house that would last forever! He said that He would make David's kingdom last forever.

UNDERSTAND

Why do you think David wanted to build God a house?

God says that David will not be the one to build Him a house and points out that He has been satisfied to live in a tent among His people. What do you think it shows us about God, that He is happy to live in a tent in the middle of His people?

What does God promise to do for David? Often prophecies in the Bible have an immediate fulfilment but also a greater fulfilment in Jesus. Have a think about how this prophecy was fulfilled in Solomon and how it was fulfilled in Jesus

Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise to David. Jesus' kingdom will never pass away and He said that anyone who built their life on His words would be like a person who builds a house that will not fall.

RESPOND AND PRAY

How should the realisation that Jesus' kingdom will never pass away affect how we make our decisions in our everyday life? Who should we live for and honour in our lives?

When do you find this difficult? Share testimonies of when you have chosen to live for Jesus and pray for each other in your situations.

SESSION 8

DAVID SINS AND REPENTS

Big idea: David sinned, he repented and God forgave him

David sinned, but when God showed David his sin, David repented and asked for forgiveness. God could forgive him, because one day one greater than David would come to pay for all the sins of God's people.

10 years +

SESSION 8: DAVID'S SIN IS FORGIVEN

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) INTRO

Recap David's journey and how God hurled David's enemies away from him like a stone being thrown from a sling and gave David the kingdom of Israel. David conquered Jerusalem and brought the Ark of God into Jerusalem. God has promised that David's family will have someone who reigns on David's throne forever and ever. David trusted God when he was weak and knew he needed God's help, but will he trust Him when his kingdom becomes powerful?

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called "PLURP!" (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read paraphrase of 2 Samuel 11 and 12

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Repent

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



DAVID IS FORGIVEN

PARAPHRASE OF 2 SAMUEL 11 AND 12

In the spring, when kings usually went out to war, David sat at home. He had become powerful and secure in his palace in Jerusalem and this spring he decided to leave the grizzly fighting to his commander Joab and his valiant soldiers.

One day he was looking out over his city, thinking how grand and beautiful it was and what a marvellous king he was to be able to produce such a city, when he noticed a woman bathing. She was beautiful and he wanted her for himself.

David asked who she was. It was Uriah's wife. Uriah was one of his brave soldiers, fighting for him. "Well, I am the king, aren't I?" Thought David to himself. "All of this city is mine, even the people. I will have her for myself."

David came up with a plan. It was a terrible plan. God hated his plan. David had Bathsheba brought to the palace and David treated her like his own wife. She became pregnant and David became scared. What if Uriah finds out? What if the soldiers turn against him?

David came up with a plan. It was a terrible plan. God hated his plan. He had Uriah killed in battle. When the news came to Jerusalem that Uriah was dead, David played the hero. He hoped people would think "What a kind king David is to take in Uriah's widow as his wife and look after her!" But he wasn't being kind. He was doing evil. People might be fooled by it, but God was not.

God sent his prophet Nathan, the same prophet who had told David that his kingdom would last forever, to tell David that he had broken God's law.

Nathan told David a story.

One day there was a poor man who had one little sheep that he loved like his own child. His neighbour was rich and had hundreds of sheep. The rich neighbour had some friends who came to visit him and he wanted to cook them a lamb. He didn't fancy using his own lamb this time. He liked the look of his poor neighbour's lamb. When his neighbour was not looking, he stole the poor man's lamb and served it to his guests.

David was furious! "How could anyone do something so wicked?! The rich man must die! Who is he?" David fumed.

"It's you, David." Replied Nathan sternly. "You are the rich man. This is what God says to you. "I gave you the kingdom from Saul. I gave you wives. I made you king over Israel and Judah. If this was not enough for you, I would have given you more. Why have you acted so wickedly as to take Uriah's wife and have Uriah killed? Since you have done this, trouble will come on your family and your own son will rise up against you.""

David realised that he had sinned. He repented and confessed, "I have sinned against the Lord!"

Nathan replied, "The Lord forgives you, you will not die." But there were still consequences for his sin. His family started to spiral into wickedness and his sons fought against one another. God never turned away from David or his descendants, but even David himself needed a saviour to free him from his sin... a beloved lamb to wash him white as snow...

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story
Read paraphrase of 2 Samuel 11 and 12

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?

WHERE?

- Find Jerusalem on map
- Jerusalem means “city whose foundation is peace”

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was David?
- Who was Uriah?
- Who was Bathsheba?

WHAT?

- What happens?

GAME: REPENT

You will need: 2 buckets filled with strips of paper

Repent means to turn around and go the other way.

Place a bucket with strips of paper at either end of the room. Everyone starts in the middle and begins walking towards one of the buckets. When the leader shouts “Repent!” everyone has to turn around and walk in the opposite direction. When they shout “Repent!” again they turn again.

The aim of the game is to collect as many strips of paper as you can. Each time you collect a strip of paper, you have to return to the middle of the room to start again.

The person calling “repent!” can do so as frequently as they like. When you call time or when all the strips of paper have been collected, the person with the most strips of paper wins.

UNDERSTAND

What should David have been doing, rather than walking idly in his palace?

How did David view Jerusalem, his soldiers, the people of Jerusalem and God?

When David realised that he had sinned and he could not hide from God, what did he do?

How does God respond to David?

Do you notice how quickly God forgives David? As soon as David confesses his sin, God forgives him.

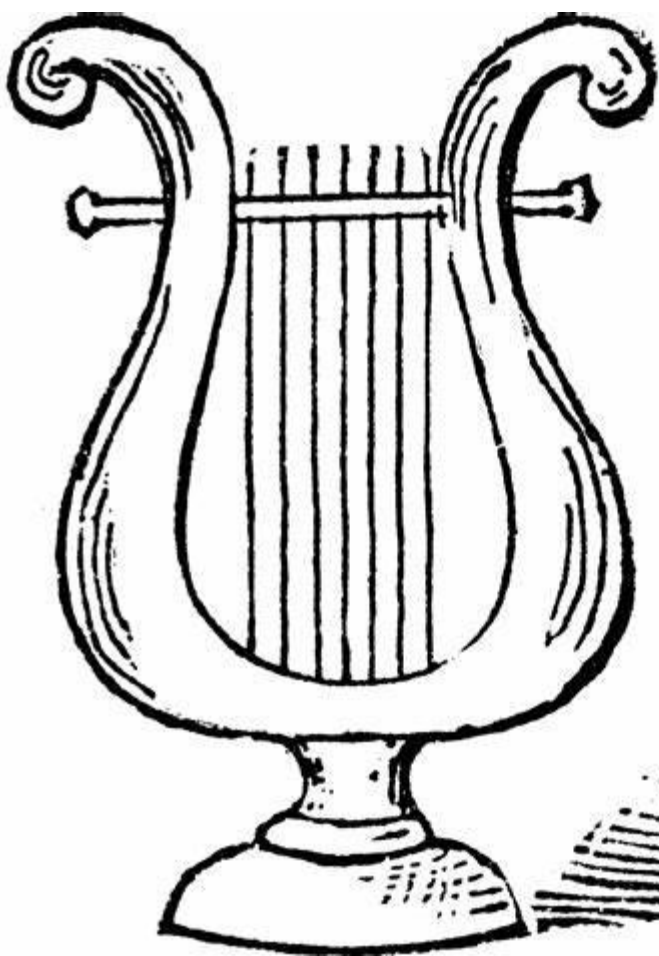
God promised to be with David's descendant forever and to give David a kingdom that would never end. Even though David sins, God does not take back his promise. Instead, he would personally pay for the damages done by dying on a cross for the sins of David, his family, Israel and the whole world.

RESPOND AND PRAY

When we sin, we can confess our sin to God. God will not withhold his forgiveness from us. He is ready to forgive, because he has already paid for our sin on the cross in Jesus.

Confess any sin that you have not yet confessed. Ask God for forgiveness and for a new heart. God is ready and willing to forgive.

David wrote many Psalms (songs) about how grateful he was that God washed his heart clean. Take some time to write a prayer of thanksgiving to God.



Composer:

SESSION 9

HOPE REMAINS

Big idea: David's life points us to the coming of Jesus

David was betrayed by his people and by his own son, but God restored the kingdom to him.

All sorts of parts of David's life point to the coming of Jesus. Even though David died, hope remained for the people of Israel that one day one greater than David would come.

10 years +

SESSION 9: HOPE REMAINS

(TOGETHER)

SHARE NEWS, REGISTER

Reiterate expectations of session: We hope to have a lot of fun together, particularly in the game. We also expect everyone to listen respectfully to one another and sit on their bottoms in the Bible study and prayer times.

(TOGETHER) ACTIVITY – LIFE COLLAGE

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 1:

We will be using a Bible study method called “PLURP!” (Pray, Look, Understand, Respond, Pray again)

Read Intro and summary of 2 Samuel 13 to 1 Kings 1 (Betrayed and Dying but not without hope)

Use PLURP worksheet 1 to help you Pray and Look at the passage.

(TOGETHER) GAME – Repentance

(IN GROUPS) PLURP PART 2

Use PLURP worksheet 2 to help you understand, respond to the passage and pray

END OF SERIES REFLECTION – Collage of Christ worksheet. Cut out the yellow boxes about David's life and glue them onto the matching box about Jesus' life.

MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



LIFE COLLAGE ACTIVITY

A collage is a picture made up of many pieces. Each of the pieces fills out the picture more fully, so you get a clearer idea of what is being created.

If we wanted to make a metaphorical collage of someone's life, we might choose a few objects that are special to them and tell us something about them.

One of the leaders brings in about 5 objects that each tell something about their life and shows them to the children one at a time. E.g. a photo of their family, a book they like, an object to do with a hobby, an item from a significant place they travelled to or where their family is from, etc. Discuss the objects and how each one tells something more about the person.

In David's story, there are lots of parts that are like pieces in a collage. They fill out a picture of who the coming Messiah will be, what He will do and what He will be like.

BETRAYED AND DYING, BUT STILL THERE WAS HOPE

In this series, we have seen David taken from being a small shepherd boy, to defeating giants, being given the kingdom of Israel and Judah, God defeating all of his enemies and promising him a throne that will last forever. Then we learnt how David committed a devastating sin, stealing his faithful soldier's wives and then killing the soldier to cover up. David repented and God forgave David, sparing his life, but everything begins to unravel for David from that point.

Today we will see how the story ends and think about how, even though David dies in weakness and misery, there was still hope for the people of Israel. We will see how David's story gives us clues about how that hope was going to be fulfilled in the promised Messiah, like pieces of a collage that build a picture.

(Paraphrase 2 Samuel 13 to 1 Kings 1)

As David grew old, his sons began to fight among themselves and act wickedly. David's son Absalom wanted to be king instead of his father and so he would stand at the city gate and tell everyone that the king was too busy to see them, but if he were king, he would sort out their problems in no time. He stole the people's hearts with his smooth talk and his good looks until he judged it was time for him to strike out at David.

Absalom declared himself King and David was driven in fear from his home in Jerusalem. David thought maybe it was God's will for him to leave, but if it was not God's will, he would receive back his kingdom.

David and those faithful to him left Jerusalem weeping as they climbed the Mount of Olives. The true king was being betrayed by one of his closest family and by his own people, driven out of the city.

David and those with him crossed over the Jordan river and Absalom summoned the men of Israel to attack David. The battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. David's men routed the men of Israel, but more were killed by the trees of the forest than by the sword.

Absalom met David's men in the forest, but his beautiful long hair got tangled in a tree while the mule he was riding ran off. So, Absalom was hanging in the branches when Joab, David's commander, and his men killed him. David's kingdom was returned to him, but David wept bitterly for his son.

David ended his days cold and frail. David named Solomon to succeed him as King. Though David's life was far from perfect, he never turned aside to worship another god and God would keep His covenant promise to David that one day a King would come from His line who would sit on David's throne forever. Though David was dying, hope did not die with him. This king that was coming would reign in strength and majesty, with the wisdom of God and His kingdom would never end. David and all Israel looked forward to the coming of that kingdom.

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the story

Read intro to and paraphrase of 2 Samuel 13 to 1 Kings 1

WHEN?

- When in the Bible story did this happen? What time period?

WHERE?

- Find Jerusalem on map
- The place of the battle was Mahanaim which is on the East of the Jordan, about a third of the way between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee, just south of Succoth on the map

LOOK

WHO?

- Who was David?
- Who was Absalom?

WHAT?

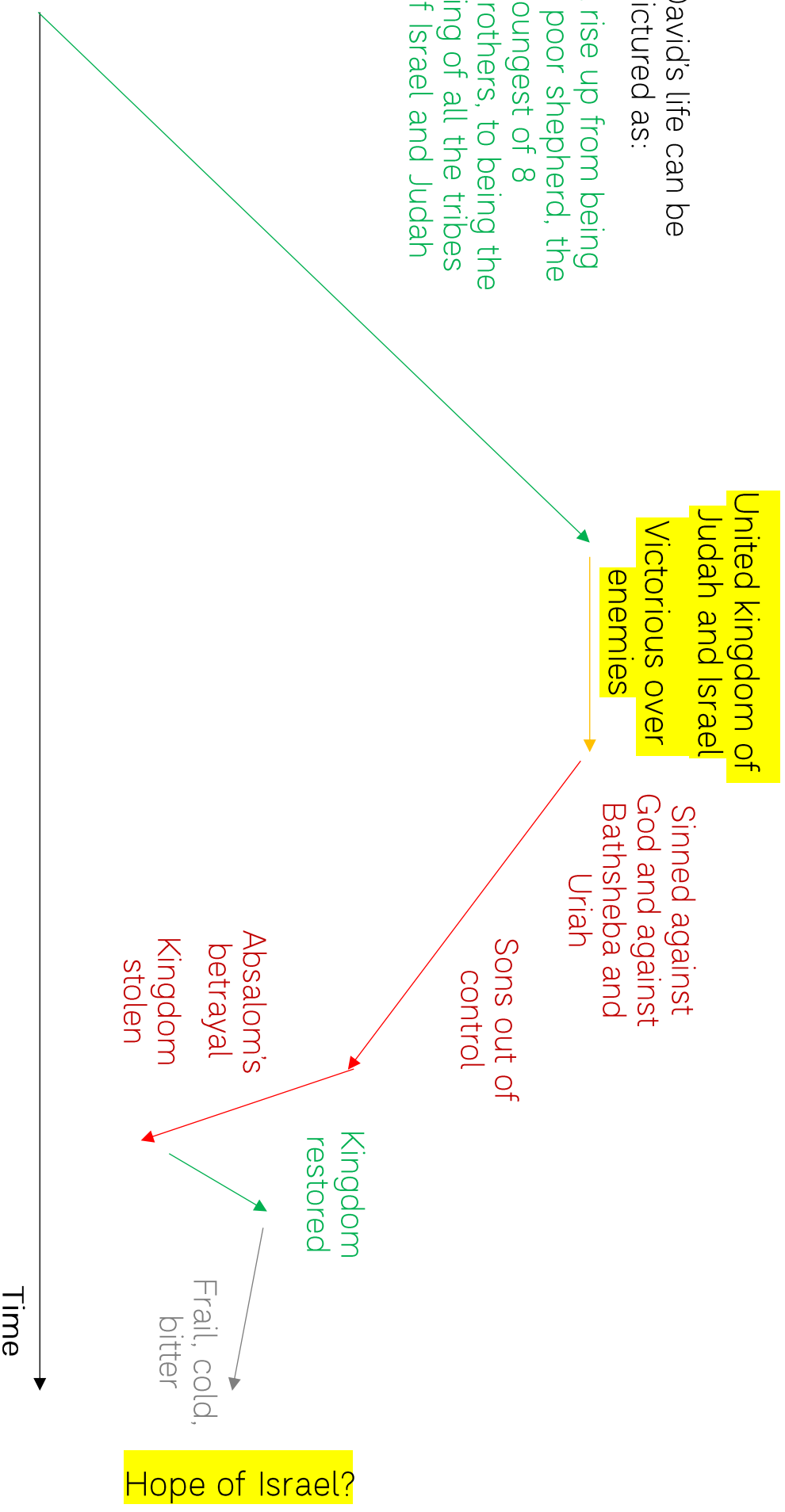
- What happens?

GAME:

DAVID'S LIFE JOURNEY

David's life can be pictured as:

a rise up from being a poor shepherd, the youngest of 8 brothers, to being the king of all the tribes of Israel and Judah



UNDERSTAND

Have a look at the diagram of David's life journey

When you think of David, what words would you use to describe him? How did David end his life?

What was the hope that remained, even though David died?

Use the collage of the coming Christ sheets to think through how David's story creates a collage of what the future king on David's throne (Jesus) would be like. **How does David's story relate to Jesus, story? How does David's story create a collage of the coming Messiah?**

RESPOND AND PRAY

Use the cross worksheet to reflect on the David series. What examples from David's life would you like to follow? What have you learnt pr been reminded about God through this series?

Pray for these things.

Jesus was
crowned King,
given a ruling
staff and robe
in Jerusalem

before He was killed on a cross under a sign saying,
“King of the Jews”, The Romans were mocking Him,
but they did not realise He was receiving His kingdom

In what ways is
Jesus like King
David but even
greater?

and the right
to sit on
David's
throne
forever and
ever. He did
not need
sword or
spear to
defeat His
enemies, but
patient
wholehearted
trust in His
Heavenly
Father to
defeat the
power of
death and
seat Him on a
throne higher
than any
other throne
in Heaven or
on the Earth.

One thing I have
learnt from
David's story is...



Glue here

Jesus will sit on David's throne forever and ever, ruling and reigning over God's people

Glue here

Jesus waited until He was 30 before the coming Kingdom of God was announced

Glue here

Jesus did not take revenge, but showed mercy

Glue here

Jesus was hated and hunted and people tried to kill Him many times

Glue here

Jesus brings the blessing and covenant of God to Abraham to the nations

DAVID: A COLLAGE OF THE COMING CHRIST

Glue here

Jesus did not take His rightful throne by force, but suffered patiently

Glue here

Jesus was betrayed by the people of Israel and by someone who was like family to Him

Glue here

Jesus prepared for a new House of God where God could live with His people

Glue here

Jesus' heart was completely pure and sinless and gave Himself so that we could have new hearts

Glue here

The rulers of Jerusalem that opposed Jesus were spiritually blind and lame

Glue here

David carried the blessing and covenant of God to Abraham. His son Solomon was a blessing to the nations

Glue here

David did not take the kingdom of Israel by force, but waited for God to give it to him

Glue here

David prepared for a new House of God where God could live with His people in Jerusalem

Glue here

David did not take revenge, but showed mercy

Glue here

David was betrayed by the people of Israel and by Absalom, his own son

Glue here

David was hated and hunted and people tried to kill him many times

Glue here

David waited until he was 30 to receive His promised Kingdom

Glue here

David had a heart after God's heart. When he sinned, he repented and asked for forgiveness and he never worshipped another god

Glue here

David set up his throne in Jerusalem where those against him were spiritually blind and lame

Glue here

God promised David that one of his descendants would rule over God's people forever

Cut out and stick these on the Collage of the coming Christ worksheet, matching them with the event in Jesus' life