David and Jonathan become friends 1 Samuel 17-19

Printable Sunday School activity for the Bible story David and Jonathan.

Directions:

1. Read the following Bible verses from 1 Samuel 18.

18:1 As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 5 And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.

2. Print page 3 and then the pages of your choice.
   Pages 3 and 4 are the full color versions of the paper doll and his armor. Pages 5 and 6 have black and white pieces that students can color.

3. Cut out the envelope. Fold and tape.

4. Cut out the pieces of armor and place them in the envelope which will be mailed to David.

5. Students can dress David in the gifts he received from Jonathan.


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Teaching Notes

Attention Getter: What makes a best friends special?

There was a special place in Jonathan’s heart for David after seeing him go into the battle and win the victory. As a result, Jonathan was willing to give up his own rights, position, and prospects to make David’s glory even greater; he naturally would have become the next king if Saul had gotten his way, but he gave this up recognizing that the Lord had other plans.

Saul, on the other hand, was threatened by David’s victory as it exposed his own weaknesses and the people’s hearts became taken up with the “hero of the day.” Three times, Saul’s jealousy towards David threatened to destroy him, but God always protected him.

Jonathan acted as mediator for David and persuaded his father to bring him back into his favor because “the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel” through him; a day in which even Saul himself had rejoiced (1 Sam. 19:5).

When war broke out again and David won another great battle, Saul once again tried to destroy David.

Like Saul, the hearts of some people may turn against Christ. However, how wonderful it is that there are always those like Jonathan who can never forget the great battle at Calvary; our hearts have been eternally won and redeemed by the Great Victor of that battle!
From: Jonathan, son of Saul
King’s Palace
Jerusalem

To: My friend David
Somewhere in the wilderness
David receives a gift from Jonathan
David receives a gift from Jonathan