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Arrows of Friendship

Key References: 1 Samuel 20; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 64, pp. 649-659; chap. 65, p. 660; chap. 68, p. 696; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 20-23; Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 7, 3.















powertext

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever." ' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

powerpoint

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

Do you have a unique way of communicating with your best friend? Two friends in the Bible did just that a long time ago. Imagine one of them, who later became King David, telling the story to his son Solomon.

"Father," 12-year-old Solomon called, "today I had a disagreement with one of my friends."

"I'm sorry to hear that," King David said. "Let me tell you a story."

Solomon always enjoyed his father's stories. He slouched into a comfortable position, ready to listen.

"I had a friend once who was closer to me than any of my seven brothers," David said.

"Oh! You mean Jonathan," Solomon interrupted.

"That's right. I met Jonathan after the battle with Goliath," David answered. "From the very beginning we were good friends.

"I had never lived in a palace," David continued. "There were many things I had to learn. Jonathan helped me with new things that were now a part of my life. But being a friend isn't one-sided, you know."

"What do you mean?" asked Solomon.

"I didn't just want to take from Jonathan," said David. "I wanted to give something to him in return."

"What could you give the son of the king?" laughed Solomon. "You were just a shepherd."

"Well, you're right," agreed David. "But I could still give him the best gift of all—true friendship. We did so many things together. Things were great between Jonathan and me. But his father, King Saul, didn't like me very much. Oh, at first he did. But later he began to feel threatened by me. Saul wasn't allowing God to work in his life. Because of that, he began to distrust many of the people close to him. I was one of those people."

"That must have made it difficult for you to be friends with Jonathan," Solomon said.

"In some ways it did. But real friends don't give up when things get difficult," said David. "We eventually had to be careful. After Saul sent out some of his men to kill me, I knew that Jonathan and I couldn't

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Sunday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:1-4 and this week's story, "Arrows of Friendship."

MAKE Write the power text on a piece of paper that you've designed to look like a legal document. Be sure to include the reference. Memorize it.

PRAY Thank Jesus for being the truest friend to you.

Monday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:5-9.

DESCRIBE In your Bible study journal, describe the problem in your own words. If you were Jonathan, how would you have solved it?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Tell God about your problems. Be sure to say, "God, I turn these over to You. Help me not to worry about them, but to solve them with You."

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:10-23.

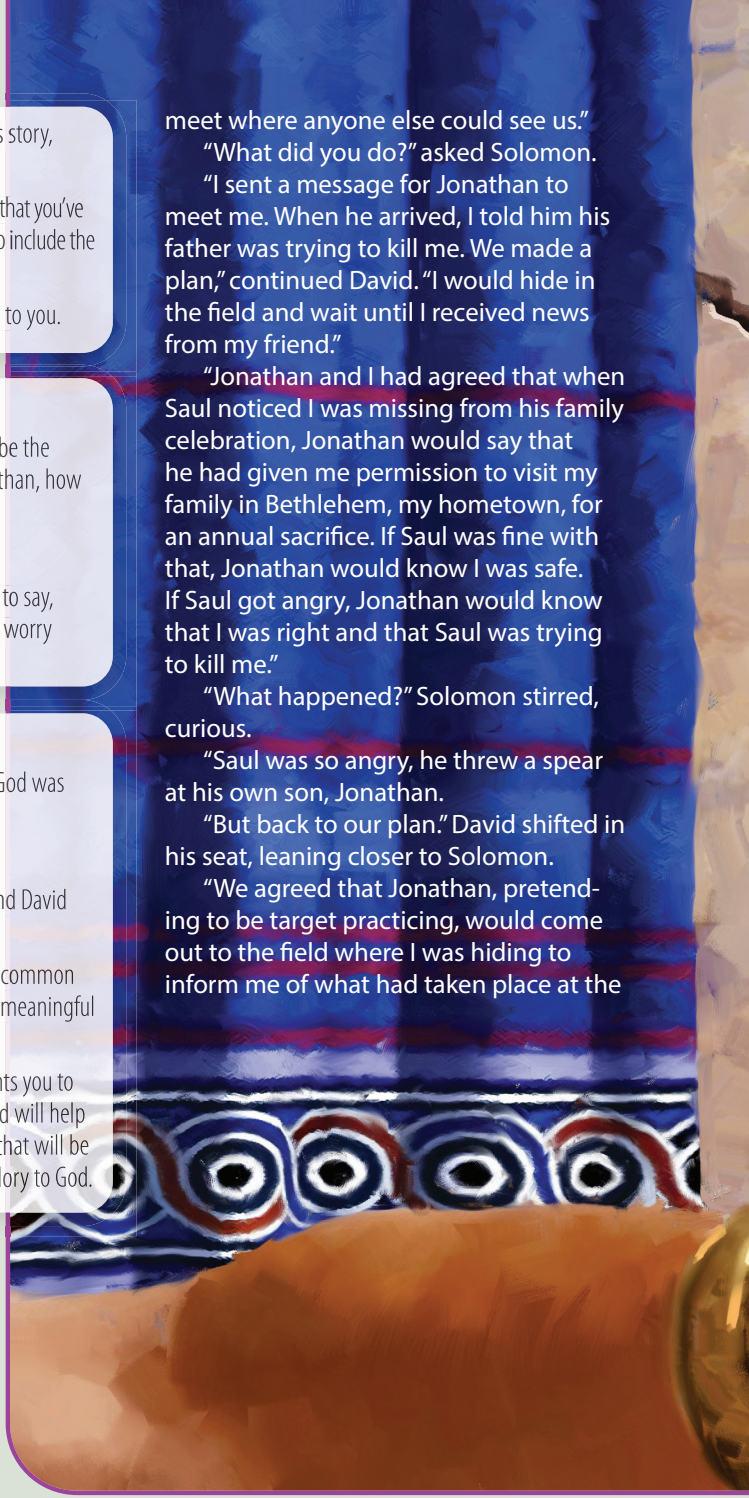
NOTICE Notice the words that indicate that God was involved in this plan.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK What common goals did Jonathan and David have?

LIST With one of your friends, make a list of common goals the two of you have toward something meaningful and constructive.

PRAY Ask God to show you whether He wants you to accomplish your common goals. Pray that God will help the two of you to work together on a project that will be meaningful for you or others and will bring glory to God.



meet where anyone else could see us."

"What did you do?" asked Solomon.

"I sent a message for Jonathan to meet me. When he arrived, I told him his father was trying to kill me. We made a plan," continued David. "I would hide in the field and wait until I received news from my friend."

"Jonathan and I had agreed that when Saul noticed I was missing from his family celebration, Jonathan would say that he had given me permission to visit my family in Bethlehem, my hometown, for an annual sacrifice. If Saul was fine with that, Jonathan would know I was safe. If Saul got angry, Jonathan would know that I was right and that Saul was trying to kill me."

"What happened?" Solomon stirred, curious.

"Saul was so angry, he threw a spear at his own son, Jonathan.

"But back to our plan." David shifted in his seat, leaning closer to Solomon.

"We agreed that Jonathan, pretending to be target practicing, would come out to the field where I was hiding to inform me of what had taken place at the



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Wednesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:24-34.

THINK How could Jonathan have reacted to see his father behave that way?

TALK Talk with a Christian adult you trust about actions or behaviors you have seen that you feel are not right. Do your best to always model the best behavior to others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be strong enough to do the right thing in every situation.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:35-40.

REVIEW Review the power text.

WRITE List the names of your best friends in your Bible study journal. Then write a few sentences describing the reasons they are your best friends.

PRAY Thank God for your Christian friends.

Friday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:41, 42.

WRITE Write a letter to someone thanking them for being a supportive Christian friend to you.

REPEAT Say aloud your power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you to be an honest and thoughtful friend to others, as He is to you.

palace. When he realized how angry his father was, Jonathan came to meet me. After he shot an arrow, he said the secret code we had worked out. Jonathan sent the boy who was with him to pick up the arrow, saying, 'Isn't the arrow beyond you?' Then he shouted to the boy, 'Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!' (see 1 Samuel 20:37, 38). This meant that it was not safe for me to return to the palace, because Saul was devising evil against me. Jonathan sent the boy home so we could talk."

"What did Jonathan say?" Solomon wanted to know.

"Jonathan told me that he knew that I was going to be the next king of Israel. He wanted me to promise that if any-



thing happened to him, I would take care of his family.

"We didn't know when we might see each other again. But we knew that we had promised always to be friends no matter what happened."

"Both of you kept your promise to be each other's friend even if it was difficult to do," Solomon said, deep in thought.

"That's right," David nodded. "When you find a friend who loves and serves God, you work hard to make your relationship last. You treat each other with respect, and you're honest with each other. When the bad times come, you work through them. You don't desert your friend."

"I guess I should work a little harder on my friendship," Solomon admitted.



PUZZLE
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IN IT TOGETHER

Instructions: To find the two-word answer, which is a statement about this lesson, place the correct four-letter word in the blank spaces of the eight-letter words. Each one of the eight-letter words (or a form of it) is found in 1 Samuel 20 (NIV), and the verses are listed for you. The first word has been placed to give you a start. When you have placed each of these four-letter words, place the letter found in the shaded box in the shaded column on the right. These 12 letters give you the answer.

											Word Bank
1.	Y	O	U	R	S	E	L	F	v. 8		
											BELL
2.	C					A	N	T	v. 8		
											THIN
3.					S	E	L	F	v. 8		
											OVEN
4.	W					V	E	R	v. 4		
											TEND
5.	R	E					E	D	v. 30		
											HATE
											WERE
6.	R	E	A	F					v. 17		
											SELF
7.	S					E	L	Y	v. 13		
											POSE
8.	A	N	Y					G	v. 2		
											YOUR
9.	A	N	S					D	v. 28		
											FIRM
10.	R	E					E	D	v. 38		
											TURN
11.	I	N					E	D	v. 33		
											EVER
12.	S	U	P					D	v. 5		