

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #40

DATE:

SUBJECT: Jonathan – A True Friend

SCRIPTURE: I Samuel Chapters 18 - 20

AIM: To show the children that as God's children they should love and help one another.

MEMORY VERSE: I John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

Review:

The last couple of weeks we have been learning about David. Did he love God? Yes! Very much! He was also very brave. We learned about a man who became the first king of Israel. Does anyone remember his name? (Saul) Was God pleased with Saul? No! Remember God had already decided on someone else to be king (David) because Saul had done things that had made God unhappy.

Content:

Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about two very good friends, David and Jonathan. Jonathan was King Saul's son.

After David had killed Goliath he went before King Saul. Jonathan was there. Jonathan was young like David and he loved God and served God just like David did. At this time they made a promise to one another. Then Jonathan gave David his armor with the sword and bow and belt. David used these things to help defeat God's enemies. The people of Israel sang songs about all the people that David had defeated more than King Saul. This made King Saul very angry. So angry that Saul wanted to kill David.

One night as David was playing harp for King Saul, Saul took out his spear and threw it at David. David saw it coming and moved and the spear missed David.

Another time Saul spoke to Jonathan and to his servants, telling them that they should watch for a chance to kill David. Jonathan was a true friend. He loved David. He told David that his father was trying to kill him. Then Jonathan went back to his father to speak for David. He reminded him how David had risked his life to fight the Philistines when everyone else was afraid. Saul listened and decided not to kill David.

Once again David went into battle and killed many Philistines. After the battle David went back to the palace and was playing the harp before King Saul. Saul was very jealous of David and again threw his spear at David but missed. David escaped and went to Samuel and told Samuel all that Saul had done to him.

Saul searched for David. He sent messengers twice to go get David. Then Saul went himself. Each time God was with David and He protected him and kept David from harm each time.

David then left Samuel and went to see Jonathan his friend and asked “What have I done?” David wanted to know why Saul wanted David dead. They talked for a long time. Then Jonathan told David that he would find out if it were safe for David to come back to the castle. They made a plan.

They agreed that after three days David was to hide himself by a stone in the field. Jonathan would shoot three arrows on the side of the stone. Then Jonathan would send a boy to pick up the arrows. If Jonathan said to the boy “Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them.” This meant it was O.K. for David to come out. If Jonathan said, “Behold, the arrows are beyond thee.” Then David should go away.

So David hid himself. Saul did not mention David not being at the castle the first day. But on the second day Saul asked Jonathan where David was. Jonathan made up an answer and Saul became very angry. He yelled at Jonathan. He told Jonathan that as long as David was alive that Jonathan would never be king. Jonathan did not care about being king. He knew it was up to God to decide these things.

Saul told Jonathan to bring David to him so he could kill him. Jonathan asked Saul what David had done to deserve to be killed. Saul got so angry at Jonathan that he threw a spear at Jonathan. Jonathan knew Saul was determined to kill David.

The next day Jonathan went out to the field as he had promised and shot his arrows past the boy. Then Jonathan said, “Is not the arrow beyond thee? ... Make speed, haste, stay not.” The boy picked up the arrows and left. As soon as the boy was gone David came out of hiding. They cried and kissed one another. Then David left and Jonathan went back to the city.

Jonathan knew that he should never be king even though his father Saul had always told him that the kingdom should be his. Jonathan’s heart was filled with love toward David. He risked his life for David. He was a true friend.