

DAVID RECOVERS HIS FAMILY**1 Samuel 29-30**

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go: I will guide you with my eye."

Lesson Aim: We should look to God to guide us and do what He says to us in the Bible.

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

KEY (for Attention): Do you know what a Purple Martin is? (It is a purplish-blue bird about 8 inches long) Purple Martins travel to South America in the winter and to Canada in the summer. Purple Martins have a winter home and a summer home and they live in each home during the warm part of the year in that country. As they travel thousands of miles each year, they are guided by God so they can return to their homes in each country each year. God cares enough even for birds to provide a way for them to find their homes.

Our Bible story today tells us how God guided David and He will do the same for His children today. There is a verse in the Bible that tells us that God guides us. It is Psalm 32:8.

HE (for Authority): Psalm 32:8 tells us that God will teach us the right way to go. Just as your parents teach you what is best for you, our Father in heaven does the same for His children. He can see what will happen and what is happening that we do not know so He will guide us to do the right thing and show us the right way to go. He will help us to do better than what we could have planned.

Explanation of difficult words:

Instruct: teach

Guide: lead

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 are going to see how God guided David, even when he made a bad decision.

I. God Guided David Not to Attack Israel (29:1-11)

David was tired of running from Saul who wanted to kill him. He failed to believe that God would continue to guide him from being captured and killed by Saul. God had protected him and would continue to do so in the days ahead. Saul would soon be killed in a battle with the Philistines, but David made a decision to protect his life and the lives of his men without seeking God's will. He decided to leave Judah with his 600 men and go to live with the Philistines. Then Saul would stop hunting for him (1 Sam 28-29). But these people were God's enemies. God did not guide David to do this; this was a bad decision by David. Later, when the Philistines were getting ready to go to war against Israel, David offered to join the Philistines with his 600 men in their fight against Israel. He was ready to fight against his own people, but God did not allow David to do this. He put it in the minds of the Philistine leaders to refuse David and his men from fighting with them. They were concerned that David and his men would turn against them in the middle of the battle so they could gain favor with Saul. God in His grace guided David from attacking Israel in a war that killed Saul and Jonathan.

WE: We must be careful not to help the enemies of God. We must seek guidance from God in the decisions that we make. He does not want us to help His enemies in their warfare against Him and His people. He will guide us to separate ourselves from them.

II. God Guided David to Ziklag (30:1-8)

While David and his 600 men were with the Philistines away from their families in Ziklag, the Amalekites had invaded the city. They took all the families of David and his men and all their possessions and then burned the city. When David and his men returned to Ziklag and saw what had happened, they cried until they could cry no more. They were so discouraged that they were ready to kill David. They probably blamed him for being away from their city when he offered to fight with the Philistines. This caused David to go to the Lord and seek His guidance. The Lord told him plainly to pursue after the Amalekites and he would recover everything. If God had not stopped them from joining the army of the Philistines in their war

against Israel, they would not have known what the Amalekites had done to their families until it was too late to pursue after them. God was guiding them even before they knew that they were in serious trouble. Then He guided David to pursue the Amalekites and he would recover all that had been taken from them.

WE: We can be thankful that God guides us before we know we are in trouble. He also will guide us so we can get out of trouble. We have a great God.

III. God Guided David to an Amalekite Servant (30:9-15)

As David and his men pursued after the Amalekites, two hundred of his men became so weak that they could not cross a brook, so David left them to stay with the excess possessions of the soldiers. This did not discourage David. It made it easier for the other soldiers to travel. He was encouraged in his pursuit of the Amalekites because God had promised that he would be successful.

WE: When we are following God's guidance, we must not give up when difficulties come our way. We must be encouraged by God's faithfulness to bless us with success.

David and his 400 men continued to pursue after the Amalekites and God led them to a servant of an Amalekite who had become sick and was left behind to die. David gave the servant some food and water and he recovered his health. God used this servant to guide David and his men to the Amalekite camp.

WE: We will discover that God often uses others to guide us. We can know that God is using other people to guide us when they help us to obey His Word. If people want us to disobey God's Word, we know that God is not using them to guide us. We are not to listen to them.

IV. God Guided David in Fighting Against the Amalekites (30:16-20)

When David and his 400 men reached the camp of the Amalekites, they were celebrating by drinking and dancing. God gave David and his men courage to fight the Amalekites and defeat them. God gave David and his men strength to fight from one night to the next night. David had only four hundred men, but God helped them defeat the Amalekites and recover all their families and things that the Amalekites had taken from them, plus many other possessions that the Amalekites had.

WE: We need to believe that God will guide us to be victorious over our enemies. God is stronger and He can give us the victory no matter how great the enemy is (Phil 4:13). We must learn to trust Him and do exactly as He says.

BE (for Action): God wants to guide us into the paths of righteousness for His sake (Ps 23:3). In what ways did God guide David in today's story? (He guided David away from joining the Philistines' army. He guided David to Ziklag in time to recover all that they had taken. He guided David to an Amalekite servant so he could guide them to the Amalekite camp. He guided David in the battle against the Amalekites.) Do you want God to guide you to make the right decisions in your life? If so, memorize today's memory verse so God can remind you that He promises to guide you when you put your trust in Him. Also, learn to pray every day for God to guide you to do what pleases Him. Who will pray to thank God for being willing to guide us? Who will pray that we will obey what God tells us to do?