

# Old Testament

## David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 20:1-42

Younger Verse

Make friends with everyone. Romans 12:16

Older Verse

Live together in peace with each other. Do not be proud, but make friends with everyone. Do not think about how smart you are. Romans 12:16 NCV



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Who is your best friend? Best friends are fun because they like us as we are and want to do things with us. There was a special friendship in the Bible. Let's see who the two friends were.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have been talking about David in the Bible. Last week we learned how he listened to God and helped defeat the giant, Goliath. Everyone loved David and sang songs about how he won many battles.

King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan became good friends with David when David played the harp for Saul.

One day, David came to Jonathan and asked why King Saul was trying to kill him. Jonathan knew that Saul was jealous of David but he never thought that he would try to kill him. He tried to assure David that Saul would never kill him. He told him that he would know if Saul had ordered men to find him and kill him.

David told Jonathan that he knew of Saul's evil schemes. Jonathan could not understand why Saul would do this.

David knew a way to see for sure if King Saul meant good or harm to him. He told Jonathan that the king had invited him to a banquet at the palace. He told Jonathan that if he did not show up for the banquet and the king became very angry, then he surely wanted David killed.

Jonathan worked out a way to tell David how his father reacted to the news. He would shoot arrows into the field where David was hiding. If things were unsafe, he would

Lesson Goals

**Describe qualities of a good friend**  
**See how Jesus wants to be our Best Friend**

give a secret password sign. They also told each other that they would always take care of each other's families.

Sure enough, that night at the banquet, King Saul asked about David. Jonathan told him that he was not coming. King Saul was furious!

Saul yelled at Jonathan and told him that as long as David was alive, he would never become king. Then Saul ordered that David be captured and killed.

Jonathan asked why David must be killed. At that, Saul grabbed a spear and threw it at his son, Jonathan. It missed Jonathan. With that, he knew that Saul would try to kill David.

Jonathan and David were best friends. When we saw his father's anger, he was so upset that he did not eat for the whole day.

The next morning, Jonathan went to the field where David was hiding. As he was shooting arrows, he said the password that told David that he was in danger of being killed.

After his servant left, David came out of hiding. Jonathan ran to him and hugged him. They both cried together because they knew that they would never see each other again.

Jonathan told David to go in peace. He made a promise that they would be friends forever and he would always take care of his family just as David promised he would take care of Jonathan's family.

Jonathan and David are good examples of how friends treat each other. They should love each other and care about their needs. They should encourage them and help them in tough times. It's a good example to us of how friends should be. Jonathan could have been upset that David would be king instead of him. After all, he was the next in line. However, God had anointed David to be king and Jonathan knew that he must follow God. Jonathan loved David and was happy for him to be the next king. Friends are happy when others succeed. They are not jealous or envious. They care and love at all times.

Jesus wants to be our Best Friend too. He loves us so much that he died for us on the cross. You see, because we have done wrong, we must take the consequence of our wrongs. Jesus loved us so much that He took our punishment for us when He died on the cross. He did it for us! If we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our life and be our best friend, He will clean out all our wrongs and make us like new. He will help us do things God's way and promise to be our best friend forever. Is Jesus your best friend? He can be. Talk to us about it.

#### **Learning Activities**

Try activities to help the kids see what a real friend is and how Jesus loves them.

#### **Memory Verse Activities**

Have the children sit. Explain that you will say part of the verse and if someone knows the rest, they will jump up and finish the sentence. Repeat the verse by leaving out several words until the children know the verse well.

#### **Prayer Time**

Ask God to help us be good friends this week. Thank Him for Jesus' friendship.

#### **Snack Time/CleanUp**

Share snacks. Give each person two snacks and they must share with a friend.

Planning for Lesson 47  
David spares Saul's life twice!  
1 Samuel 24 and 26

Preschool Lesson  
For  
David and Jonathan

Make little bows and arrows out of straws or sticks to use during the story. Keep the “arrows” with you so that they are not a distraction.

We have been talking about a man in the Bible. His name is David. He loved God very much. His best friend was Jonathan. Jonathan was King Saul’s son. They were great friends and did many things together.

King Saul was jealous of David because God helped David do many things. Saul tried several times to chase after David. He wanted Jonathan to be the next king instead of David.

Jonathan loved David. He knew that God had decided that David would be the next king. He was happy for his best friend.

One day, David talked to Jonathan about King Saul. David was scared of the king and had been hiding in the fields. David wanted to know if he was safe or in danger. Jonathan told David that he would always be his friend and he would promise to take care of his family if something ever happened.

There was a banquet the next day at the king’s house. David told Jonathan that if he did not show up for the banquet and the king became very angry, then he surely he was in danger.

Jonathan told David that he would shoot an arrow in the field and give a secret sign to let him know if he was safe or in danger.

Sure enough, that night at the banquet, King Saul asked about David. Jonathan told him that he was not coming. King Saul was furious!

Saul yelled at Jonathan. Jonathan knew that David was in danger.

The next day, Jonathan shot the arrow in the field and gave the secret sign to let David know that he was in danger. (Let the kids throw their arrows into the air)

David and Jonathan were very sad. They knew that they would never see each other again. They again promised to care for each other’s families and be forever friends.

God wants us to be friends like Jonathan and David were friends. He wants us to love others and care for them.

Let’s pray and ask God to help us be good friends to everyone this week.

Sing this song to the tune of “Skip to my Lu.”

I'm a friend and that is true.  
I'm a friend and that is true.  
I'm a friend and that is true.  
I'm a friend forever.

You're a friend and that is true.  
You're a friend and that is true.  
You're a friend and that is true.  
You're a friend forever.

I'm a friend and so are you.  
I'm a friend and so are you.  
I'm a friend and so are you.  
Let's be friends together.

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## Hands-On Activities For David and Jonathan

For Preschoolers: Have children sit in a circle. Give one child a bean bag and tell the child to say his or her name before saying "is a friend." The child then gently tosses the bean bag to another child in the circle who says his or her name before saying "is a friend," and tosses the bean bag to another child. For example, if Juan gets the bean bag first, he says, "Juan is a friend" and tosses it to Ashley who says, "Ashley is a friend," before tossing it to another child. Try variations to have fun and remember to be friends with everyone.

Before class, Tape pennies and string on a piece of poster board in the shape of two eyes and a smiley face. The pennies form the eyes and the string forms the smile. Give each child a piece of paper and crayon. Have children each take turns putting their piece of paper on your poster board and rubbing gently with their crayons until the outlines and textures appear. Talk about how important it is to be a friend to others.

Try this fun interactive object lesson. Bring masking tape. Each person will need a 2-foot strip. Have kids form a circle. Give kids each a 2-foot strip of masking tape. Have them wrap one end of the tape around your wrist. Then, wrap the other end around the wrist of one other person in the room who is their friend. Watch kids tape themselves to each other. Some will tape themselves to a partner so the two of them will be by themselves. Others will create a giant web of tape that connects several kids. Allow kids to tape themselves. Be sure EVERYONE gets taped to someone else. Explain that friends are good to have because they "stick" by you even when you need help or when something bad happens to you. Just as this tape sticks you to your friends, so you and your friends should stick together through good times and hard times.

Create Bow and arrows by using straws or Popsicle sticks. Attach paper to look like the "arrow" and "quills." Write the verse on the stick (or straw) to remember Jonathan and David's friendship. Challenge the kids to make friends with everyone this week.

As a group, make a fun sign or password for the day. (Remember never to leave anyone out.) You can use a sign, a phrase or even a fun handshake!

Ask everyone to draw a heart (or have some patterns that they can cut out). Write on it, "Jesus is my Best Friend." Cut the heart in a zigzag pattern and have the kids keep half with them and the other half on a mirror at home or in their desk at school. Remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Several of these ideas are courtesy of Group Publishing.

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