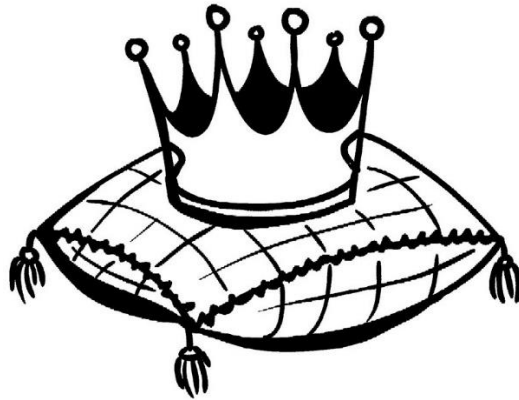


**Youth Ministry 2:2**  
**Bible discussion lessons for youth groups**  
**from the Old and New Testaments**

**Bible 101 - year 1**

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**The Life of David**



CONTENTS

1. You can't tell a Book by its Cover - 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Outer appearance) .....	2
2. The Bigger they are... - 1 Samuel 17:20-51 (Facing problems) .....	5
3. Seeking God's Will - 1 Samuel 30:1-19 (God's Will) .....	9
4. When God Says ...NO! - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, Hebrews 11:29-40 (“No” answers to prayer) .....	11
5. King forever! - 2 Samuel 7:8-29 (The Lordship of Christ) .....	14
6. Kill the Snake in the Egg! - 2 Samuel 11:1-5 (Overcoming temptation) .....	18

# Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover

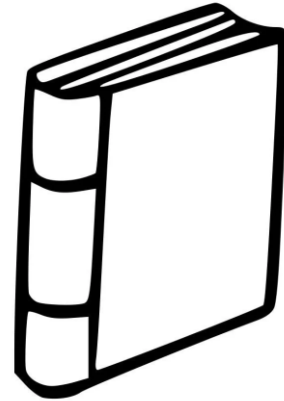
1 Samuel 16:1-13

## 1. Finish this sentence:

If I could change my appearance, I would change...

### True or False

- T F I am judged by the way I look.
- T F I sometimes dress to attract attention.
- T F Most people are too concerned about their appearance.
- T F Other people's appearance does not affect my opinion of them.
- T F Beautiful people have more advantages in life.
- T F God cares about how we look.



## 2. Choose a King - 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel      Saul      Eliab      David

Why do you think God chose David?

1 Samuel 16:7 – “people look at \_\_\_\_\_,  
but God looks at \_\_\_\_\_.”



Samuel

Saul



Eliab

David

## 3. Why do you think the heart is more important to God than outward appearance?

What kind of heart pleases God?

What do we need to do to have such a heart?

### The Word for the week:

1. Review 1 Samuel 16:1-13
2. Psalm 139:13-16
3. John 7:24
4. Proverbs 11:22, 31:30
5. Matthew 23:27-28
6. 1 Timothy 2:9 -10
7. 1 Samuel 17:12-54  
“Here comes a big man!”

## 4. I pray that this week God will help me:

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover** (Outer appearance – 1 Samuel 16:1-13)

**Significance for Teens:**

The media bombards teens with the message that to be anything in life you have to be beautiful. But God's Word says that inner character is more important than outward appearance. Our goal is for kids to realize that God sees beauty from the inside out.

**1. Hook:**

Begin with prayer. Then have the teens finish this sentence: *"If I could change my appearance, I would change ..."* Have the kids who want to share their ideas about their appearance. Do not force them to answer, this will be a painful issue for some.

(Another option: show pictures of different people from the Internet or magazines, such as a photo model, a homeless person, an old lady, a businessman, etc. Ask them what their first impression of each person is, judging from their appearance).

Then have them answer the True/ False questions and give reasons for their answers. Do not rush the kids to express your opinions; let the kids formulate their own answers. This helps to develop their thinking. Even if you think their answers are wrong, do not correct them. Later, when you discuss the text, the Word of God itself can correct their mistakes.

Here are different ways to discuss the true and false statements:

*Method 1.* You can hang a piece of paper with the word "TRUE" on one wall and the word "FALSE" on the opposite wall. As you read each statement, kids move to the side that matches their answer.

Sometimes someone stays in the center. Make sure the kids explain why they chose their answers. I usually ask the smaller group to explain their position first, and then the larger group.

*Method 2.* The second method is voting by hand. Read the sentence and give time to think about the answer. No talking. On the count of three, everyone votes: if "True" - thumbs up, if "False" - thumbs down. Ask the minority to explain their answer first, then the majority.

*Method 3.* Give the kids time to circle the "T" (i.e., "True") and "F" (i.e., "False") on their handouts. Then discuss their answers.

**2. Book – 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

Say, *"Today we are going to look at what God thinks about our appearance. There is a story in the Bible about David - a story that answers this question."* Kids probably already know about David and Goliath. But our story begins before the battle between David and Goliath took place. At the time, David was an ordinary teen.

Four people are pictured on the handouts. Who are they? 1. Samuel, a prophet and wise old man who loved the Lord and lived by His commandments. 2. King Saul. He was tall, taller than all the Israelites by a head. He was a good warrior and king of Israel at this time. 3. Eliab was David's older brother, the oldest son in his family, and he was also a warrior. 4. David, who was a teenager and the youngest in the family. He took care of the family's flock of sheep.

Ask, *“Of these four, who would you choose to be king? Let’s read the story and find out who God chose.”*

Read the text of 1 Samuel 16:1-13 by role: the author, Samuel, the Lord, Jesse. The remaining kids can read the words of the elders together (v. 4).

Ask, *“Why did God choose David to be the next king?”* (Possible answers: God saw what David was like inside; David was teachable; he was obedient to God; he spent time with God; God could best show His power through him, etc.)

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 again and fill in the blanks with the words in your Bible version. *“When it says, ‘The Lord looks on the heart,’ what is meant by the word ‘heart’?”* (Possible answers: man’s feelings, his motives, his desires, etc.)

### **3. Look:**

Discuss the questions on the handout.

Ask, *“Why do you think the heart is more important to God than the outward appearance?”* (Possible answers: Appearances are temporary, but the heart is eternal; thoughts, actions, and character come from the heart.)

Ask, *“Do you know anyone who is not particularly beautiful on the outside but is beautiful on the inside?”* Have the kids share their examples, without naming names. Have them describe the inner beauty of these people (friendly, caring, gentle, forgiving, etc.).

Ask, *“What kind of heart pleases God?”*

Write down their answers. Possible answers: a person who depends on God, obeys God, loves God, loves others, cares for others, etc.

Ask, *“What do we need to do to have a heart like this?”* (Possible answers: ask God for help; think more about others; remember to see others through God’s eyes.)

### **4. Took:**

This last part - “took” - acts as homework, but our assignments are strictly voluntary. Give the kids time to reflect on what God might want them to do as a result of this lesson. Maybe they have a prejudice against people who are not beautiful, or maybe they have a prejudice against beautiful people; maybe they spend a lot of time on their outward appearance but neglect the beauty of their heart.

Give them some time to hear what the Holy Spirit might want to say to them. To make their request for God’s help more specific, they can write it down, finishing the phrase: “I pray that this week God will help me \_\_\_\_\_.” Ask if anyone would like to share their thoughts. You can also share yours if God has spoken to you. These can become things you pray about at the end.

As a way to encourage teens to read the Bible daily you can suggest they try reading the verses listed in the “The Word for the Week” box.

End the lesson with a prayer for God’s help.

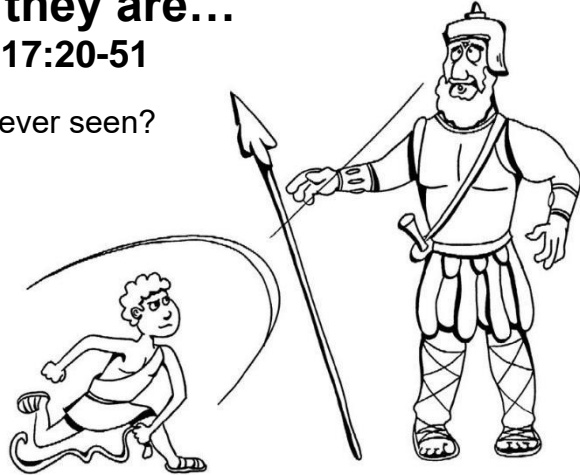
## The Bigger they are... 1 Samuel 17:20-51

**1.** Who is one of the tallest people you've ever seen?

**2.** 1 Samuel 17:20-51

How big was Goliath?

Goliath kept Israel from believing God and seeing a victory. They were afraid.



**3.** What stands in our way and keeps us from moving forward with God?

### Four advantages against giants

- \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 26).

When God is with you, you are in the majority.

*When is it hardest to keep this vision?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 33-37).

As brick is laid on brick, so faith builds on faith.

*In what difficult situation has God helped you in the past?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 39-40).

Use what God has given you. Be ready!

*What has God given you to fight spiritual battles?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 45-47).

Think about God's largest creations; *the smallest* creations.

*Why do we forget to turn to God in a crisis?*

**4.** What problem are you facing right now?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you trusting in your own strength or in God's?

#### The Word on facing problems:

1. Review 1 Samuel 17:20-51
2. Philippians 4:12-13
3. James 1:2-4
4. Romans 8:28
5. Joshua 1:9
6. Philippians 4:6 -7
7. 1 Samuel 30:1-19  
"Which way to go!"

## The Bigger they are... (Facing problems – 1 Samuel 17 :20-51)

### **Significance for teens:**

Teens are often plagued by problems, but they tend to think that they are the only ones who suffer from loneliness, parental misunderstanding, or unrequited love. They are amazed to learn that other teenagers suffer from the same problems. Our goal is for the kids to see that everyone has problems and that God Himself helps them to overcome them.

### **1. Hook:**

Begin by praying for the group. If there were kids last week who shared that they wanted to find God's help with something, you can ask whether God answered prayer.

Then ask, "*Who is the tallest person you've ever seen?*" Give them a chance to talk about a basketball player, a neighbor, or someone else. Tell them about the tallest man and woman today. This information can easily be found on the internet and in video clips you may want to show them.

### **2. Book – 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

Today we continue the story of David. In today's lesson, David meets a really big man - Goliath. Many people already know this story.

How huge was Goliath? He was not a house, just a man. *Read verses 4-7.* He was 9.5 feet tall (290 centimeters) tall according to some sources and 6.8 feet tall (208 centimeters) according to others.

His armor weighed 123 pounds (56 kg), and just the spear tip weighed 15 pounds (7 kg). For clarity, you can measure 9.5 feet (290 cm.) on the wall or project a life size image of Goliath. (See a picture of Goliath on the next page that you can project.) You can touch his chin.

But how do you defeat Goliath? Kids can retell the story if they know it. Read verses 20-51. (Or if this is too long a passage for your kids just read verses 40-51) Fear of Goliath kept Israel from moving forward into what God had for them: to conquer the land He promised to give them.

### **3. Look:**

*"Let's talk about our 'Goliaths' right now. What stands in our way and keeps us from what God has for us?"* (Possible answers: unfaithfulness; fear; sin; worrying about our possessions; being too busy.) Write down their answers on a board if you have one.

David had four "weapons" to use in his battle, or advantages over Goliath. Write these down as they are discussed.

**Advantage #1:** David had a vision of God's greatness. Read v. 26 and discuss the idea that God is alive and His name cannot be defamed. Some people have said things like: "When God is with you, you are in the majority," or, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Ask, "Are there people in the Bible who lost their vision of God?" (Possible answers: Jonah, Elijah, Peter, etc.)

Then ask, "When is it easiest to lose that vision?" (Possible answers: when tired; when you have to defend yourself; with unbelievers; when you are afraid).

**Advantage #2:** David had experience with God. Reread verses 33 - 37 and discuss David's experiences along with this idea: *As brick is laid on brick, so faith builds on faith.*

Ask teens to share stories of how God has helped them in their time of need. Encourage them to consider writing down the ways God helps them (so they don't forget His works)!

Say, "Remember, there are no shortcuts in spiritual growth. When we see God's faithfulness in solving one problem, we can more easily trust Him in the next."

**Advantage #3:** David had resources from God. Read verses 39-40 and discuss the ideas. Stones may not be the best way to kill a giant, but it's what David had and knew how to use. Try to find what God has given you for the battle, even if it seems like something small. Also, David was ready. He didn't leave his sling at home. Be ready! Ask, "What has God given you to fight spiritual battles?" (Possible answers: The Bible (sword), prayer, His promises, experience, counsel, etc.)

**Advantage #4:** David had God Almighty on his side. Read verses 45-47. Say "Think about God's very big creations: stars, galaxies, black holes, etc. They are impossible to encompass.

*Think about God's tiniest creations, such as the more than 30 trillion cells in our bodies that all work like little factories. Think of how God cares for His creation. We are told He feeds even the tiniest sparrows, and that we are worth much more than they are. Therefore, we have the power of God to do whatever He asks us to do."*

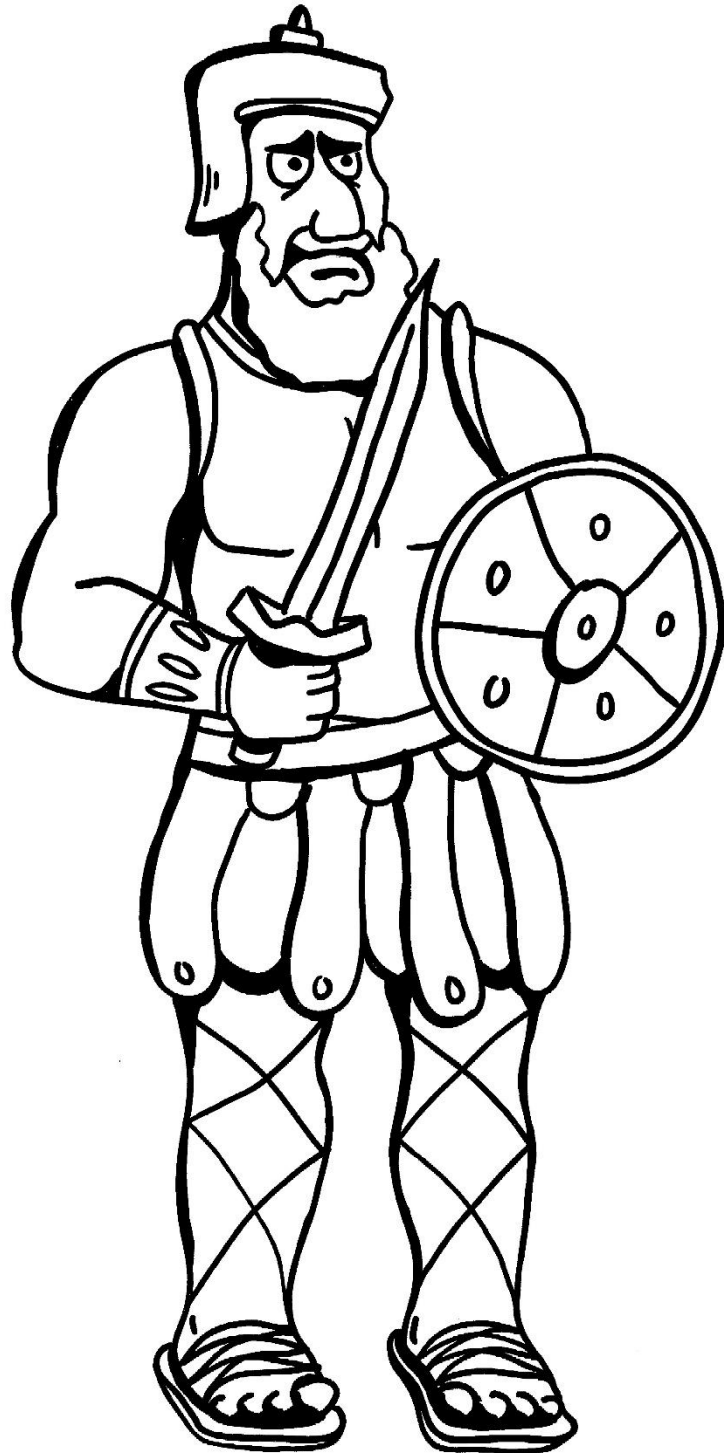
Draw a picture of balancing scales. On one side will be our problems and on the other side will be these four advantages. Ask the kids, "Which side will tip the scales? Our problems are difficult, but God has given us His resources to overcome them."

Ask, "Why do we forget to turn to God at the beginning of a crisis?" (Possible answers: fear, the world promotes strength, independence, etc.) Review these four advantages from God. Unlike any sports team, our God is invincible.

#### **4. Took:**

Ask, "What problem are you facing right now?" Give the kids time to think about it and if they want to, write their problem on a handout. Tell them that if they don't have a problem now, they should remember to turn to God first when they do. Remind them of the daily Scriptures on the handout. Have the kids pray silently about their problems and then have one person finish with prayer.

*The main ideas of this lesson are borrowed from a sermon by Chuck Swindoll*



This drawing can be projected on the wall for kids to imagine the height of Goliath.



# Seeking God's Will

1 Samuel 30:1-19

- 1.** If God agreed to answer one of your questions about the future, what would you ask Him?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** 1 Samuel 30:1-19

Why did David have a truly horrible day?

- King Saul was jealous of David and wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.
- David settled among \_\_\_\_\_, the Philistines.
- The Amalekites captured his city of Ziklag and \_\_\_\_\_ it to the ground.
- Women and kids were taken \_\_\_\_\_.
- David's \_\_\_\_\_ were among the captured.
- The people wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ David to death.

David's situation was very difficult. He did not know what to do. How did David discover the will of God? (v. 7,8)

How did God help David? (vv. 9-19)

- David found \_\_\_\_\_.
- David \_\_\_\_\_ the Amalekites.
- He got back \_\_\_\_\_ that had been taken from him, including his \_\_\_\_\_.

**3.** How do we find God's will in our lives today?

Have you ever had a time when you clearly felt God was leading you?

**4.** Lord, please show me your will regarding

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Seeking God's Will

1. 1 Samuel 30:1-19
2. Psalm 73:23-24
3. Romans 12:2
4. Proverbs 3:5,6
5. Psalm 32:8
6. Ephesians 5:15-20
7. 2 Samuel 7

## Seeking God's Will (God's Will – 1 Samuel 30:1-19)

### **Significance for Teens:**

Our students have important decisions on the horizon: their education, future profession, relationships, and daily – their response to peer pressure. How do they seek God's will in their lives?

### **1. Hook:**

Ask: "If God agreed to answer one of your questions about your future, what would you ask Him?" Give everyone time to write down their answers and then have them share. (Possible answers: marriage and family; future education or profession; etc.)

### **2. Book – 1 Samuel 30:1-19**

After defeating Goliath, David's life was not smooth-sailing. He proved himself a good warrior, then King Saul's jealousy became a threat. David fled from Saul to another country to the town of Ziklag, and many people left the king to follow and support David.

One day David had a truly terrible day. Read verses 1-8 together and fill in the underlined words on the handout. "What problems did David have?"

King Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him.

David settled among his enemies, the Philistines.

The Amalekites captured his city of Ziklag and burned it to the ground (v.1). Women and kids were taken as slaves (v.2).

David's wives were among the captured (v. 5).

The people wanted to stone David to death (v.6).

David's situation was very difficult. He did not know what to do.

Read 1 Samuel 30:1-8 together and find the answer to the question: "How did David learn God's will?" (v. 7,8) (Answers to the question: by asking the priest and using an ephod to discover God's will.)

The ephod was a type of vest, with special stones in a little pocket to be used by the high priest in seeking God's will. It is not known exactly how the stones were cast, but David sought God in this way, and God helped him.

Read verses 9-19 and then ask, "How did God help David?" (vv. 9-19). (Answers: David found a helper. David killed the Amalekites. He got back everything that had been taken from him, including his wives. And maybe more!)

### **3. Look:**

Ask the question: "How can we find God's will in our lives today?" Write the kids' answers. (Possible answers: in the Bible - David had God's Word, but not as much as we have; in prayer; through circumstances; weighing the pros and cons; through the wisdom of other Christians, etc.)

Ask, "Have you ever had a time when you clearly felt God was leading you? Give the kids time to share.

Ask, "What should we do if we are not sure what God wants us to do?" Reread the previous answers and add new ones.

**4. Took:** Encourage anyone needing God's guidance for a difficult situation to complete the sentence in writing: *Lord, please show me your will regarding \_\_\_\_\_*. If there is time, let anyone who wants to share their answers. Finish with prayer for wisdom, and remind them that they can use the scriptures in the box for their own Bible-reading time.

# When God Says “NO”

(2 Samuel 7:1-5)

**1.** What would you say to a person who has prayed for a long time for something good (e.g. for the healing of a friend, for admission to university, for a spouse), but has received the answer “No” and has decided that it is not worth praying at all?

## **2.** 2 Samuel 7:1-5

David's kingdom had been established, so he wanted to build a \_\_\_\_\_.

*God's Answer: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: You are NOT the one to build me a house to dwell in.'" (1 Chronicles 17:4 NIV)*

David accepted God's “no” and \_\_\_\_\_ materials for his son to build it.

He received a huge \_\_\_\_\_ from God (*to be discussed next time*).

**3.** What do we do if, in answer to prayer for something, God says either “no” or says nothing at all?

Does this mean we don't have enough faith?

### **God's word on prayer**

1. Reread 2 Samuel 7:1-5
2. 1 John 5:14-15
3. Matthew 6:9-13
4. Philippians 4:6-7
5. James 5:16
6. John 15:7
7. 2 Samuel 7:8-29

### **An observation about faith**

- Sometimes faith \_\_\_\_\_ the situation (Hebrews 11:29-35a)
- Sometimes faith \_\_\_\_\_ the situation (Hebrews 11:35b-38)
- Faith does \_\_\_\_\_ God. (Hebrews 11:39)  
*David continued to call God “Lord” - 2 Samuel 7:18-20, 22, 28, 29 - “My Lord”*
- Faith always leads to \_\_\_\_\_. (Hebrews 11:40)

**4.** God \_\_\_\_\_ the prayer, appreciated it, but decided \_\_\_\_\_ it because He saw a \_\_\_\_\_ in the end.

## When God says... "NO" ("No" answers to prayer – 2 Samuel 7:1-5)

### **Significance for Teens:**

Teens ask an important question just like adults do: why doesn't God say 'yes' when we pray for something that is obviously good?

### **1. Hook:**

Tell the following story about a time when the answer to prayer was "no". (Or you can tell a story from your own life.)

Story: There was once a very successful preacher. One day he began to have chest pains that grew worse day by day. Finally, he went to the doctor and found out that he had a rare form of cancer. The church began to pray for him, but the man grew worse. Church members visited, encouraging the preacher that God had promised to heal him. However, he kept getting sicker. The church organized a prayer chain. The preacher was now being prayed for 24 hours a day, but there was no improvement. Finally, the day came when he smiled at his wife, took her by the hand, then slipped into a coma and died three days later. One woman in the church said: "Since God did not answer our prayer for healing, I will stop bothering Him with my prayers."

Ask, "What would you say in response to this woman?"

### **2. Book – 2 Samuel 7:1-5**

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-5, and fill in the blanks on the handout. David's kingdom had been established, so he wanted to build a temple for God.

But what did God think of his good plan? Read 1 Chronicles 17:4. David received the answer "no."

What was David's response? He accepted God's "no" and collected materials for his son to build it.

He also received a huge blessing from God (which we will look at next time).

### **3. Look:**

Ask, "What do we do if, in answer to prayer for something, God says either "no," or gives no answer at all? Does that mean we don't have enough faith?"

Today we will look at another Bible passage called the 'gallery of heroes of the faith.' It describes the lives of some of God's servants of the Old Testament. In this passage (Hebrews 11), we find several observations about faith.

The first observation: Hebrews 11:29-35a: Sometimes faith changes a situation. We have already talked about the faith of David who stood up to Goliath. Read *Hebrews 11:29-35a* for other examples. Have the teens (or you) share times when they knew that faith changed something.

The second observation about faith: sometimes faith doesn't change the situation. Read *Hebrews 11: 35b-38*. The prophet Zechariah was stoned. According to tradition, the prophet Isaiah was cut in half with a saw. Sometimes people we pray for die or go through painful things like divorce.

The third observation is very important: faith does not condemn God. We may be angry with God over the “no” answer, but we must continue to trust Him. *Read Hebrews 11:39.* David kept calling God “Lord.” *Read 2 Samuel 7:18-20, 22, 28, 29.* Even after he was not allowed to build the temple, David still called God his Lord.

What does it mean to be a person of faith? It means to trust God whether He delivers you from trouble or not. Our view of God should not depend on our circumstances. We pray, “God, You can heal, change situations, and perform miracles, but even if You don’t, I will still love, serve, and trust You.” It is special to God that we trust Him even when He says “no.”

Fourth observation: Faith always leads to something better. *Read Hebrews 11:40.* These men did not see this better thing in their lifetimes. David saw it, but Abraham did not. The Father knows what is best for His purposes to be accomplished and for His glory to be revealed.

**4. Took:**

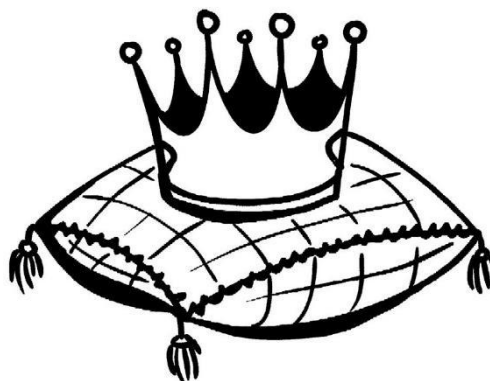
Fill in the blanks in the sentence: God heard the prayer, appreciated it, but decided to reject it because He saw a better way in the end. The most difficult prayer is not, “Help me today, be my lucky charm in my pocket,” but the prayer Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Thy will be done!” Remember, faith sometimes changes the outcomes in our difficult situations, but not always. Do not condemn God, and know firmly that God knows what is best.

*Title and main ideas from Pastor David DeSelm*

**Leader's Guide**

# KING FOREVER!

2 Samuel 7:8-29



**1.** How does a man become king of a country?

Why do you think monarchy, as a type of government, is almost a thing of the past?

**2.**

Promises to David as king (vv. 8-17)	Glorifying God as King (vv. 18-29)
1. v. 9: I will make your name _____	1. v.18: You have so _____
2. v. 10: You will live _____	_____
3. v. 11: I will give you rest from all your _____	2. vv. 18-19: I am _____
4. v. 11: I will build you _____	3. v. 23: You do great and awesome _____ before your people.
5. v. 12: I will raise up your _____ after you.	4. v. 28: You are God, and your words are _____.
6. v. 13: Your son will build a house _____.	5. v. 29: What You have said _____.
7. vv. 14-15: I will punish and pardon _____	
8. v. 16: Your kingdom will endure _____	

**3.** Who is the king of my life? Is it me, or Jesus?

What areas of life should be affected by Jesus' kingdom?

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Choice of shows &amp; movies</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Place of residence</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Money</i>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Relationship with parents</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Choice of spouse</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Free time</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Education</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Relationship with friends</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Study</i>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Health</i>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Prayer</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nutrition</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Participation in church</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Harmful habits</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other</i> _____ |

Why would someone make Jesus their Lord only in appearance?

**4.** What area of your life does Jesus want more control of? \_\_\_\_\_

What can I do even now to give Jesus more say in this area of my life?

\_\_\_\_\_



# King Quiz

1. I was called the King of Rock and Roll.
2. I ordered all babies under two years old to be killed.
3. I am an African king and also a superhero.
4. My great wealth, buried with me in a pyramid, has traveled to museums in many countries around the world.
5. I was a shepherd boy who became a king.
6. I am the king of the Lemurs in the movie *Madagascar*.
7. At my death, the inscription above me read, "King of the Jews."
8. My wife, Queen Isabella, and I sent Columbus around the world in 1492.
9. I was the wisest king on earth.
10. I became King of England after Queen Elizabeth II passed away.
11. When I was a king, my best friends were a warthog and a meerkat.
12. I am a king who led the Knights of the Round Table.
13. I was the first king of Israel.
14. I was Ariel the Mermaid's father and King of the undersea world.
15. I am the king of hamburgers.

## God's word on Jesus as Lord

1. Reread 2 Samuel 7:8-29
2. Romans 10:9
3. Romans 14:9
4. Philippians 2:9-11
5. Romans 12:11
6. Matthew 21:23
7. 2 Samuel 11:1-5

## King Forever (The Lordship of Christ – 2 Samuel 7:8-29)

### **Significance for Teens:**

In adolescence teens move from imitating the faith of adults and friends to making faith their own. They make decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. The sooner they trust God's guidance over their lives, the fewer regrets they will experience later in life.

### **1. Hook:**

Start with the "King Kwiz." You can hand out the quiz questions to the kids or just read them out. Kids can either work in teams or on their own. (Answers: 1 Elvis Presley; 2 Herod; 3 Black Panther/ T'Challa; 4 Tutankhamun/ King Tut; 5 David; 6 Julien; 7 Jesus; 8. Ferdinand; 9 Solomon; 10 King Charles III; 11 The Lion King/ Simba; 12 King Arthur; 13 Saul; 14 King Triton; 15 Burger King)

Ask, "*How can a person become king of a country?*" (Possible answers: he can inherit the throne; he can be elected; the previous king might die or abdicate.)

Ask, "*Why do you think monarchy, as a type of government, is almost a thing of the past?*" (Possible answers: people don't like one person (a king or queen) making the rules; a good king might not have a good son; people want to have a voice; kings today are only for appearances - they do almost nothing important; a monarchy is expensive to maintain).

### **2. Book – 2 Samuel 7:8-29**

In the Bible we read that Israel's wars cost King Saul his life. The second king of Israel was David, and he made his kingdom secure.

As we discussed last time, David wanted to build a temple for God, but God said no. Then, God made some amazing promises to David. Our story today has two parts: what God promised to do for David and how David glorified God.

Read verses 8-17 and fill in the blanks as you read: Promises from God to David as king:

- (1) v. 9, I will make your name great;
- (2) v. 10, you will live in peace;
- (3) v. 11, I will give you rest from all your enemies;
- (4) v. 11, I will build you a house;
- (5) v. 12, I will raise up your offspring after you;
- (6) v. 13, your son will build a house for my name; (the temple)
- (7) vv. 14-15, I will punish and pardon the son;
- (8) v. 16, your kingdom will endure forever.

What was David's reaction? Read verses 18-29 and fill in the blanks as you read: Glorifying God as King:

- (1) v. 18, You have so exalted me;
- (2) vv. 18-19, I am a servant;
- (3) v. 23, You do great and awesome wonders before your people;
- (4) v. 28, You are God, and your words are trustworthy;
- (5) v. 29, what You have said will be.

Ask, "*What is the meaning of the words that David's kingdom will be eternal? Who reigns among David's descendants today?*" Read Matthew 1:1. Jesus, descended from the family of David, is the eternal King.



**3. Look:**

Ask and reflect to yourself: *Who is the king of your life: yourself or Jesus? Is it possible to be both?* The Bible says it is impossible to serve two masters. Read Matthew 6:24. Jesus wants to be more than just our Savior. He wants to be our Lord, that is, our King.

Ask, *“why do you think people do not make Jesus King of their lives?”*

Possible answers: they just don't think about it; they want to be in control of their own lives, to be kings of their own lives; they don't understand what that means.

There are some people who say that Jesus is the King of their lives, yet they don't give Him control. Ask, *“Why is it that so many make Jesus Lord only in appearance?”*

Possible answers: they think it is easier; they want to control everything; they need to be like everyone else, etc.

Have the kids mark on the handout which areas of their lives are affected by Jesus and His kingdom? This can be done as a group or individually. Usually, the kids will note that Jesus should have an impact on all of these areas.

Choose 2-3 of these and ask, *“How does King Jesus affect these areas of our lives? (e.g. my health or relationship with friends).* Discuss the impact Jesus would have in these areas.

Ask, *why would we give up everything to Christ as Lord? If Jesus is King of our lives, what do we gain?”* Possible answers:

He knows our future so He can guide us; He knows what is best for us; His help; less stress/more peace if we know we are not in charge.

**4. Took:**

Look at the list of areas of life that we are to give to Jesus as our King. Which ones are the hardest to give to Him? There may be an area of life that is not named, but you know that Jesus wants more say in that area. Write that on the handout. In prayer, ask God's help for you to give more of your life to Jesus and to fill you with His peace, trusting that He is a good king and knows what is best.

# Kill the Snake in the Egg!

2 Samuel 11:1-5



**1.** What temptations do kids face today?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** 2 Samuel 11:1-5 – David and Bathsheba

Step 4 - \_\_\_\_\_  
We need to be close to Jesus and His people.

Step 3 - \_\_\_\_\_  
Rely on the Bible. Say “no” to sin

<b>Overcoming temptation (upward progression)</b>	Step 2 – _____
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Step 1 (v.2) - _____
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**3.** Where do temptations come from?

Why does God allow temptations?  
(James 1:2-4)

<b>Giving into temptation (progression downward)</b>	Step 2 – (v. 3) _____ We need to find out more about it.
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Step 3 (v. 4) _____
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Step 4 (v. 4) _____
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**4.** What is your strongest temptation right now?

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you start doing to resist that temptation? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Word on Temptation:**

1. Repeat - 2 Samuel 11:1-5
2. Psalm 119:9-11
3. Ephesians 6:10-18
4. Hebrews 2:18
5. James 1:12-15
6. Matthew 26:36-41
7. 1 Corinthians 10:13

## Kill the Snake in the Egg! (Overcoming temptation – 2 Samuel 11:1-5)

### **Significance for Teens:**

Teens face many temptations from their peers: temptations to lie, smoke, drink, look at porn, say dirty words, have sex, etc. How can a Christian teen resist temptation?

(You can decide if your kids are ready for this lesson, or still too young.)

### **1. Hook:**

Begin with prayer. Start the lesson by repeating the names of the two parts of the Bible and the four sections of the Old Testament. Tell them that next time we will start lessons on the books of poetry (or whatever you will study next.)

Ask, “*What temptations do kids face today?*” (Possible answers: drinking, cheating, lying, pornography, sex). Write their answers on the board.

### **2. Book – 1 Samuel 30:1-19**

Ask, “*Can you think of anyone in the Bible who was tempted? What temptations did they face?*” (Possible answers: Joseph - sex, anger/revenge; Job - self-pity; Jesus - bread, glory; David – sex; Adam – forbidden fruit).

Say, “*Temptations will come. They came to the heroes of the Bible, even to Jesus. They will come to you. You may not be tempted to steal or kill: your temptations may be more subtle. John Bunyan, the seventeenth-century Christian writer of Pilgrim's Progress, described seven temptations that his hero had to fight: pride, envy, anger, lack of self-control, bad thoughts, covetousness, and spiritual laziness.*”

“*Today we are going to look at the life of David and a time he was defeated by temptation to sin. From this story we can see how temptation works in a person's life.*” Read 2 Samuel 11:1- 5 (Maybe have the kids read the text one verse each, going around the circle). In this story we see a four-step progression, leading from temptation to actual sin. Have the kids write the name of each of the steps *downward* on the handout.

Step 1: Feelings/ desires (11:2) Desire can come to a person through their senses or circumstances. They see something, hear something, and they have desire. Desire is not yet a sin. A person must decide which steps come next. David chose the way down.

Step 2: Examine sin/ reflect on it (11:3) In this step there is a picture of a magnifying glass. A person starts to dwell on what he wants; to investigate. He wants to replay over and over in his mind what he has seen or heard or what he wants to do. Martin Luther said something interesting about this: “You cannot keep birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.”

Step 3: Getting Close to Sin (11:4) David the king had power to command a servant to bring Bathsheba to his house. David could even have stopped here, but the further he went, the harder it was to stop. Temptation is a slippery slope. It's hard to be close to sin and resist it.

Interestingly, Adam and Eve traveled the same path as David. Genesis 3:6 says that Eve saw, wanted, and eventually took the fruit.

Step 4: Committing sin (11:4) David finally sinned with Bathsheba, going to bed with the wife of another man. The temptation became all-encompassing and very difficult to turn away from.

### **3. Look:**

But there is a second path that would have given David the ability to resist that temptation. Let's look at the better way, the way up. Ask, *"What do we do when a thought, vision, or occasion of temptation arises (step 1: feelings/desires)?"*

On the path up, instead of examining the temptation, Step 2 is to Run away from it. The story of The Boy and the Unusual Egg illustrates this. A boy found a strange egg and wanted to see what would hatch from it. A few days later, a baby snake emerged. The boy fed it. It turned out to be a python. It grew quickly until it became huge and ate the boy. It would have been better to run away from the egg or kill the python while it was inside.

Similarly, when David saw Bathsheba, he should have left immediately. He took the second step downward—he investigated and dwelled on his desire when he should have run away.

Sometimes running away is impossible (or the temptation returns), and then we need to take Step 3: Fight. We are in a battle, and we need to stand firm against sin.

Ask, *"What are our weapons for this battle against sin?"* (Possible answers: Prayer, God's Word, other Christians, etc.) God's Word is actually called a sword. Jesus quoted the Bible three times to defeat Satan. It is important to know what God says – it helps us say "no" to sin.

Step 4 is very important: Follow Jesus closely. Being close to Jesus and His people is a big help in our fight with temptation. What if David had gone back into his house, or gone to the temple, or talked with a godly advisor instead of staying on his rooftop?

Ask, *"Where do temptations come from?"* (Possible answers: from the world, other people, from our own sinful desires, from Satan).

The Bible says that temptation doesn't come from God (See James 1:13) Ask, *"If temptation can lead to sin, why does God allow temptations?"*

After they answer, read James 1:2-4. These verses show that overcoming temptation (i.e. trials) can strengthen us and help us mature. Overcoming temptation builds character.

### **4. Took:**

Ask, *"What is the strongest temptation for you? What can you do now to resist this temptation?"* This is likely a question for reflection, not discussion. Tip: Invite those who need to share to talk with the leader after class.

In conclusion, read 1 Corinthians 10:13. All temptations are as old as the world. There is no temptation from which there is no way out. Finish with a prayer for God's wisdom and strength to overcome temptation.