

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 25:1-39

Memory Verse:

*Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work. Proverbs 24:29*

*(Don't say, "I will do to him like he did to me. I'll make sure to pay him back for what he did.")*

David was Israel's greatest king. Although he was a man after God's own heart and had many outstanding character traits, there were times he struggled with quick-tempered behaviors. The story of Abigail and Nabal reveal one such occasion.

Before David officially became king, he and his 600 men lived in the desert of Carmel. They lived alongside shepherds who worked for a man called Nabal, a rich man who owned 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats. David's men protected these shepherds from roving thieves and wild animals. They did not steal from them and were "like a wall to them both day and night" (1 Samuel 25:16).

When the time came for Nabal's many sheep to be sheared, a time of celebration, David sent ten young men to Nabal. "Go to Nabal and greet him in peace. Remind him of how we have neither hurt nor stolen from his men. Ask him if he has food to spare for us."

### Key Thought

Behaving humbly in explosive situations leads to **WINNING** outcomes.

### Lesson Discussion

- Review today's lesson and summarize it with your class.
- Compare and contrast the character traits of Nabal and his wife, Abigail.
- How did Abigail demonstrate humility and how did she act wisely?
- For what reason was David thankful to have met Abigail on the road?
- Is it easy to take unfair blame while biting your tongue? What is the "good" payback when we do control our angry/impulsive behaviors?

David's request seemed reasonable and fair! However, Nabal was foolish, harsh, and wicked in his dealings. When he received David's message, he rudely hurled insults at the young men about their leader and sent them away empty-handed.

When David learned of Nabal's response, he was angry and felt Nabal deserved the most severe punishment. Without giving the matter thoughtful consideration or asking God what to do, he rashly instructed his men to sheath their swords, and they set off to kill every person of Nabal's household. David, however, was to be surprised. He did not anticipate encountering Abigail, Nabal's wife.

In contrast to her foolish husband, Abigail was a beautiful and intelligent woman. When she learned what her husband had done, she did not fearfully cower in a corner--she took immediate action. Without telling her husband, she gathered 200 loaves of bread, some wine, five sheep, grain, raisins, and figs and placed them on a donkey for David and his men. With all haste, Abigail then rode to meet David with the purpose of trying to spare her household from disaster!

When Abigail got to a mountain ravine, David and his men came toward her. She quickly dismounted from her donkey and bowed herself to the ground at David's feet and spoke these remarkable words:

**"Let me take the blame for the wrong my husband has committed."**

Abigail implored David to accept her gift of food, asked his forgiveness for the wrong done to him, and begged him not to do something he would regret. She then acknowledged David's future kingship. David's hot anger cooled at Abigail's words. He said, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which has sent you to me this day."

**He thanked Abigail for stopping him from shedding innocent blood because of his own impulsive desire to take revenge.**

Ten days later, the Lord exacted His own punishment; He smote Nabal, and he died. David then sent messengers to Abigail and asked her to become his wife.

Abigail's determined actions of humility and "taking the blame" speak loudly of how we should handle our own difficulties. Anger and a "pay-back" attitude never resolve a volatile situation. Biting our tongues and controlling our actions is hard to do, but God watches and knows exactly how to fairly take care of our troubles. ■

## STOP, RELEASE, AND FORGIVE

Think about your life and how you can practice giving your anger to God. Write your answers and thoughts in the space provided.

### STOP

A stop sign is placed on streets so that cars will stop and look both ways and then determine if it is safe to keep going. In the same way, there are times when you must STOP when you become angry. Think of a situation where you need to stop because it makes you angry:

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### RELEASE IT TO GOD

Write down HOW you should release your anger to God rather than releasing it on everyone else and letting it control you.

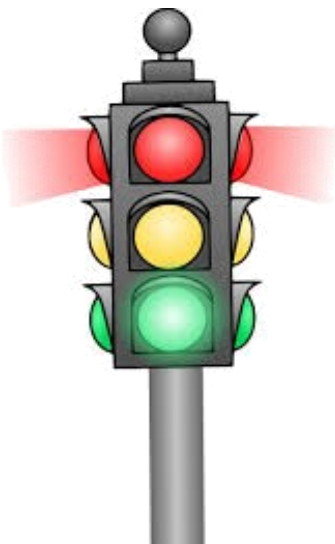
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### FORGIVE

Forgiving someone for treating you wrongly may seem unfair, but think of all the times Jesus has forgiven you. Can you think of a time Jesus forgave you? How did you feel? Write down what it means to forgive.



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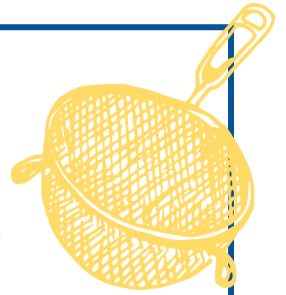
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## ANGER DOESN'T WORK!

**Materials:** A pitcher of water, a strainer, an empty bucket, and a tray or towel



Place the empty bucket a short distance away from the pitcher.

Explain that you are going to try and move the water from the pitcher to the empty bucket with a strainer. Ask them if they think it will work. Why not? *(Let them answer.)* The students may say because the strainer has holes in it. However, explain that you are going to try. Pour some of the water into the strainer and, as quickly as possible, try to move from the pitcher to pour the water from the strainer into the bucket. *(Have a towel or tray between the bucket and pitcher to catch the overflow of water.)* Ask them if they think it will work if you move faster and try again.

Explain that in the same way a strainer is not a suitable container with which to carry water, trying to resolve unfair or difficult situations with anger does not work either. Proverbs 15:1 tells us that a soft answer works better than angry words. Rather than "teaching someone a lesson," or "giving someone a dose of their own medicine," **God wants us to trust him to take care of the 'unfair' things in our lives.** We might feel like if we allow people to run over us, we aren't "very smart," but always remember that

***Anger Doesn't Work.***

# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ October 13, 2019

*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David's Heart of Compassion

### Joab Kills Abner

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 3—4

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

***But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Psalm 86:15***

When we studied 1 Samuel, we learned about Israel's first king, Saul, and the young man who God appointed to succeed him. That young man was named David, and the Bible says that he was a man after God's own heart. We are going to spend a few weeks learning more about Israel's second and greatest king, and why God loved him so very much.

After Saul died, his son, Ishbosheth, became king over Israel. Samuel had already anointed David as king. So it came to be that the tribe of Judah followed David, and the other 11 tribes, or Israel, followed Ishbosheth. There was much fighting and contention between the two groups of people, and during a particular battle at Gibeon, Judah lost twenty men to the war while Israel lost 360. God was with David and Judah!

### Key Thought

David had a soft heart of compassion, even though he was a man of war.

### Lesson Discussion

- Review today's lesson and summarize it with your class.
- Why were Israel and Judah separate? Who were their kings and was there peace between their tribes?
- Who were the two army captains, and why did one kill the other?
- What was David's reaction to the death of Israel's army captain? What did he do to show his grief?

The fighting continued, and David and his army grew strong in body and spirit, for God was with them. David set a man named Joab as the captain over his army, and Ishbosheth set a man named Abner as the captain over the army of Israel. Ishbosheth was a weak man, but Abner was a strong man of battle and eventually realized that he would have to make peace with King David, or he and his army would die.

Wisely, he came to David and they formed a peace treaty. David was pleased that the fighting would stop, but Joab, the captain of his army, was not so happy. Joab remembered the battle at Gibeon where Abner had killed his brother. In revenge for his brother, Joab killed Abner. How grieved and sad David was that the man who led his army would do such a terrible thing, and he mourned for Abner with loud weeping, sackcloth, and ashes. He was so grieved, in fact, that he refused to eat the entire day of Abner's burial. The people tried to persuade him, but he said, "If I taste a morsel of bread before the sun goes down, God can do to me as was done to Abner."

**What a strong reaction to the death of a man who had killed men of David's own army!**

Does it seem natural for David, a man used to war and death, to be so deeply moved by the death of an enemy? Maybe not, but as we look more closely at David's life, we will find that he was a man of deep compassion. It's true, God used him to defeat many of Israel's enemies, and David was a strong man of war, but his heart was always moved when someone was treated unjustly or died an unfair death.

In fact, not long after Abner's death, some men from Ishbosheth's own army snuck into his house while he slept on his bed, killed him, and brought his head to King David. David was so angry that they had killed Ishbosheth in such a sneaky, undignified way that he killed all of the men involved in the murder of Israel's king.

**Despite the fact that David lived a violent life, God was pleased with the soft compassion that dwelled in David's heart. ■**

# COMPASSION CROSSWORD

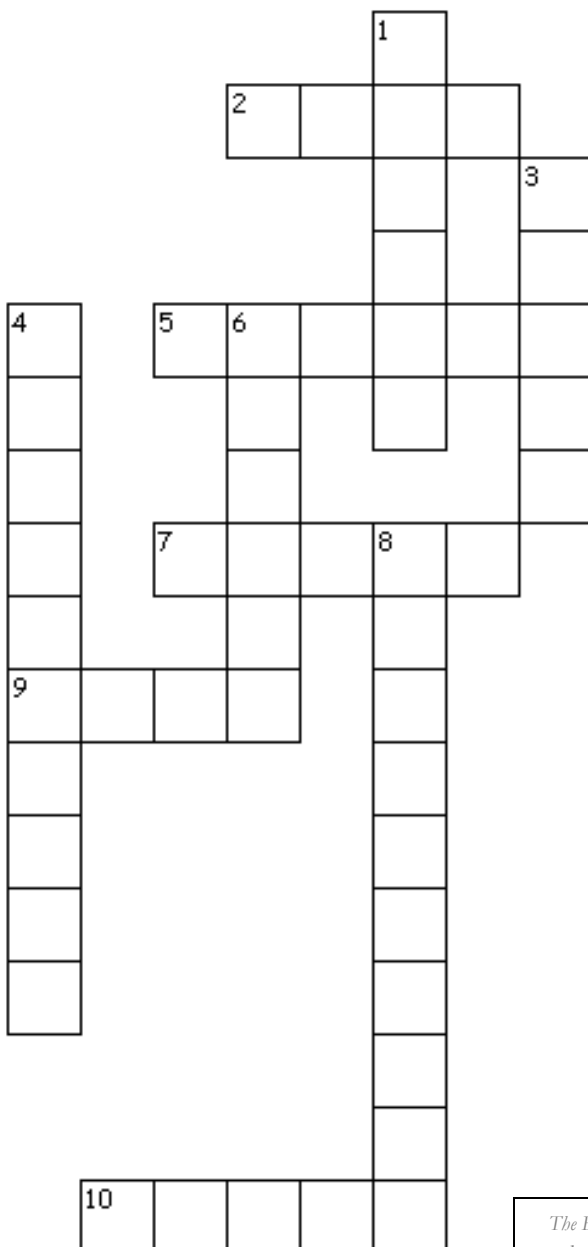
Answers: Abner, Ishbosheth, Saul, Samuel,  
Joab, David, Gibeon, Judah, Israel,  
Compassion

## Across

2. The captain of the army of Judah.
5. A battle between Israel and Judah.
7. A man after God's own heart
9. The first king of Israel
10. The tribe of Jacob that followed David.

## Down

1. The prophet who anointed the first two kings.
3. Captain of Israel's army.
4. The character trait David portrayed in today's story.
6. Eleven tribes of Jacob, excluding Judah, that followed Ishbosheth.
8. Israel's king and Saul's son.



**HELP! I'M  
NUMB!**

**Materials:** Ice,  
mini  
marshmallows or  
other small sweet treat (m&m's,  
skittles, small cookie, etc.)

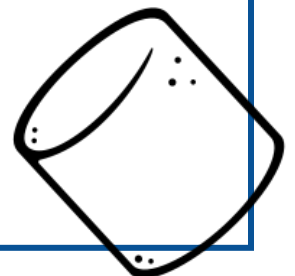
## Directions:

- Have each child eat a mini marshmallow and say how it tastes. (*Sweet, yummy!*)
- Next, have each child hold an ice cube in their mouth until they can hardly stand the cold.
- As soon as they've spit the ice out (or swallowed it), have them eat another mini marshmallow.

Sometimes, we get so busy and focused on our own problems that we don't notice the needs of others! How can we show compassion if we don't even know what another person needs?!

When you first ate the marshmallow, your tongue was able to taste it's sweetness, and you were able to say how yummy it was! However, once you held an ice cube in your mouth, your tongue went numb and you couldn't taste the second marshmallow. If you'd never eaten a marshmallow before, would you have been able to tell me what it tasted like? No, because you couldn't taste it at all!

David had a heart that was compassionate toward those around him. Even though he was a busy and powerful king, he still knew what others were feeling and what they needed. Let's pray and ask God to keep us from "going numb." He wants us to recognize what others are feeling or what they need, that way we can be compassionate toward them and help out when we can!





# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ October 20, 2019

*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David Trusts and Obeys

### The Battles at Baal-perazim

**Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 5**

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*Some trust in chariots, and  
some in horses; but we will  
remember the name of the  
LORD our God. Psalm 20:7*



Now that Israel's king, Ishbosheth, was dead, David was crowned king over all twelve tribes. Israel was whole again! David had already been ruling over Judah in Hebron for seven and a half years, and he ruled another 33 years over all of Israel! When he was anointed king over Judah, he was only thirty years old.

Since all of Israel was now under his rule, David reclaimed Jerusalem from the Jebusites who had, most likely, taken it over during Ishbosheth's rule. There, David built his home, married more wives, and had more children.

Nearby, in the valley called Rephaim, the Philistines spread themselves out and prepared to make war with David.

### Key Thought

David did not trust in his own experience or knowledge. He trusted God to guide him and obeyed His directions.

### Lesson Discussion

- How many years did David rule over Judah in Hebron, and how many years did he rule over all Israel in Jerusalem?
- Who camped against the Israelites in the valley of Rephaim?
- What did David do when he found out his enemies were ready to fight him?
- Why is it important to ask God for a plan instead of thinking of one in our own minds?

**When he heard what they were doing, David prayed and asked God what he should do.**

God told him, "Go up to Rephaim, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand." So David went to the valley and defeated the Philistines. David's victory was so great that the Philistines left all their idols in the valley and ran! David and his men gathered the false gods and burned them. He said,

**"I will call this place Baal-perazim, which means, 'The Lord has broken my enemies before me like a breach of waters.'"**

The Philistines did not believe they were totally defeated, however. Soon after, they returned to the valley and spread out like before. Once again, David turned to God and asked for a plan. God said, "Go up from behind them by the grove of mulberry trees. When you hear the sound in the tops of the trees, then you can attack them from behind." David trusted God completely and obeyed His directions. When his army heard the sound in the trees (most likely a wind sent by God), they attacked their enemy once again. The Philistines ran, but David chased them all the way to Gazer, a town about 18 miles away, and killed many enemy soldiers as they ran.

David was a man of war. He knew what to do to defeat his enemies, for he had fought and won many battles. But this story shows us why he was so successful.

**When David came up against a problem, he turned to God for a plan. And then... he obeyed!**

David trusted God above everything else, even his own military experience. He could have easily thought out a "good" battle plan and gone against the Philistines on his own. He might even have been successful! But he trusted God to show him the best way, and he was willing to obey. Because of his trust, he gained a great victory over his enemies, and he gave God the glory for it.

There will be times in your life when a problem appears—not knowing what to do or trouble with a friend. You could think about it in your own mind and come up with a reasonable answer. Or you can be like David: turn to God and ask what His plan is for your problem. When He gives you an answer (He always does!), be willing to obey Him, no matter what He asks you to do. He will give you victory! ■



## TRUST AND OBEY

Have you ever sang this song in Sunday school or church? Read the first verse and chorus below and fill in the missing letters as you go.

When we walk wi      h the Lord  
In the light of His Wo      d,  
What a glory He sheds on o      r way;  
While we do Hi      good will,  
He abides with us s      ill,  
And with all who will trust and      bey.  
&  
Trust and o      ey,  
For there's no oth      r way  
To be happ      in Jesus  
But to trust and obey.

## PENNIES OF TRUST

**Materials:** A penny for each child

This is a penny. It's the smallest piece of United States currency, and it is worth just one cent! Did you know that it goes right along with our lesson today? Read the words written on the front of the penny:

"In God We Trust"

And do you know whose picture is below those words? That's right!

Our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. He said the following:

"Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."



In other words, President Lincoln was less worried about God helping him with all of his problems than he was with helping God with God's problems. God is always right--His side is always the one that wins. That sounds like David, doesn't it? David wasn't so worried about whether God would help him with his battle plan, but he wanted to obey God's battle plan against the Philistines.

A penny doesn't seem like it's worth very much, but every time you see one, it can remind you of these two great men: David and Abraham Lincoln. What did they have in common? They trusted in God, and that is worth more pennies than you could collect in your entire life!

# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ October 27, 2019

*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David Shows Kindness

### Mephibosheth Eats at the King's Table



**Scripture Reading:** 2 Samuel 4:4;  
2 Samuel 9:1–13

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*For his merciful kindness is great toward us;  
and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever.  
Praise ye the LORD. Psalm 117:2*

Not all rocks are just rocks. Some are fossils—rocks with impressions of ancient animals or plants left in them. Plants, animals bones, and footprints can all become fossils. Did you know we leave behind impressions, as well? No, they are not fossils made of rock—but, in the same way scientists learn about dinosaurs from the fossils they discover,

**we leave impressions of who Jesus is on the hearts of people by the words we speak and the actions we live out.**

King David stamped a deep impression of kindness on the heart of a lame prince in the story we read in 2 Samuel 9. Who was this prince? None other than the son of David's old friend, Jonathan, grandson of King Saul. His name was Mephibosheth.

### Lesson Discussion

- What is the definition of kindness?
- In what two instances did David show kindness? What could have been his mindset toward King Saul's grandson?
- Have you ever shown kindness that was not returned? Maybe you tried to speak kindly to someone who didn't answer back or just flat-out ignored you. What should you do, and how should you feel?

### Key Thought

**Kind actions leave lasting impressions.**

- Why is kindness so important?
- Can you think of a time someone showed you kindness? What difference did it make?
- Talk about specific ways you can show kindness.

After David became king, he must have been thinking longingly of his friend, Jonathan. Perhaps he was lying on his bed remembering the good times they spent together. As he thought, he remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan to show kindness to Jonathan's children. He decided to take action.

David asked Ziba, a servant in Saul's household, "Are any of Jonathan's children still living?" Ziba told him about Mephibosheth [muh-fib-uh-sheth]. Perhaps Ziba remembered the terrible day Saul and Jonathan had been killed many years prior. Because Jonathan's nurse feared for her safety, she picked up the little five-year-old boy and ran from the house. In her haste, she stumbled, and this young boy fell to the ground. Both his feet were injured so badly that he was never able to run again.

David immediately sent for the now-grown Mephibosheth. When Mephibosheth was brought before the king, he must have been afraid. After all, he had heard stories of the many times his grandfather had tried to kill King David. However, he need not have feared.

**David said, "I want to give you back all the land that once belonged to your grandfather."**

How surprised Mephibosheth was. He had not expected this great kindness. David warmly welcomed Mephibosheth to eat every day at his table—the KING'S TABLE—as one of his own sons.

In another instance, David wanted to show kindness to Hanun, the son of different king who died. In this case, David's intended kindness was not returned and his actions were misinterpreted. In fact, a war actually started! If you want to read this story, it is found in 2 Samuel 10:1-8.

**Our greatest example of kindness was set by Jesus.**

How many times have we acted less than perfectly? How many times have we felt sad and then felt the kindness of God warm our hearts—maybe through a song, a promise in the Bible, or through one of His other children? God's kindness toward us is GREAT.

Practice showing the same kindness to your family members, your schoolmates, to someone who looks lonely or sad, and even to people you don't like. You might find they are dealing with the same things you are. In a world where there are plenty of hard things, a little kindness goes a long way. ■

# HIDDEN MESSAGE WORD SEARCH

Find all the following words in the word search to reveal the hidden message!

Action, David, Family, Feet, Fossils, Grown, Heart, Impressions, Jonathon, Kindness, King, Mephibosheth, Prince, Schoolmates, Show, Ziba

X	L	Q	V	H	M	O	T	K	M	A	S	D	F	W	Y	P	H	J	O
Y	E	N	E	P	R	E	S	C	R	N	E	B	X	T	D	A	H	P	I
M	O	O	O	A	D	I	P	A	C	J	C	D	C	O	N	K	L	S	Z
S	X	H	B	W	A	W	M	H	M	Y	L	A	Z	E	A	F	H	E	F
L	A	T	S	R	M	E	I	P	I	I	K	Q	B	F	C	O	Z	T	A
I	Y	A	H	T	V	C	L	Q	R	B	M	T	R	E	T	L	I	A	M
S	P	N	O	C	I	N	G	P	S	E	O	H	E	E	I	R	B	M	I
S	H	O	W	H	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	A	T	O	V	A	L	L
O	E	J	D	Z	I	R	I	A	W	A	H	S	H	S	N	J	C	O	Y
F	A	L	A	H	N	P	K	V	O	T	B	O	I	E	R	I	I	O	B
D	R	Q	Z	I	D	B	H	I	R	W	T	V	L	O	T	Z	P	H	U
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A	S	K	R	C	E	M	Q	H	S	Y	S	N	H	Y	U	S	M	S	W
T	G	P	W	B	S	U	P	N	L	G	N	A	C	N	P	D	C	W	V
E	N	S	A	Q	S	V	E	A	H	I	R	V	H	K	S	A	M	P	I

## KINDNESS CUPS



Have the students write out and decorate the word “kindness” on a strip of paper and then tape these strips of paper to paper cups. Fill the cups with ice-cold water and then randomly pass the cups back to the students, making sure each student does not get his or her own decorated “Kindness Cup.”

How many of you think you are a kind person? Some people think they are kind, but they are only kind to their friends and the people who can help them. The Bible teaches us that Christians are kind people. Jesus was our example; He did not care if you lived next door or in another country. He did not care what color your skin was or who your parents were. An example Jesus used of kindness had to do with cold water. In the hot desert country in which He lived, cold water was hard to get. The people did not have faucets with running water, and the sun made the water hot. People did not just give water away or waste it. When we give someone a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name, He remembers. You may have something more than a cup of cold water to share with someone, and you should share what you have. Love and Kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. Mark 9:41



# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ November 3, 2019

*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David the King, Nathan the Prophet, and Bathsheba the Wife of Uriah David Takes Something that is not His



*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous [proud] sins; let them not have dominion [power] over me. Psalm 19:13*

*(Note: We have tried to make this difficult lesson age-appropriate, but also feel it is important for the children, especially in our world today, to understand the importance of the consequences of sin. Also, begin Part 1 of the Object Lesson before reading the lesson)*

King David loved God, was compassionate and forgiving, and was a great warrior; however, he committed a terrible sin that affected the rest of his life. David's men were out of town fighting a battle in the springtime, but David stayed home in Jerusalem. One day, he walked onto the roof of his palace, and saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing on the roof of another building. Even though she was a married woman and David knew it was wrong, he wanted her to come to his palace, so he sent for her.

Later, Bathsheba found she was expecting a child. David did not want her husband, Uriah, to find out what had happened, so he made sure Uriah was placed in the front line of a hot battle. When Uriah was dead,

David sent for Bathsheba and made her his wife.

Months passed. Perhaps David thought his secret sins were safe, and he had not been caught.

One day, however, God sent the prophet Nathan to King David with the following story:

**There were two men in a city. One man was rich, and the other man was poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds, but the poor man did not have anything except one small lamb. The poor man's lamb was very loved and even slept in his arms. One day, a traveler came to the rich man's house. Instead of preparing one of his own many sheep to feed his guest, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it instead.**

David was very angry when he heard this story. He told Nathan, "As the Lord liveth, the man who has done this thing will die!" Nathan responded, "You are the man."

How surprised David must have been at those words, but he very quickly understood his sins were no longer secret.

Nathan reminded David of God's many blessings in his life and then questioned him, "Why did you treat them as worthless? You have so much, yet you took Bathsheba for your wife and had her husband killed. You knew God would not be pleased with your actions."

Nathan continued, "Because you have sinned, the sword will never leave your house, and your firstborn son will die. You have sinned in secret, but all will see the consequences for your sins."

What was David's response to Nathan's difficult words? He *could* have become angry and had Nathan killed. He *could* have continued to cover up his sins and acted like everything was okay—after all, he was the king. But he did not. He guiltily and sorrowfully confessed, "I have sinned against the Lord." (Challenge: Read Psalms 51, David's heartfelt prayer to God after his sins were discovered.)

Nathan did not leave David hopeless. He told David, "The Lord has put away your sin, and you will not die." Oh how God valued David's broken heart and humble spirit. Although God did forgive David, Uriah was still dead, and David and Bathsheba's son was also dead. His sin caused pain to many people. Many years later, however, David and Bathsheba's second son, Solomon, was made king after David. ■

### Key Thought

**Covered sins are usually discovered, and the consequences are never good.**

### Lesson Discussion

- Where should David have been: fighting with his men or at home in Jerusalem?
- Did David's sin bring joy or pain to others?
- Will covering up our sins make things better or worse?
- How did Nathan help David see his sin?
- What was David's response to God when his sins were uncovered? Were there still consequences?

## UNDER THE TABLECOTH—PART 1

Do Part 1 before reading the lesson.

Pass out two or three pieces of paper to the students (depending on the size of the class). Have them write a sin on the paper. (Telling small lies, cheating (just a little), taking something that does not belong to them, speaking foul words, disobeying, etc.) Spread the pieces of paper out on the table and then cover the table (and pieces of paper) with a tablecloth. Give the lesson, letting the students think about the covered sins underneath the tablecloth.



## OVER THE WATERFALL

Materials: Masking Tape and a picture of a river leading up to a waterfall.



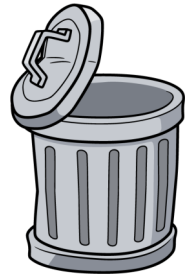
Ask the children to describe what they see in the picture (a seemingly calm stream or river which then falls over a large cliff—a waterfall.) Tell them you are going to play a game, “Over the Waterfall.” Place a long piece of masking tape on the floor which represents the waterfall. Have them close their eyes and see how close they can walk to the “waterfall” without “going over.” Tell them the farthest one from the edge wins! Explain that it is bad to wade into wrong

behavior; not just because you might slip over the waterfall into some really *big* sin, but *any* contact with sin is bad. God wants us to stay far away from any sin and keep our toes dry.

## UNDER THE TABLECOTH—PART 2

Do Part 2 after reading the lesson.

After the lesson and playing “Over the Waterfall” (above), take the tablecloth off the table. Remind the children their covered sins “are still there.” Talk about how parents do not always see what they do, but God always sees. Their parents or others may or may not catch them, but God always sees and does not forget their sins. Encourage them, however, that God is always willing to forgive them and “forget” their sins if they pray a prayer of repentance and confession. Have the children then rip up the papers on which their sins are



Use this section of paper to complete “Under the Tablecloth—Part 1.”

# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ November 10, 2019



King David—A Man After God's Heart

## David in Trouble Absalom Overtakes Jerusalem

Memory Verse: (*A Psalm of David*)

*But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the Lord and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me. Psalm 3:3-5*

Saturn is often called the “Jewel of the Solar System” because of its beautiful rings. This faraway planet is nothing like earth. The strongest winds on earth reach *only* 250 miles an hour, while the winds on Saturn can reach up to 1,118 miles an hour. *You could not stand up in that wind!*

**Trouble can sometimes feel like very strong winds! David was in trouble. A lot of trouble.**

Even though he was the king, Saturn-like winds blew hard against him. His son, Absalom, was trying to steal the throne from him.

Absalom was known throughout the land for his great handsomeness and beautiful head of heavy hair. But Absalom had a deceitful and wicked heart. He wanted to be king over Israel, so he schemed and planned. Early every morning, he stood by the gate of the palace. When people with problems passed,

Absalom called out to them and talked to them. He listened sympathetically to their problems and kissed their hands. He said, “If I were king, I could solve your problems.” Absalom looked exciting to the people with his many horses and chariots and the 50 men who ran before him.

A messenger came to David saying, “Absalom has many followers and is gaining more all the time.” David told his servants, “Arise. Let us leave the city quickly lest Absalom take over the city and kill everyone.” So, David and his servants packed their belongings and fled the palace.

As David and his servants left the city and headed for the wilderness, many people who were not loyal to Absalom wept when they saw their king fleeing.

Ittai (*It-tai*) was one of these people, and he took action. He and 600 of his men met David and wanted to follow him. Ittai was from Gath, the same country where Goliath had lived! David encouraged Ittai, “Go back to Jerusalem.” But Ittai declared, “It does not matter whether you live or die. I am going with you.” What a comfort this loyal friend must have been to David.

As David climbed Mt. Olivet with his head covered and his feet bare, he wept. He did not weep because he had to leave home. He wept because he remembered his sin and knew this was part of God’s punishment. How remorseful he was for the trouble he had brought to so many people.

David said, “If God looks on me with approval, He will allow me to return home as king. But if He says, ‘I do not delight in you,’ then let Him do to me what he thinks best.”

**When David reached the top of the mountain, he did something remarkable. He did not continue crying. He worshipped God!**

Some days seem to be a bag full of troubles. Maybe a friend has betrayed you, or someone has pressured you to do something wrong. Perhaps you are being bullied or are just simply ignored. Pray and trust God! Praise God! Think of ways He has helped you in the past. God can give bring peace and help you *lift up* your head and smile no matter how you *feel*.

**(Challenge: Read Psalms 3! It is the prayer David prayed when he fled from his son, Absalom. Notice how was able to sleep!) ■**

### Lesson Discussion

#### Key Thought

**Trust God when you are in trouble!**

- Did Absalom’s beauty make him a good man? Did it make people want to follow him?
- What did Absalom want and how did he try to get it?
- Talk about why loyal friends are so important. What was the name of the man who was loyal to David?
- Why did David weep as he climbed the mountain?
- Talk about words David both spoke and wrote that proved he trusted God.

## WORSHIP LIKE DAVID

Even in a difficult situation, David worshiped God. That means he expressed his thankfulness and love for God because of His faithfulness. What has God done for you? Did you remember to go back to Him and worship and praise Him? Use the space below to draw or write about what God has done for you!

### THE LIFT OF LOVE

**Materials:** A large pail or sturdy laundry basket

Choose a volunteer (*a smaller child for the sake of your back, as you will see*). Have the child stand/sit in the pail/basket. Ask the child to grab hold of the pail/basket with both hands and lift themselves up. Let them try—and try again.



It is impossible for the child to lift him or herself up. Why? Because they are in the pail! There is an old saying: “You can’t pull yourself up by your own bootstraps.” Someone else outside the pail will have to do the lifting—like this (*Lift the pail, being certain the child takes hold for stability*).

In the same way, God has made us in such a way that we must depend on His help and the help of others in time of trouble (and all the time). It is very difficult to “lift ourselves up” when we are smack dab in the middle of a hard time. Too often people walk around with heavy troubles, looking down at the ground. Many of them do not have anyone to talk to or have very little hope.

It doesn’t matter what the trouble is, none of us has the strength we need all the time. We need other people, and they need us.

Most importantly, we need to pray to God to lift us up and help us carry our troubles. He has promised He will!



# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ November 17, 2019

*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David's Forgiving Heart

### Ziba and Shimei Mistreat the King

**Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 16:1-14, 19:8-43**

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive;  
and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call  
upon thee. Psalm 86:5*

King David and his men were still camped in the wilderness while Absalom dwelled in Jerusalem. Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, came to meet him with a couple of donkeys, loaves of bread, raisins, fruits, and wine. David asked, "Why have you brought these?"

Ziba responded, "The donkeys are for the king and his men to ride, and the food is for the men who are faint."

Perhaps David wondered why the son of his dear friend had not come himself, so he asked, "And where is Mephibosheth?"

Ziba lied about Mephibosheth and made it sound like he was not loyal to King David.

The king was so upset, he said to Ziba, "All that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours."

**With deceit in his heart, Ziba bowed before David and**

#### Key Thought

God wants each of us to have a merciful and forgiving heart, just like David, when someone does something wrong against us.

#### Lesson Discussion

- Review the characters in the story. Who is Mephibosheth? Ziba? Shimei?
- What did Ziba do to make David think Mephibosheth was not loyal to him?
- Did David have a right to punish Shimei for his words/actions toward him?
- Why is it important for us to react like David—with forgiveness—when someone does something to hurt or mistreat us?

**said, "Let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord and king."**

What a terrible servant Ziba turned out to be!

A short time later, while David was traveling, a man came out of his house. His name was Shimei and he was a descendant of Saul. Shimei cursed David and all his servants and threw rocks at them. He said, "You are a worthless man! The Lord has given the kingdom to your son, Absalom, because evil is upon you!" Shimei did not stop cursing David until he and his men moved to the other side of the road and passed his house.

**These are two instances where men did something wrong to David. How do you think David reacted? Did he take revenge or did he forgive them?**

You will learn later about the battle between David and his son, Absalom. Our story today picks up after that battle! David was returning to Jerusalem after his long stay and battle in the wilderness. As he gathered his men at the river of Jordan, Shimei hurried down to meet with him. He brought with him 1,000 men! Shimei fell down before David and begged forgiveness. Even though some of his servants wanted to kill Shimei, David said, "You will not die today. I pardon you."

Before David crossed the Jordan, Mephibosheth came to meet him. He had not trimmed his beard, taken care of his feet, or washed his clothes since the day David had fled Jerusalem. Does this sound like a disloyal friend to you? David asked him, "Why did you not come to meet me in the wilderness?"

Mephibosheth answered, "My servant lied to you when he brought you gifts. But you are the king, and whatever you say is what will happen. Do to me what seems right to you." Mephibosheth was a humble and loyal friend to David after all! David's heart was moved again, and he forgave his friend and returned all of his land to him.

**Even though David could have taken revenge on these two men, his heart was softened with forgiveness.**

He extended mercy when he could have been unforgiving and hard-hearted. Have you ever had someone mistreat you like Shimei and Mephibosheth (so it seemed) did to David? It will happen in your life if it hasn't already! Remember to be like David and show mercy and forgiveness when you are mistreated or wronged. ■

# FORGIVENESS!

## Across

1. Jonathon's son.
4. Shimei did this while throwing stones at David.
6. The river David crossed.
8. The memory verse said the Lord is plenteous in \_\_\_\_.
9. The servant who lied to David.
11. David had this in his heart.
12. Mephibosheth did not trim this from the day David fled Jerusalem until he crossed the river.

## Down

2. Shimei brought one \_\_\_\_ men to meet David at the Jordan.
3. Ziba brought gifts on these animals.
5. The man who threw stones at David and his men.
7. David could have taken \_\_\_\_ on the two men in the story.
10. The name of David's son that overtook Jerusalem.

Absalom  
Beard  
Curse  
Donkeys  
Forgiveness  
Jordan

Mephibosheth  
Mercy  
Revenge  
Shimei  
Thousand  
Ziba

## GOD SOFTENS OUR HEARTS

Materials: vinegar and two eggs

**Preparation:** Two days before your class, put one egg in a glass and fill the glass with vinegar. Let the egg sit for 24 hours. It should be soft and yellowish. Rinse it off. Boil the second egg (to avoid the possibility of it breaking in class).

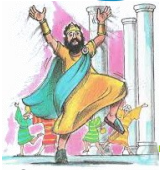
**In class:** Pass the boiled egg around and let the children feel the hard outer shell.

Pass the soft egg around and let the children feel it, or even bounce it gently on the table.

The first egg is like our hearts. All on their own, they are hard. Unforgiving and merciless to those around us. It's not in our nature to forgive other people when they do something that hurts us! The devil wants to keep us that way. But God has another plan! The second egg is like our hearts after God's love has surrounded it and softened it. This egg spent 24 hours surrounded by vinegar. It was totally covered in it! When we allow God to cover us with His love, He is able to soften us and give us a new heart. The Bible even says, "I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26) God's plan is that we are made soft by the love and forgiveness He shows us. Then when someone does something that hurts us or makes us angry, God will give us the ability to forgive and be merciful. Just like David!

# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ November 24, 2019



King David—A Man After God's Heart

## Thanksgiving David—A Man of Praise

Scriptures: 1 Chronicles 15:1-3; 15-16; 25

Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)

**Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145:2**

Have you ever heard someone say, "Praise the Lord!"? Praise is expressing warm approval for someone or something. When we praise the Lord we are telling God by our words and our actions how much we love and appreciate who He is and all He does for us!

David expressed praise and thanksgiving to the Lord many times in the psalms he wrote. Psalm 145 is titled "David's Psalm of Praise." In it,

**David said he would praise God EVERY day!**

He praised God for His greatness, for His goodness, for His compassion and for His mercy. He told how God does not get angry quickly and lifts up those that fall down. He praised God for always hearing the prayers of those who call on Him.

David not only *wrote* about praise, he *showed* His praise to God.

### Lesson Discussion

#### Key Thought

Give thanks to God and praise Him every day.

- Name two things from our lesson that show David was a man of praise.
- Should we celebrate

Thanksgiving only once a year? Why or why not?

- When we pray to God, should we start with our requests or with T\_\_\_\_\_ing?
- WHY should we praise God? Are we able to give ourselves "good gifts" or do the good gifts we receive come from God?

Do you remember the Ark of the Covenant? In David's time, the Ark was about 400 years old. It was a gold-covered box about four feet long, two feet wide and two feet high. It had been built in the days of Moses by God's command and contained the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the Ten Commandments written in stone by the finger of God.

It was a time of great thanksgiving for the nation of Israel because, for the first time in their history, God's Holy Ark was brought to stay in Jerusalem. To celebrate the entrance of the Ark into the city, King David appointed Levite singers with instruments of music to lift up their voice with joy. As the Ark was carried by the Levite priests into the city, David praised the Lord with all his might! We do not need instruments to praise today—God looks into our hearts and hears the praise of our words!

**David wrote these beautiful words: "Let us enter into His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with praise, be thankful unto Him and bless his name." (Psalms 100:4)**

(Challenge: Can you find two or three verses in the book of Psalms that mention thanksgiving and praise?)

Yes, we celebrate Thanksgiving on the third Thursday of November in America today. It was a holiday started in 1621 by the pilgrims when they had a successful harvest after struggling to survive in a new land. In the third year after arriving, the spring and summer were very hot, leaving their crops dying in the fields. William Bradford, the governor of the colony ordered a day of fasting and prayer. Soon thereafter rain came! God heard and answered their prayers. Truly the colonists were thankful! However, the idea of giving thanks goes back hundreds and hundreds of years earlier, even further back than David! Thanksgiving is still important to us today!

First Thessalonians tells us to rejoice evermore and also tells us to give THANKS in everything. Do you know what is "sandwiched" in between those two verses?

**Prayer! Praise without prayer is impossible.**

David learned to call on the Lord many times in his lifetime. The result of his prayers many times ended in praise! We may not say, "Praise the Lord," out loud as we walk through the house or at school, but we can smile and be cheerful and have a thankful heart, especially after praying about whatever is going on in our lives. God is worthy to be celebrated every day! ■

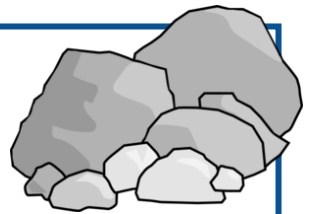


## GIVE THANKS!

Use the space below to list ten things you are thankful for, and remember to praise God for everything He does for you!

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. _____<br>_____<br>_____ | 6. _____<br>_____<br>_____  |
| 2. _____<br>_____<br>_____ | 7. _____<br>_____<br>_____  |
| 3. _____<br>_____<br>_____ | 8. _____<br>_____<br>_____  |
| 4. _____<br>_____<br>_____ | 9. _____<br>_____<br>_____  |
| 5. _____<br>_____<br>_____ | 10. _____<br>_____<br>_____ |

### LET THE FLOODS CLAP THEIR HANDS: LET THE HILLS BE JOYFUL TOGETHER. PSALM 98:8



Once, as Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, a crowd of people gathered around Him and began shouting praises for all the miracles they had seen Him do. The Pharisees didn't like this, but Jesus said, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

**Did you know Jesus can make even the rocks and stones sing His praises?**

A few miles outside Butte, Montana there is a pile of rocks—Ringing Rocks! When they are tapped with a hammer they ring out like a bell, each rock sending out a different sound. The way they are stacked, their size and shape cause them to produce a different sound. While scientists are not exactly sure what causes them to ring, we know the answer! David beautifully penned the words of Psalm 19 in which he told us how everything in nature declares the glory of God!

A similar field of "Ringing Rocks" lies in Pennsylvania. In 1890, Dr. Ott collected a number of stones from the site, arranged them according to their musical sounds and then "played them" by hitting them with a steel hammer. In 2016, three men also went to Ringing Rocks State Park and performed a song using nothing but hammers and the rocks in front of them.

To hear the song, have your parents or Sunday school teacher play this YouTube video for you:

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/74267/watch-band-create-music-ringing-boulders> (Start at 1:14)

If even the rocks sing the praise of God, how much more does He desire our Thanksgiving and praise!



# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ December 1, 2019

King David—A Man After God's Heart

## Giving Advice

### Ahithophel and Hushai Advise Absalom

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 17

Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)

*The mouth of righteousness speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgement. Psalm 37:30*



Absalom, King David's son, was still dwelling in Jerusalem and acting as though he were the king! He was a man who did not follow God, and he surrounded himself with wicked advisors.

**Ahithophel was Absalom's main advisor, and he acted like he got his wisdom from God when he actually gave advice that came from his own wicked heart.**

He told Absalom, "Let me choose 12,000 men and pursue David tonight. We will come upon him when he is tired and kill only him. Then all of his men can return to Jerusalem and be loyal subjects to you."

This sounded like good advice, but just to be sure, Absalom also asked

#### Key Thought

Being faithful to God in your own heart makes it easy for you to help your friends make godly choices.

#### Lesson Discussion

- Absalom surrounded himself with advisors, or "wise men." Were they godly or wicked?
- Who had David sent to live in the palace and report back to him?
- Did Absalom listen to Ahithophel's or Hushai's advice? How did it turn out for these two advisors?
- Why is it important to follow God in our own hearts?
- When someone asks us for help, what kind of advice will we give them if we haven't been focused on God in our own hearts and minds?

Hushai to say what he thought. If you remember, Hushai was a loyal follower of David that was reporting back to the king. He was basically in the palace spying on Absalom and sending reports back to David! When Absalom asked his advice, Hushai said, "Ahithophel has not given you good advice. Your father and his men are mighty, and very experienced at war. They are upset that you have taken over Jerusalem. I advise you to gather an army from all of Israel and go into battle yourself. If your father hides in a city, we will tear it down until not even a pebble is left there."

**God blessed the words of Hushai so that they sounded like the best advice to Absalom. He said, "The counsel of Hushai is better than the counsel of Ahithophel."**

Hushai hurried to pass the news to David. He sent two priests, Zadok and Abiathar, to deliver the message that Absalom was coming to make war. The priests hid in a well until they would not be seen by Absalom's men, then they went and told King David what was happening. David and his men crossed the Jordan that night to prepare for battle.

Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed and fell into a great depression. He had allowed the devil to overtake his mind, and now that his plan had failed, he could not live with himself any longer. He went to his house and set all of his affairs in order. Then he took his own life.

**Hushai, on the other hand, was faithful to the king that God had appointed, and because of that, he had a hand in saving David from being killed by his son.**

David had time to prepare for battle because Hushai told him what Absalom planned to do. No doubt, his faithful and brave actions made him very important in the eyes of David.

There might be a time in your life when a friend asks you for advice. Maybe they are trying to decide if they should sneak behind their parents back to do something wrong. Perhaps they are just wondering if it would be a good thing to join an after-school group or activity. Remember when you are giving advice to help your friends choose God's way! ■



A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. Luke 6:45

Use the space below to draw Ahithophel and Hushai. One is speaking out of the wickedness of his heart, and one out of the goodness. Whose advice did Absalom follow?

## WISE OR UNWISE?

Sort the following advice into two categories: wise and unwise. This is a fun activity, but it is important to be able to recognize if something is the right thing



It's okay to run with scissors

Wise Unwise

You should always chew your food

Wise Unwise

Never tie your shoes

Wise Unwise

Never listen to your parents

Wise Unwise

It's always good to tell lies

Wise Unwise

You should be kind to others

Wise Unwise

Only eat candy

Wise Unwise

Read your Bible every day

Wise Unwise

Put cheese in your ears

Wise Unwise

You should not steal

Wise Unwise

# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ December 8, 2019



## King David—A Man After God's Heart David—A Warrior Civil War! David and Absalom

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*Blessed be the LORD my strength,  
which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to  
fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower,  
and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust;  
who subdueth my people under me. Psalm 144:1—2*

### David was a warrior—a fighter!

David fought and killed a ferocious lion and a bear. Later, he challenged the Philistine champion, Goliath, boldly meeting him on the battlefield and placing a well-aimed rock from his slingshot into Goliath's temple.

David was also on the receiving end of a fight. His own mentor, King Saul, became jealous of him and tried to kill him many times.

After becoming king and throughout his lifetime, David's reputation as a successful and mighty warrior became well-known. He fought tribes surrounding Israel, such as the Amalekites, Edomites, and the Moabites.

David's victories made Israel a safer place to live. In fact, David's empire became so powerful that his son, Solomon, who ruled after him, did not have to fight one battle!

**Eventually—and sadly—David also had to fight a civil war. A civil war is a war between**

**citizens of the same country—brothers against brothers.**

Do you remember when David had to flee Jerusalem because his son, Absalom, tried to make himself king? A day of fighting between David's men and his son's men finally took place.

David got ready to fight, but his men told him, "No, you are worth more than ten thousand of us. It is better for you to stay here." So David stayed, but he pleaded, "If you come face-to-face with Absalom, deal gently with him for my sake."

David's men were victorious.

Many of Absalom's soldiers were killed and many died in the dangerous woods through which they ran. Absalom tried to escape through the woods on his mule, too, but his thick, heavy hair got caught in the branches of an oak tree. His mule did not stop, and Absalom hung from the tree.

One of David's men saw what happened and remembered David's words, running quickly to tell Captain Joab about Absalom. Joab hurried to the tree, finding Absalom still alive; however, he disregarded David's words, killed Absalom, and threw his body into a deep hole, covering it with rocks.

When Absalom's men heard their leader had been killed, they turned and ran. They had nothing left to fight for.

David's first anxious question after the battle was, "Is young Absalom safe?" When he heard the news of Absalom's death, he cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! My son! My son! I wish I had died instead of you." When the people heard David weeping, they were sad too.

Finally, Joab told David, "Your men have risked their lives to save you from danger. Now they will think you love your enemies more than you love your friends. Do you want them to leave you too?" David knew Joab was right, so he stopped weeping and went to the gate to speak to his followers.

Not long afterward, David and his men returned to live in Jerusalem. Throughout his lifetime, David recognized it was God who helped him win his battles.

God isn't interested in fist fights or fights with angry words, but He does want us to fight.

### **We should fight for our salvation.**

Fight to be different from the world. Fight discouragement. Fight for peace. Fight fear. Fight the devil. Many promises in the Bible encourage us we can win with God's help!

### Key Thought

**Although we do not always recognize the devil, he IS our enemy. In order to make it to heaven, we have to successfully fight him every day of our life.**

### Lesson Discussion

- What characteristic of David does this lesson focus on?
- Name some of the battles David fought. Which was the saddest one? Why?
- Why do you think Absalom lost the battle for the throne against his father?
- Did David still love his son?
- Discuss ways you can successfully fight the devil.

## KING DAVID RECAP

Let's look back and review the things we have learned about King David. Read through description of each lesson from the last ten weeks and match them to the lesson title they describe. Use process of elimination if necessary!

David became angry at the rich herdsman, Nabal, and hastily set off to kill him. Nabal's wife, Abigail, negotiated peace between David and her husband.



Joab, the captain of David's army, became angry and took revenge on Abner, the captain of the army of Israel. David had compassion and grieved for Abner.

David's army defeats the Philistines when God made a mighty sound rush through the trees. Instead of following his own thoughts, David trusted God's battle plan and obeyed it.



David kindly remembers his best friend's son, Mephibosheth, and allows him to eat at the king's table every day.



David takes Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, as his own wife and has Uriah killed in battle. His sins caused problems in his household for years to come.



David runs into trouble when Absalom, his own son, tries to overthrow him as king of Israel. David flees into the wilderness to avoid being killed by his son.



Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, lies to David for his own gain. Shimei, a descendant of Saul, curses David and throws stones at him, but David forgives them both.



David praised God when the Ark of the Covenant was permanently returned to Jerusalem.



**David, Nathan, and Bathsheba**

**David in Trouble**

**David's Hasty Reaction**

**David Trusts and Obeys**

**David—A Man of Praise**

**David Shows Kindness**

**David's Forgiving Heart**

**David's Heart of Compassion**



# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ December 15, 2019



*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David Takes Responsibility Counting the Mighty Men

**Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 24**

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Psalm 51:3*

David had been king for many years. He had won many battles, defeated enemies, and built a large kingdom.

**God richly blessed David because of his deep love for Him. However, David was still a man, and he did some things that were wrong.**

When David saw how large and strong his kingdom had become, he started to become curious how many fighting men lived among his people. He asked Joab, the captain of his army, to go out and count all the mighty men that dwelled in Jerusalem. Joab answered, "May you live to see many strong men live in your kingdom, King David. But I do not understand why you want to do this."

David was starting to feel important and strong. He might have been proud of all he had accomplished as king of Israel. His focus was no longer on God's strength and power, but the strength and power of his

army. God was not pleased with this, but David insisted that Joab go out and count the men.

Joab took some men and obeyed King David's commandment. He spent almost ten months traveling through all of Israel and counting all the mighty men. When he returned to Jerusalem, he told David, "There are 500,000 mighty men in the tribe of Judah, and 800,000 mighty men in all the rest of Israel."

Immediately, David felt God's unhappiness. He was guilty of trusting in his mighty army instead of relying on God.

**How sorry David felt at that moment for disobeying!**

God gave him three options for a punishment: three days of pestilence (or bugs) in the land, three months of fleeing from an enemy, or seven years of famine. David chose three days of pestilence. During those three days, 70,000 of David's strong men died.

David wanted to fix the wrong he had done. He asked God to stop the pestilence that infested his kingdom, and through a man named Gad, God instructed David to build an altar. This altar had to be built in the field of a man named Araunah, so David found this man and asked to use his field. Araunah said yes and offered to give King David the wood and stones needed to build it. David said he would not build an altar to God out of stones and wood he had not bought. He gave Araunah 50 shekels of silver for the materials and the oxen he would sacrifice. David took full responsibility for his sins.

When David offered the sacrifice to God, the pestilence left the land immediately.

Despite the fact that David had spent his entire life trusting God to help him and seeing miracle after miracle happen, he was still human. He messed up! He allowed his own pride and strength to drown out his belief in a powerful and mighty God.

**But this is the important part: when his sin was revealed to him, David did not brush it aside or try to make excuses.**

He took responsibility and did everything he could to repent and fix the situation. This is what God wants from us. When we realize we have done something wrong, God is far more merciful and forgiving if we immediately acknowledge it and repent. ■

### Key Thought

David took full responsibility for his sins and followed God's exact instructions for repentance. When we do something wrong, we should acknowledge it and come to God immediately to ask forgiveness.

### Lesson Discussion

- Why was David beginning to feel proud and strong?
- Who did he ask to travel around the kingdom to count the mighty men?
- What were the three options for punishment God gave

David for his sin?

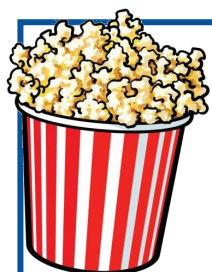
- What did David do to repent for his sin? Should we try to make excuses or brush off a sin when we commit one?

R C T J X X Y W I A Q Y C Z E D M I  
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## DAVID DISOBEYED WORD SEARCH

Altar  
 Counting  
 Disobey  
 Famine  
 Pestilence  
 Sacrifice



## THE PARABLE OF THE POPCORN

**Needed:** Popped popcorn as a snack, with some unpopped kernels left in the bottom

There was a popcorn popper who planted and grew ears of corn. The time of harvest came, and he took all the kernels off the ears and let them dry. When they were completely dry, the popper took the kernels and poured them into the bottom of a large pot with some oil. Then he lit the fire underneath, put the lid on the pot, and waited for the popping to begin!

When he put all the kernels into the pot, they all looked exactly the same. But as time went on, he noticed that some kernels turned out differently than others. A lot of kernels exploded into white fluffy popcorn, promising to be tasty and satisfying to whomever ate them. Some kernels popped into little pieces of popcorn--still fulfilling their purpose, but not to their full potential. And sadly, there were some kernels that lay in the bottom of the pot. They soaked up the warmth of the fire and oil, but never popped into a delicious treat. They kept everything inside and refused to become popcorn. The kernels that exploded, and even those that popped a little bit, were passed around and eaten by everyone in the popper's family. What fun they had eating and enjoying the snack. But sadly, the family scraped up and threw away all the unpopped kernels that lay in the bottom of the pot. The popper thought to himself, "In the beginning, all the kernels looked the same. But when the heat was applied, only some popped readily while others became harder and inedible, and then were thrown away and wasted." In his heart, he prayed he would be like the kernels that popped quickly when they went through the fire. "God, please don't let me feel the heat of your conviction in my heart, only to lie in the fire, unwilling to change and bring you joy. When you show me something I have done wrong, let me pop immediately into action, changing my ways and confessing my sins. Then You will be pleased with my life."



Junior Sunday School ■ December 22, 2019

## A Humble King

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:1-6;  
Philippians 2:3-9

Have you ever been around someone who thought they were really cool? Maybe they strutted around, did all the talking, and just felt like they should be the center of attention? There is a lot of talk and no action. Most of the time we don't like to be around people like that. In a different situation, maybe an important person—the pastor of your church, a guest speaker, or someone you look up to—takes special notice of you. Maybe they smile and ask you how you are doing and want to hear about what is going on in your life. We feel good when that happens, don't we? We are talking about a word called humility. If someone is humble, they don't think they are “so important” and better than everyone else.

It is Christmas time and we are celebrating an HUMBLE KING—Jesus. He is one of those “important people”—the VERY most important person of all. He is not just the king of a small, little country, but of the entire universe—the Creator of *everything*. He didn't go strutting around, proud as a peacock; He did completely the opposite. He came down from His perfect home in heaven and was born

in the lowliest of places—a stable. He later died the lowliest of deaths on a cross.

### Memory Verse

Where is he that is born  
King of the Jews? And she  
[Mary] brought forth her  
firstborn son and wrapped  
him in swaddling clothes,  
and laid him in a manger;  
because there was no room  
for them in the inn.

Matthew 2:2; Luke 2:7

### Key Thought

A truly great person is a  
humble person.

### Lesson Discussion

- Discuss what it means to be humble?
- How did Jesus (King of all Kings) prove he was humble?
- How did Samuel Morse prove his humility?
- Who should always

get the glory for every good thing we accomplish? Why?

**He proved by His life that He was the  
HUMBLEST of kings.**

He wasn't all talk with no action!

What a glorious night it must have been when the angels announced Jesus' birth. Can you imagine the wonder on Mary's face when she looked on the face of her baby boy from heaven? The cows and sheep were no doubt also lulled into a peaceful state! As Jesus grew into adulthood and began to realize He was the Son of God, He still didn't act like He was more important than everyone else. He mingled with the outcasts of society. He had no place to call His own. Jesus is our humble king.

There was another man who recognized Jesus as King. His name was Samuel Morse. He was born in 1791 and invented the telegraph, a machine through which coded messages were sent. They didn't have telephones or cell phones back then. A long push on these machines was called a dash and a short push was called a dot. Every letter had a designated dash/dot combination which became known as “Morse Code.” It is said that Samuel always prayed and asked God to give him more light and understanding as he conducted experiments in his laboratory. When he got flattering honors because of his inventions, he never felt like he deserved them or was superior. He felt God had been pleased to reveal the knowledge of electricity to him in order to help other people. In a big celebration with many people shortly before he died, his final message over the telegraph machine was this: “Greetings and thanks to the Telegraph fraternity throughout the world. Glory to God in the Highest, on Earth Peace, Goodwill to men.” He then finished his message by signing his name, S.F.B. Morse.

### Humility is a beautiful character trait.

We are instructed to be like Jesus. We should think more about other people than ourselves and realize just how little we are without Jesus .

As we celebrate His birth, be thankful for His humility! Even today He is sitting on His throne as a king just waiting to hear our prayers. He isn't so busy that He leaves His seat in heaven to go take care of *more important matters*.

**WE are important to this Humble King! ■**

## Morse Code Alphabet

A	•-	N	-•	0	-----
B	-...•	O	---	1	•-----
C	-•-•	P	•-••	2	••----
D	-••	Q	--•-	3	•••--
E	•	R	•-•	4	••••-
F	••-•	S	•••	5	•••••
G	--•	T	-	6	-••••
H	••••	U	••-	7	--•••
I	••	V	•••-	8	----••
J	•---	W	•--	9	----•
K	-•-	X	-••-	.	•-••-
L	•-••	Y	-•--	,	--••-
M	--	Z	--••	?	••-••

## DECODE THE MESSAGE!

Each line is a separate word.



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## HUMBLE BALLOONS

Materials:

- ♥ Latex balloons
- ♥ Various sized objects (such as a pencil, crayon box, and small bouncy ball)

Directions:

- ♥ Stretch a deflated balloon around a pencil.
- ♥ Stuff a deflated balloon in the crayon box.
- ♥ Squeeze the bouncy ball into the deflated balloon.
- ♥ Blow the balloon up and attempt the previous three directions.

Application:

Today, you took a deflated balloon and stretched it, scrunched it up, and filled it with smaller objects. Were you able to do the same things with it once it was blown up?

How do you think this applies to us as Christians?

When the balloon is blown up, it is no longer flexible. It is puffed up and can only be one shape and can only be used for certain things. A puffed up person is not as useful to God as a flexible, pliable, humble person. Humility makes us flexible, usable, and moldable in God's work. (Source--Bible Teacher)



# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ December 29, 2019



*King David—A Man After God's Heart*

## David Builds a House

**Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 28:1—11**

*Memory Verse: (A Psalm of David)*

*And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death. I Chronicles 22:5*

In big cities, wrecking balls often destroy old structures to make way for new ones. Some of these structures are less than 100 years old. In Europe and other parts of the world, it is common to see buildings several centuries old—and some even older. But even these buildings will eventually fall apart.

Life is given to us for one purpose: to build a house that will last forever. Is this possible and how do we do it? Let's look back at David's life and see how he built his eternal house.

David killed a lion and bear in his youth. Samuel anointed David king over Israel. David boldly, and in the name of God, gathered five smooth stones and courageously walked out to face the giant, Goliath, killing him and gaining the love of the people. David spent time in Saul's palace and became friends with Jonathan. Later, Saul became jealous of David's

military victories and the love and adoration the people bestowed on him. David spent many months fleeing for his life, hiding in mountains, hills and caves.

### David was building an eternal (forever) house.

Time passed by. Eventually, Saul died, and David became king over both Israel and Judah. David showed kindness to the people, successfully led the Israelite army into many wars, and daily ruled the people. All was not glory and "good" fame, however. His sin with Bathsheba occurred during the early years of his reign and affected his family and the many sons born to him, but David had a heart of repentance and kept serving God.

### David continued building his eternal (forever) house.

More time passed. More wars were fought. The sun rose and set many times. David's sons fought among themselves, and one of them even tried to take the throne from him. David's youth turned into middle age, and eventually David became an old man. Through all the things that he had experienced in life, he never became bitter against God. In fact, his testimony was this: "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

### David's house was still being built.

David's last desire was to build a literal house for God. He enlisted stone masons to cut rocks. He gathered gold, silver, brass and iron. Many cedar trees were cut for timber. *David prepared! He then gave his son, Solomon, the pattern for the house. David longed to build the house himself, but since he was a man of war, God commanded that Solomon build the house instead. Many years later, the beautiful temple that Solomon built for God was destroyed—it did not last forever!*

David had learned one important truth he wanted to pass to his son, Solomon, at the end of his life—this truth dealt with building a house that would last forever. He told Solomon, "In everything you do, be strong and be a man. Walk in God's ways and keep His commandments. Serve Him with a perfect heart and a willing mind."

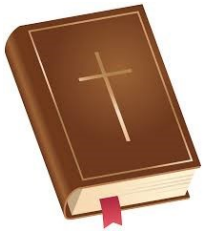
When we let the Lord guide our actions, words, and thoughts, we are building a "forever house" for God that no wrecking ball can crush. ■

## Lesson Discussion

### Key Thought

**Every day we are building our eternal (forever) house.**

- Talk about which parts of David's life stand out to you and why.
- David built his own spiritual house through the years by his actions. He also wanted to build a house for \_\_\_\_\_ toward the end of his life. (Fill in the blank)
- Why couldn't David build God's house? Who built it?
- Talk about specific ways we can build a house that will stand forever.



## VERSE RACE!

Race against your classmates to find and copy these verses in your Bible.

2 Chronicles 5:1

John 14:2—3

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1 Chronicles 22:5

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### ANGER DOESN'T WORK!

Everything that happens in life is like the preparation for a big journey. Just as campers map out their route and load up food and supplies before they leave, we should spend our time on this earth preparing for our journey to eternity.

**Materials:** Travel bag, map, paper, pen

Lay a printed map on the table—if you can, print a satellite view (with a neighborhood of businesses/houses) from Google maps.

Example: <https://www.google.com/maps/@43.6088514,-116.1883904,1506m/data=!3m1!1e3>

Ask the students to pinpoint which one of the houses or businesses they see they think will stand the longest. Have them guess times and the reasons why they made their choices. Of course there is no way to know, but emphasize the fact the buildings they see will not last forever!

Then, simply draw a mansion at the top of the map to represent heaven, and talk about which “roads they will take” and how they will “build their house” here on earth in order to gain entrance into the heavenly one!

Give each student a pen and several slips of paper and have them write specific ways in which they should live their lives in order to build a house that will stand. Put these pieces of paper in the bag, representing preparation for the heavenly journey.

Reemphasize the last words David spoke to his son Solomon and the advice he gave on how Solomon should live his life. Talk about why our words and actions are so important in building our house.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(1 Corinthians 3:16)

Talk about the fact that we are the temple of God and the importance it plays in how we act, speak, and behave.

