

LESSON PLAN

DAVID RAN FOR HIS LIFE

I Samuel 20 – 22

Lesson Memory Verse: II Timothy 3:12 – “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

Lesson Aim: Teach the students that God is close to them and will take care of them when they suffer for doing good. Teach them to depend completely on the Lord.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan.

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever had to run for your life? Can you think of any reason why a person might have to run to save his life? (To get away from a mad dog, an angry bull, a wild animal, or a poisonous snake; to get out of the way of a tornado, a car, or a train; to escape from a cruel person or a wicked nation.)

You may have a story to tell about yourself or of someone else who had to run to save his life. There are many stories of people who have escaped from Communist countries. Other stories can be found in the reader's Digest or in the newspapers of people who have escaped from their kidnappers. Recently a girl was kidnapped and locked in the trunk of a car. She removed the large tail light of the car and got out of the trunk through that opening. Then she ran for her life.

Our Bible story today tells how David had to run to save his life.

HE (for Authority): We may think that Christians never have any troubles because Jesus Christ is always with them. It is true that Jesus is always with them, but sometimes He lets troubles come into their lives. Why? Because Christians sin and they need to be “spanked” for their sins so they will learn to hate them. Also, some Christians suffer when they have not sinned, but the Lord lets troubles come into their lives to make them stronger. The troubles cause them to get closer to the Lord and trust Him for strength to overcome their troubles. Today's memory verse tells us that good Christians will suffer: “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). Even Jesus suffered, so we should not expect better treatment from sinners than He received. Troubles will make us strong, and when the Lord sees that we have suffered enough to learn our lesson, He will help us escape from those troubles and dangers.

Words and phrases to explain in the verse:

“Yea” - - - yes

“Live godly” - - - do good things with their lives

“Suffer persecution” - - - will be troubled or hurt by wicked people

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

This lesson tells us about Saul who tried to kill David because he was jealous of him, and how David ran from Saul to save his life. (The following outline is given to help the teacher remember the main points, but it is simple enough to help the children remember the story, but tell the lesson as a story to the children and make your applications as you tell it.

I. David Ran to Jonathan (20:1-42)

When Saul went to Naioth to capture David, David ran to Jonathan for help. No doubt David thought, if anyone could help him, it would be Jonathan. Jonathan was his close friend and he was Saul's son. David had a clever plan for Jonathan to follow to see if Saul really wanted to kill him, but Jonathan would have to do some lying to do it (20:5-7). Jonathan followed the plan and told the lies, but he almost lost his life when his father threw his javelin at him (20:25-34).

Jonathan told David what his father had done and David knew that Saul really wanted to kill him and not his son. He knew that he would have to leave Jonathan and the king's city and run for his life (20:41-42).

WE: We must not tell lies to find the truth. We must go to the Lord and He will reveal the truth to us in His own way so we do not have to tell lies.

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II. David Ran to Abimelech (21:1-9)

When David left Jonathan, he ran to Abimelech the priest, not especially for help from God, but for bread and for a sword. Abimelech gave him the holy showbread and the sword of Goliath, but David lied to get his help. He told Abimelech that he was on special business for King Saul (21:1, 2). This lie later caused eighty-five people to lose their lives – the priests and their families were destroyed.

WE: Lying may look like the best way to get what we need, but it always causes much trouble. We can be sure that God does not want us to lie. He loves us and will help us without having us lie. It is much better to tell the truth.

III. David Ran to Achish (21:10-15)

David's next move was to get out of the country and so he ran to his enemies, the Philistines, for help. This was strange, but it was even stranger when he went to Gath, the city of Goliath. Maybe He thought that they would accept him now that he was Saul's enemy, or maybe he hoped that they had forgotten his victory over Goliath. Whatever he thought, he was soon disappointed. They remembered him and told Achish, the king, who he was. Now David was afraid of Achish because he was afraid that Achish might kill him, so he pretended he was a crazy man. When Achish thought David was crazy, he did not want him around his place but sent him away. That is what David wanted. He almost lost his life by running to the Philistines. It was a very foolish thing for him to do.

WE: We, too, must never go to the enemies of God for help. This will cause us much trouble. Only God can help us.

IV. David Ran to the King of Moab (22:1-5)

After David left Achish, he went to the cave Adullam where four hundred men joined him. Then he took his father and mother to the king of Moab and David himself stayed in that country for protection. To correct this mistake, the Lord sent the prophet Gad to tell him to return to Judah. David obeyed. It was a sign of unbelief to go to Moab. He would be safe trusting the Lord in Judah than trusting his own strength in Moab.

WE: We must not lose our faith in the Lord. He will take care of us. We must not trust the unsaved to take care of us. We must not trust in our lies. We must trust the Lord. We need not worry if we run to the Lord for protection.

BE (for Action): David ran to the wrong persons for help in saving his life. Who did he run to? (Jonathan, Abimelech, Achish and the king of Moab.) Who should he have run to? (The Lord) We must learn to run to the Lord, too! It may not be easy to trust the Lord when you cannot see Him or hear Him, but you must believe that He is the best One to take care of you. Will you believe He is with you and will help you, even when you suffer for doing what is right? If you really trust Him to take care of you, I want you to tell Him so in your own words right now. (Give the children an opportunity to pray and tell the Lord that they really trust Him to take care of them in school, on the playground, at home or wherever they are, even if they suffer for being good.)