



LESSON 2

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 20:1-42; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 649-655.

Best Friends

Who is your best friend? What do you like to do together? David and Jonathan were best friends who respected and loved each other.



King Saul sent for David. "Come and live in the palace," the king said. "I want you to work for me."



So David moved to the king's beautiful palace. David soon met King Saul's oldest son, Jonathan. David and Jonathan liked each other and became best friends.

"Let's go shoot arrows!" Jonathan may have called to David.

"Let's go ride horses," David may have said to Jonathan.

The people of Israel grew to love David too. And that made King Saul think that the people loved David more than they loved him. King Saul became so angry that he tried to hurt David!

"Your father is trying to hurt me!" David told his friend Jonathan.

"That can't be true!" Jonathan exclaimed.

"But it is!" David insisted. "Soon a festival will begin, and the king will expect me to be there. I will go to see my brothers. Two

Memory Verse

"Jonathan . . . loved [David] as himself."

1 SAMUEL 18:3, NIV

The Message

True friends respect and love each other.

days after the festival I will return and hide in the field. When your father sees that I am not at the festival dinner, tell him that I went to visit my family. If he gets very upset, you will know that he is trying to hurt me.”

“All right,” Jonathan answered. “Hide by the stone pile in the field. If my father really is trying to hurt you, I will tell you. Here’s my plan,” Jonathan continued. “I will shoot arrows over by the stone pile. Then I will send my servant boy to get the arrows. If I shout to the boy and say, ‘Go farther—the arrows are ahead of you,’ then you will know that my father really does want to hurt you, and you need to run away to be safe.”

When King Saul sat down for the festival dinner that day, he saw that David’s chair was empty. But he didn’t say anything. The next day at dinnertime the king saw that David’s chair was still empty. He turned to Jonathan. “Where is David?” he asked.

“David went to visit his family during the festival,” Jonathan answered.

King Saul’s face turned red with anger. “Don’t you think I know that you want to protect David? As long as he lives, you will never be king!” he screamed. “Go get David! I want to destroy him!”

Jonathan knew then that his father really wanted to hurt his friend David.

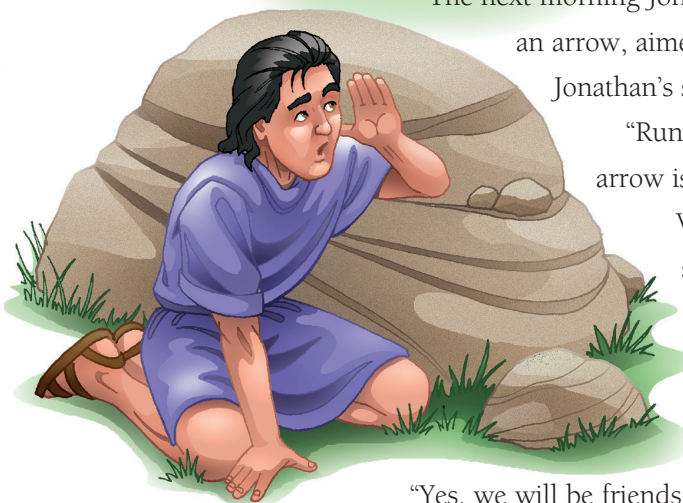
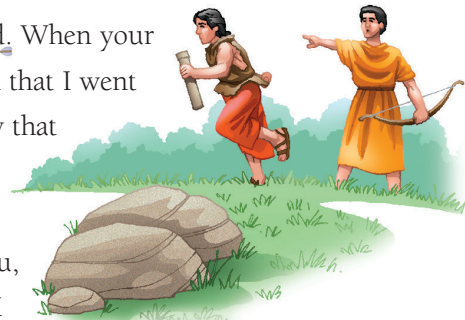
The next morning Jonathan went to the field. He took out an arrow, aimed it near the stone pile, and shot it.

Jonathan’s servant boy ran to find the arrow.

“Run farther!” Jonathan called loudly. “The arrow is ahead of you.”

When the boy came back, Jonathan sent him back to town. Then he and David said goodbye. “We may not be able to see each other for a while,” Jonathan said. “But we will still be friends,” he promised.

“Yes, we will be friends forever!” said David. And they were.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Jonathan . . . loved Cross arms over chest.

[David] Point to others.

as himself. Point to self.

1 Samuel 18:3 . . . Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Read portions of 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 20:1-42. Ask: What did Jonathan give to David to show he was his friend? How did Jonathan help David? Why were they sad?

Help your child draw a picture of their best friend. If your child cannot identify a best friend, have them draw someone they love or someone they think loves them.

MONDAY

Read and explain 1 Samuel 18:1-3 to your child. Then have them give someone in your family a hug and tell them they love them.

Encourage your child to share the arrow made in Sabbath School with a friend and tell them the story of David and Jonathan. (Or help them draw an arrow shape on heavy paper and write the memory verse on it, color it, cut it out, and share it with someone.)



TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 18:4 together. Help your child go through their clothing and find things that can be given to Community Services. Take your child with you to deliver them.

WEDNESDAY

Have your child name and count all their friends. Ask: Do you have one very special friend? Why do you like that person so much? Remind them that Jesus wants to be their very best friend.



THURSDAY

Ask your child to name a special friend and talk about something they might like to do for their friend, then help them do it. Or let your child invite a special friend to dinner and worship Friday evening.

Help your child thank Jesus for special friends. Ask Him to help your child be a good friend too.

FRIDAY

For family worship, have everyone participate in acting out the David and Jonathan story. Help your child make a bow and arrow from dowels or sticks and twine. Ask: How can you show your friends that you love them?

Before prayer, sing songs about friendship. Thank Jesus for your family's friends.