

## Lesson

# 7

## King Saul Is Jealous of David

**Bible Text:** 1 Sam 18:5-19:18

**Bible Truth:**

Everyone has his or her own role so there's no need to be jealous.

**Lesson Aim:**

To encourage your students to seek God's will for them and not be jealous of others.

**Memory Verse:**

"If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions."

**(Gal 6:3,4)**

**Bible Background:**

Saul wanted to kill David because he was jealous of David's popularity, yet David continued to protect and comfort Saul. Jealousy is one step short of murder. It begins by destroying a person from the inside, and then it manifests itself into harmful actions. Saul's appreciation for David turned to jealousy as people began to shower David with more praises.

It soon became apparent to Saul that God was with David. This made Saul even more jealous. He feared that David would take over the kingdom.

Saul had no reason to be jealous of David. God had given Saul the abilities he needed. However, Saul became increasingly estranged from God's guidance and steeped in bitterness and jealousy.

David, however, sought God's help and acted wisely in everything. (1 Sam 18:14)

**About Your Students:**

Jealousy is a common feeling among children. They tend to be jealous of their friends' clothing, toys, grades, popularity and so on. Sometimes parents find it very hard to manage. If the parents of these children aren't able to curb their children's feelings of jealousy, situations can become very out of hand.

Help your students by teaching them that God knows all our needs. We are all blessed in many ways. Not all of our blessings are the same, God has told us that we should not covet the possessions of others, so we should always keep His commandment in mind, and try our best to follow it.

To help your students see just how blessed they are, have them keep a weekly journal to record their blessings. Each week, at the beginning of class, have your children open their journal and write about the blessings they have received during the week. If some choose to write personal messages of thanks to God, that would be even better! Hopefully, this will help your children realize just how blessed they are, especially after they see their blessings recorded on paper. This process will help them see that there is no need to be jealous of others because God gives to all of us according to what He feels we need.

**Warm-Up:**

- Before the lesson, ask your students to do the following questions.
1. Name some of the wonderful talents that God has given you.
  2. Name some people who love you and help you.
  3. God has helped you do many things. Name two things that you are most proud of.
- Tell them that even though we know there are some things we are good at, they are all gifts from God. Encourage them to use their talents to serve God continuously.

## Bible Story:

### Lesson Aim:

To encourage your students to seek God's will and not to be jealous of others.

### Cover the following in detail: (1 Sam 18:5-19:18)

1. The women sang and danced to meet King Saul.
2. King Saul was jealous of David's success.
3. An evil spirit came upon King Saul.
4. King Saul made David a commander of his army.
5. Saul gave David his daughter in marriage so that David would fall by the hands of Philistines.
6. David had more success than all the servants of Saul.
7. Saul attempted to spear David to the wall, but David fled and escaped.

## Questions and Discussion

1. **When Saul was first chosen as king, did he listen to God?**  
(Yes, at first he was a good king.)
2. **Why did God punish Saul and take away his kingdom?**  
(Saul disobeyed God.)
3. **How many of you like being punished?**  
(No one likes to be punished.)
4. **How did Saul react when he saw other people praising David?**  
(He was resentful and jealous of David. These feelings kept him from loving God.)
5. **David knew he was going to be the next king, yet he worked hard for Saul. Why do you think he wasn't jealous of Saul?**  
(David trusted in God. He was willing to wait until it was his turn to be king.)
6. **Did David have faith in God?**  
(Yes, he had faith in God and he continued to develop the talents God had given to him.)

## Quiz:

### Fill in the Blanks:

1. Jonathan made a c\_\_\_\_\_ with David because he loved him as his own s\_\_\_\_\_. (covenant, soul)
2. The women sang to one another when David returned from killing the Philistines. They said, "Saul has

killed his thousands, and David his \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_." (ten of thousands)

3. Saul was afraid of David, and made him a c\_\_\_\_\_ of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. (commander)
4. Saul gave David his daughter M\_\_\_\_\_ as his wife. When Saul realized that the L\_\_\_\_\_ was with David, and that his daughter l\_\_\_\_\_ him, Saul was more a\_\_\_\_\_ of David. So Saul was David's e\_\_\_\_\_ from that time forward. (Michal, Lord, loved, afraid, enemy)
5. After David killed the Philistine, Saul sought to pin David on the wall with his s\_\_\_\_\_. (spear)

## Bible Discovery:

### Life-Application story:

#### I Love You More Than Few Broken Glasses

There was a loud crash in the kitchen. Stephanie ran quickly to see what had happened. Courtney, her seven-year-old sister, just broke a bunch of dishes as she was trying to get a cup from the cabinet. "Oh, no! Mom is going to kill me!" cried Stephanie when she saw the mess.

"Sorry, Stephanie," Courtney said as she sulked in guilt. "I'll clean it up."

"It's OK, Courtney, I'll do it. Why didn't you ask me to get the cup? I'm a lot taller. I could have gotten it without trouble. Anyway, there's nothing we can do about it now. Now go and finish your homework while I clean this mess up."

Courtney walked out of the kitchen thinking what she had done. Stephanie always did the right things, while Courtney usually just made a mess of things. Stephanie always kept her room neat and clean, and got straight A's in school. Mom and Dad always loved Stephanie more, or so Courtney always thought.

As Courtney was doing her homework, Mom and Dad called to say that they were on their way home from work. Courtney started to sweat with nervous anticipation. Courtney pleaded with Stephanie, "Don't tell Mom and Dad about the broken dishes, OK?"

Stephanie looked at Courtney, "Sorry Courtney, I have to. Besides, it's not like they're not going to notice that almost half of our glass cups are missing. Mom and Dad told me to take care of you after school, so I can't lie about what happened."

Courtney became frantic, "But you don't have to lie! Just don't tell them what happened! Can't you even do a little favor for your little sister!"

Stephanie looked at Courtney with surprise. She had never seen Courtney so nervous. "Calm down, Courtney. Look, I have to tell Mom and Dad about this. They're going to find out sooner or later anyway. I'm sorry."

Courtney was really hurt by the way Stephanie acted. "Why did I ever try and get that cup?" Courtney thought. Courtney ran up to her room. She didn't want to finish her homework anymore. Courtney just lay on her bed crying. "I can't do anything right!" she whispered to herself through the tears that streamed down her face. Soon, Courtney fell asleep on her bed.

Not long afterward, Mom and Dad came back home. "Stephanie! Courtney! Are you girls upstairs? Come down for dinner!"

Stephanie came down first. "Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad."

Her Mom asked, "Your brother, Lewis, isn't back yet, right?"

"No. Remember, he has band practice."

"Where's Courtney? Tell her to come down. I bought noodles for you and Courtney to eat for dinner."

"Great! I love noodles," said Stephanie. "I'll go get and Courtney."

Courtney came down with Stephanie. Her eyes were all red from her tearful experience on the bed, and her hair was all messed up.

"Courtney? What happened to you?! You look like you've just cried!"

Stephanie interjected, "Mom. Dad. I have to tell you something serious."

Courtney panicked, "Nooooo! You said you wouldn't!"

"No, I didn't Courtney! I have to tell them! I said I would! Mom, Courtney broke about half of our glass cups when she was trying to get a glass, but I cleaned it up."

Mom looked as if a boulder had just smashed her against the wall. "Well...that's a surprise. Courtney, you know how much I love that glass set. It was so expensive. Aww...don't worry about it honey. I still love you just the same. I'm just glad you weren't hurt." Stephanie couldn't believe her eyes. She thought her mom would at least yell at Courtney.

Courtney couldn't believe her good fortune. "I'm sorry mom. I just didn't think I would make such a big mess. I slipped when I reached for the cup and all the cups fell. I always make the biggest messes! I'm sorry."

Courtney was about to start bawling again, but her Mom started to hug and kiss her. "I told you I love you, honey. Don't worry about the cups, OK? I still love you."

Stephanie looked upon the scene with bitter envy. She thought, "How could Courtney have gotten off so easily!" Stephanie decided to go and try her dad, who was busy reading his newspaper. "Dad, how was work?"

"Oh, it was fine, Stephanie. How was your day at school?"

"Oh, it was real great, dad. I got an A on my math test!"

"That's wonderful, Stephanie." Stephanie was about to walk out the room, but she had to say it, "Oh, yeah...dad?"

"Yes, Stephanie?"

"Dad, did you know that Courtney broke about half of our glass cups today? It was a big mess, but I cleaned it up." Stephanie waited to see the reaction her dad would have.

Her dad looked up for a moment and then went back to read his paper. "That's nice Stephanie, now why don't you go and tell your Mom."

Stephanie was so angry that her Dad didn't get angry at Courtney that she just stormed out of the room. She went to the kitchen to eat her noodles. When she got

to the kitchen, her Mom was still holding Courtney in her arms.

"Stephanie! What's gotten into you?" her mom asked sternly. "Nothing, Mom. Just don't worry about it."

Her mom looked at Stephanie worriedly. "If I didn't know any better I'd say you were jealous of all the attention Courtney is getting." "What? You think I'd be jealous of that little crying baby?"

Her mom was getting mad. "Now stop that name-calling right now, Stephanie! You have got to grow up!"

At that moment, Stephanie started to cry like a little baby. "I'm sorry, mom! I was jealous! I didn't think Courtney was going to get all your attention for breaking your favorite glass ware! I got a A on my math test today and nobody paid attention to me!"

Stephanie's mom said. "Stephanie. You know I love both of you. I want to give both of you attention, but you girls can't keep fighting like this. Just because I was holding Courtney doesn't mean I love you less, Stephanie!"

Just as Mom finished talking, Dad walked in. "What's going on down here? Why's everyone crying?" Mom, Stephanie, and Courtney all started to laugh.

Courtney turned to Stephanie, "I'm sorry I yelled at you Stephanie." "Don't worry about it. I'm sorry I got so jealous. I guess I was the one who was acting like a baby."

Mom looked happy as she wiped the tears from her daughters' faces as well as her own. "Well, I hope you girls have learned something. Nobody has to be jealous of anyone. I love both of you, and I love you more than a few broken cups. Now go and eat your noodles."

### Questions:

1. Who was jealous of another person in the story? Courtney, Stephanie, or both?
2. What happened when there was jealousy between the sisters in the family? Do you think there was a better way to handle the problem?

### Activity 1:

### Write Your Own Diary

Pretend you are King Saul and you want to kill David. Write down what you would say because of your jealousy towards David's success.

Pretend you are David and you know God's plan is for you to be king someday, yet you listen to God's will and serve King Saul as a commander. Write down how you feel.

### Activity 2:

#### Group Activity

Pair up the students. Have each partner name all the admirable talents in the other, and vice-versa. Have them shift partners and repeat the activity until all students have been paired up with everyone in the class. To conclude, discuss things they have learned to improve their self-esteem.

#### Group Discussion:

God has created us all different. Since we don't have the same talents and abilities, God won't ask us to serve Him in the same ways. He wants us to use and cultivate the talents He has given us to carry out the wonderful plans He has for us! Now you will be given the chance to take a closer look at some other talents God has given you and to plan how you can serve God by using those talents. Help your students think beyond the talent list that they have thought about earlier. They should understand that even ordinary talents are valuable gifts from God. Informal discussion will help students get ideas from each other. If one child plans to use his drawing skills to help a friend draw, another child might teach a friend how to ride a bike.

For instance, the ability to play a musical instrument" could be used to lead a family devotion, to accompany a Saturday worship, and to entertain a younger brother or sister while parents are busy with someone else.

Caution students about making unrealistic plans. If they commit themselves to fulfill unrealistic promises, they will learn negative habits instead of positive habits.