

LESSON PLAN

SAUL HATES DAVID

I Samuel 18, 19

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 34:7 – “The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them.”

Lesson Aim: We can trust God to protect us when we are in trouble. He will unless He has a better plan.

Lesson Plan” Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes.)

KEY (for Attention): Why do some people like to have a dog in their home? (Let the children give their answers, but the answer that fits this lesson is that dogs are good for **PROTECTION.**) People want to be protected from bad people. Can you think of other ways that people try to protect themselves?

In our story today we will see how David was protected by God. God will protect you, too, if you are a Christian and trust Him to take care of you.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us the Lord protects all those who put their trust in Him. There is no one that can protect us better than the Lord.

Explain the following phrases in the memory verse:

“The angel of the Lord” – refers to Christ in Old Testament times before He was born in Bethlehem.

“Encamps round about them” – the Lord stands guard all around us to protect us.

“Fear Him” – to put our trust in the Lord

“Delivers them” – to help us escape from danger

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.

In this lesson we will discover many ways which the Lord used to protect David from being killed by King Saul. This story should help us to trust the Lord to protect us when we put our trust in Him.

(The alliterated outline used in the lesson is given to help the teacher remember the main points, but it is not to be taught to the children. Most of the words used in the outline will be too difficult for them to grasp. Simply tell the story to the children and make your applications as you tell the story.)

I. David Desired (18:1-7)

David loved the Lord and, as a result, many people loved David: Jonathan (1-4), King Saul (5), the people (5), Saul’s servants (5) and the women singers (6-7) loved David. Proverbs 16:7 says that a man who pleases the Lord will even have peace with his enemies.

WE: If we please the Lord, we will be loved by many people. This does not mean that we will not have any enemies, but it does mean that we will have good friends. The Lord may use some of these friends to help protect us when we are in danger.

II. David Despised (18:8-12)

Saul became jealous of David when David became more popular with the people than he was. This caused Saul to hate David and want to kill him. He tried to kill David with his javelin while David was playing his harp to help him. He tried twice but he missed David both times. The Lord helped David escape from King Saul (v. 12). This made Saul afraid of David.

WE: When we are hated by someone who wants to hurt us, we must trust the Lord to protect us. He will protect us like He protected David, unless He has a better plan.

III. David Demoted (18:13-16)

Saul could not kill David, so he decided to take some of his honor away from him. He had been set over the men of war (v. 5), which probably meant that he had been in charge of Saul’s personal body guard. Now Saul removed David from his presence and made him a captain of a thousand men (v. 13). Even though this was an important job, it was not as important as the one he had before. David could have gotten angry and done something foolish, but instead he behaved himself wisely and was very successful

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in what he did. As a result, the people did not look down on David when Saul put him down, but still loved him – possibly more than when he was honored by King Saul.

WE: If we can act like David, it will prove that we trust in the Lord. We must not become angry when people try to hurt us. That will make us look bad. Serve the Lord and He will make us wise and successful. He will protect us from being hurt by those who hate us.

IV. David Deceived (18:17-30)

Since Saul could not kill David, he hoped the Philistines would kill him in one of his battles with them. First, he offered his daughter, Merab, to David if he would fight the Philistines. However, Saul did not keep his promise when it was time for her to get married. He gave her to another man. Then shortly afterward, he offered David another daughter, Michal, if he would destroy a hundred Philistines. Saul was sure David would be killed fighting these fierce enemy soldiers. However, David thought Saul loved him and wanted him to be married into his family, so he went out and destroyed two hundred of these wicked soldiers. He did twice as much as Saul had asked and was not even hurt by the Philistines. This really made Saul afraid of David. He knew that the Lord was with him to protect him (18:28). As Saul grew in his hatred for David, others grew in their admiration for David (18:29-30).

WE: We may be deceived and tricked by those who hate us, but they cannot hurt us, if it is against the Lord's plan. Trust Him. He will protect us and even make people love us while we are being threatened.

V. David Defended (19:1-24)

Three people helped to defend (protect) David:

A. Jonathan depended on his **STRENGTH** as a son of Saul to protect David (19:1-10).

Jonathan spoke to his father, King Saul, and persuaded him not to kill David. Saul promised not to kill David, but he did not keep his promise for very long. As soon as David won some more battles against the Philistines, Saul wanted to kill David again. Jonathan tried to help David, but could not for very long.

B. Michal depended on her **SUBTLETY** (clever plans) to protect David (19:11-17)

She told David to escape that night and helped him do it. Then she put an image in his bed and told the soldiers who came to kill him that he was sick. After delaying them for quite a while, they found out the truth too late. David had gotten far away. When her father, King Saul, got angry with her for helping David, she lied again and said that David forced her to do it or he would kill her. Michal really wanted to help David, but lied when she was in trouble for doing it. This did not please the Lord. That was too bad.

C. Samuel depended on the **SPIRIT** of God to protect David (19:18-24).

David fled to Samuel for help. When Saul discovered where David was, he sent messengers to get him, but the Spirit hindered them. When the messengers came to the city where Samuel lived, the Spirit came upon them so that they prophesied, and they could not go and capture David. After two more groups of messengers had the same experience, Saul himself went to the city, but he, too, was stopped in the same way by the Spirit of God and he prophesied. Samuel helped David most because he trusted the Lord and not in his own powers to protect David.

WE: We can trust the Lord to protect us by our friends or without them. Even if the Lord lets us get hurt, He is still with us. He may use their attacks against us to work in their lives and bring them to salvation.

BE (for Action): If you really want the Lord to protect you, then you must remember to trust Him with all your heart. If you really mean it, you will want to remember Psalm 34:7, our memory verse. You will want to memorize this verse and think about it often. You might also want to print it on a card and hang it on the wall near your bed so that you will see it every morning and every evening and be reminded to trust the Lord to protect you. If you plan to memorize this verse by next Sunday, I want you to stand to your feet and ask the Lord to help you to memorize this verse. Remind those who prayed to be sure to write this verse on a card and hang it by their bed. Trust the Lord and do good. He will take care of you. (Close with prayer for them.)