

Teacher Notecards Level 6, Quarter D— After God's Own Heart

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching
Explore Scripture.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the
gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you
to hold in your hand.

*The narrative has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture*
sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

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Big Idea: **God provides courage and confidence so Christians can face adversity.**

1 Samuel 16-17 [outline form]

Intro: *David loved the LORD and fully relied on Him.*

Ask: *If you trusted God as David did, what could you accomplish?*

1. God directed Samuel to anoint a new king of Israel.

- *Samuel thought Jesse's firstborn son would be king* 1 Samuel 16:6
- *God said that He cares about a person's heart, not appearances* 16:7
- *God chose David, Jesse's youngest son* 16:12
- *Samuel anointed David to become king (picture 6D.1)* 16:13

2. An evil spirit tormented King Saul.

- *Saul's attendants believed David's music would soothe him.* 16:15-18
- *David came to Saul, and Saul immediately liked him* 16:21-22
- *David played the harp whenever the spirit plagued Saul.* 16:23
- *David's music brought relief to Saul and cast the spirit away* 16:23

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3. A giant named Goliath challenged Israel and the LORD.

- *Goliath was a truly monstrous Philistine* 17:4-6
- *Goliath taunted the Israelite army.* 17:8-10
- *Young David brought food to his brothers in the army* 17:17-22
- *David was angry that no one had challenged Goliath.* 17:26-30

4. King Saul heard about David and sent for him.

- *David told the king that he would fight Goliath* 17:32
- *David persuaded the king to let him fight* 17:34-37
- *Goliath mocked David when he saw him* 17:42-44
- *David explained that God would win his battle (picture 6D.2)* 17:45-47
- *David defeated the giant with one small stone from a sling.* 17:48-49

Conclusion: *David was victorious because he trusted God. He faced Goliath in the name of the LORD and in the power of that name! Just see what happens when you have confidence in God's name to stand up for righteousness and face "giants" who don't fear God!*

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Big Idea: **God provides courage and confidence so Christians can face adversity.**

1 Samuel 16-17 [narrative form]

In some nations today, a king or queen inherits the throne from his or her ancestors. This was often true in the Old Testament. From the day a son was born, he was prepared to one day become king. In David's time, the Israelites wanted a king so they could be "just like the other nations." So God chose Saul to be the first king, but when Saul didn't follow God's ways, the LORD directed the prophet, Samuel, to anoint the future king.

(picture 6D.1) *Why do you think God chose an ordinary boy, the youngest son of a shepherd, to be the next king of Israel? Do you think David's family recognized him as "special?"* Encourage responses. *Do you or your parents recognize something "special" that God has designed you to do? How do you think David felt when Samuel anointed him? Why do you think Samuel anointed David in front of his brothers?*

This was just the beginning of God's plan for David. Soon this shepherd boy had

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access to King Saul. *What important facts does the Bible reveal about Saul?* (The Spirit of the Lord departed from him; harp music soothed his temper swings; he liked David and wanted David to work for him.) *What important facts are provided about David?* (He played the harp; he was a brave warrior; he spoke well; he was handsome; and the Lord was with him.)

What surprised you about David's attitude toward Goliath? Goliath was from Philistia, a nation of unrighteous idolaters. David was offended that an arrogant man like Goliath would mock the LORD and His people. David was confident that God wanted to put a stop to Goliath's mockery. This gave David great courage. *How did David's brothers respond when David showed up?*

(picture 6D.2) *How long had Goliath been taunting the Israelites?* (Forty days.) *How had God prepared David to have courage and confidence against a giant? What was Goliath's error in facing David?*

David was victorious because he trusted God. He faced Goliath in the name of the LORD and in the power of that name! Just see what happens when you have confidence in God's name to stand up for righteousness and face "giants" who don't fear God!

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Big Idea: **God gives Christians close friends to help through times of stress.**

1 Samuel 18-20 [outline form]

Intro: *Jonathan and David were close friends who helped each other.*

Ask: *Why does God bless us with good friendships?*

1. David became a ward of King Saul's family.

- *Jonathan and David grew very close* (picture 6D.3) 1 Samuel 18:3-4
- *Saul became jealous of David, and tried to kill him* 18:8-11
- *Saul hoped the Philistines would kill David* 18:17-21
- *God was with David, and he married Michal* 18:26-28
- *Saul grew to hate David* 18:29

2. King Saul ordered David to be killed.

- *Jonathan warned David and spoke to his father* 19:1-6
- *Saul tried to kill David, but Michal warned him* (picture 6D.4) . . . 19:9-12
- *Michal gave David time to escape from Saul* 19:13-17
- *God protected David while he stayed with Samuel* 19:18-24

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3. David went to Jonathan and asked about Saul.

- *David asked Jonathan to determine if Saul still meant him harm* 20:4-7
- *Jonathan made a covenant with David and his house* 20:12-16
- *Jonathan devised a plan to warn David* 20:18-23
- *Saul was so angry with David that he also tried to kill Jonathan* . . . 20:27-33
- *Jonathan warned David and reaffirmed their covenant* 20:35-42

Conclusion: *David and Jonathan shared a very strong bond. If you don't yet have a true friend like David or Jonathan, ask God to help you develop a godly friendship.*

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Big Idea: **God gives Christians close friends to help through times of stress.**

1 Samuel 18-20 [narrative form]

David and Jonathan enjoyed a model friendship. Let's see what we can learn from their relationship that helps us find good friends and be a good friend. *Why is it surprising that David and Jonathan were such close friends?* (picture 6D.3)

Saul was jealous of David's success and the way the Israelites praised him. He wanted David dead, so the king devised a plan to let the Philistines kill him. To marry his daughter, Saul told David to kill one hundred Philistines. But David killed two hundred Philistines and married Michal, the king's daughter.

Jonathan knew that his father hated David, but Jonathan calmly talked with his father and helped soothe the situation. Saul promised to stop trying to kill David—but it turned out to be an empty promise (picture 6D.4)! To help David escape, his wife hid an idol in the bed to fool the guards who came looking for him.

Why do you think David returned to Jonathan? Possible answers: he needed en-

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couragement from his friend; he wanted to make sure Jonathan believed him; he wanted help discerning whether or not it was safe for him to return; etc. *Jonathan vowed to do anything David wanted him to do. Do you have a friend who would do anything for you? Are your friends the kind that would ask you to do something wrong to help them? How far are you willing to go to help a friend?*

The Israelites celebrated the beginning of a new moon. Describe David's plan. (He would hide during the banquet and if Saul missed him, he would know it was safe to return. If Saul became angry, David knew he wouldn't be safe. Jonathan would tell David how his father responded.) *How did Saul react?* (He was angry and threw a spear at Jonathan!) Summarize the argument between King Saul and his son, Jonathan. Encourage responses. *How did Jonathan alert David to the danger from Saul?* (They had a secret plan to meet in a field. Jonathan signaled David by shooting arrows in a certain place.) *Why did David and Jonathan grieve?* (They would be separated and feared they wouldn't see each other for a long time.)

Each friendship is different. Some friends are really fun, and other friends share deep thoughts and feelings to help you through tough times. If you don't yet have a true friend like David or Jonathan, ask God to help you develop a godly friendship.

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Big Idea: **God enables Christians to trust Him during difficult circumstances.**

1 Samuel 21-23 [outline form]

Intro: *David relied on God to see him through challenging trials.*

Ask: *Why is it important to trust God in difficult circumstances?*

1. David fled from King Saul and arrived in Nob.

- *David secured holy food from Ahimelech the priest 1 Samuel 21:3-6*
- *He also took Goliath's sword 21:8-9*
- *In Gath, David pretended to be insane, so he could avoid capture . . . 21:10-15*
- *David hid in a cave and began to lead men 22:1-2*
- *David petitioned the king in Moab to protect his family (picture 6D.5) . . . 22:3-4*

2. King Saul continued to stew about David.

- *Saul's head shepherd told Saul that Ahimelech had helped David . . . 22:9-10*
- *Ahimelech defended his actions before Saul 22:13-15*
- *The shepherd killed the priest and his family at Saul's command 22:18*
- *One son escaped and joined David 22:20-23*

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3. David heard that the Philistines had attacked the town of Keilah.

- *God told David he would be victorious against the Philistines 22:2-4*
- *David and his men soundly defeated the Philistines 22:5*

4. Saul heard where David was and made plans to pursue him.

- *God warned David, and so he left Keilah 22:10-13*
- *Jonathan came to David and encouraged him (picture 6D.6) 22:34-37*
- *Saul discovered David's hiding place and went to find him 22:24-25*
- *God saved David right as Saul was about to capture him 22:26-29*

Conclusion: *David faced many challenges as he fled from Saul, but God was always with him. No matter what challenges you face, God wants to help you through them!*

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Big Idea: **God enables Christians to trust Him during difficult circumstances.**

1 Samuel 21-23 [narrative form]

Nob: Today we are tracking a fugitive—wanted “dead or alive”—named David. He escaped from Saul's palace without food or weapons. We've heard reports that he is in Nob. *What was David doing here in Nob?* (21:1-9: He asked the priest for food and weapons.) *What specifically did Ahimelech give David?* (He received Goliath's sword as well as holy bread that had been offered to God.)

Gath: From Nob, we have reports that David made his way to Gath (move to that location), hometown of the slain giant, Goliath. *What did David do when people recognized him here in Gath? Why did he act that way? How did the king respond when David went “insane?”*

Adullam: It's getting harder and harder to track David. He apparently left a cave near Adullam and headed to the Moab town of Mizpah. *What can you tell us about his visit to Moab?* (picture 6D.5) *Why do you think David's family left home? How many people have joined David's army?* (400 men.)

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Nob: I'm receiving word of mayhem in Nob. Let's go back and check with our informants there. *What happened here?* (Saul learned that Ahimelech had helped David, so he ordered all of them to be killed.) *Why didn't Saul's army obey his orders? Was it a complete massacre? Do reports indicate where he might be? How safe do you think it is to be with David right now?* Encourage responses.

Keilah: Over in Keilah I hear reports of a recent battle. Let's rush over there for a report. *What happened here? What motivated David to come to Keilah?* (The Lord told him they would win.) *How did King Saul respond when he heard that David was in Keilah? What caused David to leave Keilah?* (God told him that the people would hand him over to Saul.) *How many people have joined David's army?*

Horesh: I understand that David was last seen in the desert of Horesh. *Who came to visit him?* (picture 6D.6) *How do you think he found David? Before Jonathan left, what did the two friends do? How did Saul know David was in Horesh?* (People from Ziph told him.) *How close did Saul come to capturing David?*

David faced many challenges as he fled from Saul, but God was always with him. No matter what challenges you face, God wants to help you through them!

2

Big Idea: **God commands Christians to show compassion and forgive rather than seek revenge.**

1 Samuel 24-26 [outline form]

Intro: *David withheld his anger against those who had wronged him.*

Ask: *Why are compassion and forgiveness important to God?*

1. King Saul looked for David in the wilderness.

- *Saul was at David's mercy in a cave* 1 Samuel 24:3-4
- *David refused to harm Saul* 24:5-7
- *David publicly asked Saul to stop chasing him* (picture 6D.7). 24:8-11
- *God, not David would judge Saul* 24:12-15
- *Saul asked for mercy for his family and then left David alone* 24:17-22

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2. David and his men had protected Nabal's shepherds. When shearing time came, David asked Nabal for help, but he refused.

- *David became very angry, and prepared to attack Nabal* 25:13
- *Nabal's wife, Abigail, arrived with a peace offering* 25:17-25
- *Abigail urged David to avoid needless bloodshed* (picture 6D.8) 25:26-31
- *David praised Abigail for preventing him from acting rashly.* 25:32-35
- *God struck down Nabal Himself.* 25:37-38

3. Saul once again came with an army to hunt down David.

- *David snuck into Saul's camp at night with Abishai* 26:6-7
- *Saul was asleep and helpless, but David would not harm him.* 26:8-11
- *David showed Saul that he had spared Saul's life again* 26:16-20
- *Saul once more promised to stop pursuing David* 26:21-25

Conclusion: *David left judgment to God. When we choose to forgive someone and show compassion, we also leave judgment to God. We are showing that our heart is focused on what God wants us to focus on.*

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Big Idea: **God commands Christians to show compassion and forgive rather than seek revenge.**

1 Samuel 24-26 [narrative form]

King Saul continued to pursue David, hoping to capture him. *Why did Saul want to kill David?* David had two golden opportunities to get even with Saul—let's see how he handled them.

This may be the only account of someone “going to the bathroom” in the Bible! *What thoughts might have gone through David's mind when he saw his opportunity to kill Saul?* Encourage responses. David's men wanted him to kill Saul. *Why did David cut off part of Saul's robe instead? How did David feel about his actions?* (His conscience was stirred because he had damaged the king's robe.)

(picture 6D.7) *Why did David wait until Saul left the cave to speak to him?* (By waiting, he could show everyone that he had spared Saul's life and have witnesses.) *What did David hope to accomplish with Saul? What effect did David's compassion have on Saul?* (Saul's heart was softened; he acknowledged that David would be

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king.) *Why do you think Saul asked David to spare his family members? What might have happened if David hadn't shown compassion to Saul?* Encourage responses.

How does the Bible describe Abigail and Nabal? Describe the situation that became a crisis between David and Nabal. *Would David have been justified in attacking Nabal?* (picture 6D.8) *How did Abigail persuade David to show mercy? What might have taken place if David hadn't shown compassion to Nabal?*

Who accompanied David to Saul's camp? Why did David call out to Abner? (Abner's job was to protect the king, but David had stealthily reached him.) *Why did Saul address David as “son”?* (David had married Saul's daughter.) *What did Saul admit?* (He admitted that he had acted foolishly and had been wrong.) *What vow did Saul make?* (He vowed not to harm him.) *What might have happened if David hadn't shown compassion to Saul?* Possible answers: he might have been caught in Saul's camp; he might not have been crowned king; etc. *Do you think the men were happy or upset that David had spared Saul's life twice? Do you think it was easy or hard for David to show compassion to Saul?* Encourage responses.

When we choose to forgive someone and show compassion, we leave revenge to God. We are showing that our heart is focused on what God wants us to focus on.

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Big Idea: **God empowers Christians to bring about His purposes—in His way and time.**

2 Samuel 1-5 [outline form]

Intro: *David patiently waited on God's timing to become king of Israel.*

Ask: *How can you learn to operate on "God's time"?*

1. David heard that Saul and Jonathan had died in a battle against the Amalekites.
 - *An Amalekite soldier lied and said that he killed Saul 2 Samuel 1:6-10*
 - *David punished him for striking down God's anointed 1:14-16*
 - *David mourned Saul and Jonathan's passing (picture 6D.9) 1:17-27*
2. After Saul's death, the tribes of Judah anointed David as their king.
 - *Saul's commander, Abner, anointed Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth, as king 2:13*
 - *Daniel and Ish-Bosheth's men met in battle 2:15-17*
 - *Asahel tried to kill Abner, but Abner killed him. 2:20-23*

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3. After King Ish-Bosheth insulted him, Abner decided to join David's side.
 - *David snuck into Saul's camp at night with Abishai 3:12-13*
 - *Abner went out to assemble the people to declare David king 3:21*
 - *Joab, Asahel's brother, murdered Abner for killing Asahel 3:30*
 - *David condemned Joab's actions 3:36-39*
4. After Abner's death King Ish-Bosheth lost courage.
 - *Two of his own leaders murdered Ish-Bosheth 4:6-7*
 - *They thought David would be pleased 4:8*
 - *David was outraged that they had killed an innocent man 4:9-11*
 - *Israel finally crowned David king (picture 6D.10) 5:1-5*

Conclusion: *The LORD blessed David because he was obedient to His Word. God's blessings always come to those who obediently trust His plan. It always pays to do the right thing—God's way!*

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Big Idea: **God empowers Christians to bring about His purposes—in His way and time.**

2 Samuel 1-5 [narrative form]

For years, David has been a fugitive, fleeing from the misguided wrath of King Saul. But the wind suddenly changed directions. Saul had been killed in battle! Read the Amalekite's story (2 Samuel 1:6-10) and another version (1 Samuel 31:3-6). *Did the Amalekite lie?* Let children explain their answers and what they believe really happened to Saul. *Why did David have the man killed?* (picture 6D.9)

Since both Saul and Jonathan were now dead, David appeared to be the logical choice as the next king of Israel. *What do you think he would do first?* David faithfully pursued God's heart to discover what he should do. God responded to David's faith and partially fulfilled His promise to make David king. *What tribe anointed David as their king?*

Let's see what the other tribes chose to do. *Why do you think the majority of Israel chose to follow Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth?*

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A battle took place between Ish-Bosheth's army and David's soldiers. *Why did Abner warn Asahel to stop chasing him?* Asahel's brothers, Joab and Abishai, pursued Abner, but they stopped when Abner spoke wise words. Read verses 26-32. *What does this reveal about Abner? How many soldiers died in the battle?*

David had waited for years, and now he was at war with Saul's family. Read 2 Samuel 3:1. Compare and contrast how both sides fared from the long wait. During this period, Ish-Bosheth exchanged angry words with his highest military leader, Abner. Before long, Abner scheduled a meeting with David. *What agreement did these two leaders make?* Although Abner left in peace, bitterness had been growing in the heart of David's commander, Joab, because of his brother Asahel's death. Read verses 22-27. *How might Abner's death have jeopardized David?*

(picture 6D.10) At last, David became king of all Israel! *How do you think he felt as he was crowned?* Encourage responses.

Many years earlier, David had several opportunities to kill King Saul. *Would God have blessed David if he had done so? Why or why not?* God's blessings always come to those who obediently trust His plan. It always pays to do the right thing—God's way!

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Big Idea: **God faithfully fulfills His promises to bless Christians.**

How to Meet with God—Review

2 Samuel 6-7 [outline form]

Intro: *David trusted in God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises.*

Ask: *What promises in God's Word mean the most to you?*

1. David wanted to bring the Ark of the LORD to Jerusalem.
 - *Uzzah and Ahio brought the Ark in a cart* 2 Samuel 6:3-5
 - *When Uzzah (not a priest) touched the Ark, God struck him* 6:6-7
 - *David was afraid of the LORD and left the Ark.* 6:9-11
2. After three months, David felt ready to retrieve the Ark again.
 - *This time he closely followed God's instructions.* 6:12-13
 - *As the Ark arrived, David danced joyfully before God* (picture 6D.11) . . . 6:14
 - *David's wife, Michal, thought his behavior was shameful for a king* 6:20
 - *David explained how his behavior had been holy and just* 6:21-22

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3. David desired to build God a permanent house (temple).
 - *God told Nathan that David would not build the temple* 7:5-7
 - *But God did promise David blessings, greatness, and peace* 7:9-11
 - *God also promised David great descendants and an eternal kingdom.* . . 7:11-16
4. David responded to this prophecy with a heartfelt prayer (picture 6D.12).
 - *David humbly accepted God's promises* 7:18-21
 - *He praised the LORD's greatness* 7:22-24
 - *David also boldly claimed God's promises* 7:25-29

Conclusion: *David wanted to build God a temple, but instead God promised to build a "house" for David that would last forever! The Lord has also given us, His children, many other promises. We can be sure that God will be faithful to keep every promise in His Word.*

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Big Idea: **God faithfully fulfills His promises to bless Christians.**

2 Samuel 6-7 [narrative form]

David wanted to bring the Ark of the LORD to Jerusalem. The Ark of the Covenant represented the very presence of God. It was holy—set apart for God's special use. David built a new cart to transport the Ark, but that plan disregarded God's Law that explained how the Ark was to be carried. *Why did God strike Uzzah dead? How did Uzzah's action show irreverence?* (Uzzah knew he should not touch the Ark; it showed a lack of faith that God would keep the Ark from falling; it showed disregard for God's Word.) After this, David sent the Ark to Obed-Edom's house.

Why do you think God blessed Obed-Edom? Possible answers: God intended to bless all His people; God didn't want David to fear the Ark; Obed-Edom had agreed to guard the Ark; etc. *How did David transport the Ark this time?*

(picture 6D.11) As the Ark entered Jerusalem, everyone celebrated. David took off his royal robes and danced among God's people. *What did David do next?* When David returned to his palace, Michal, his wife, was not happy. She was em-

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barrassed by David's dancing. *What does Michal's reaction show about her?* Possible answers: she cared more about David's public image than about God; she wanted David to act like Saul, her father; she cared too much about what others would think; etc. God punished Michal by preventing her from bearing children.

David remembered all that the LORD had done for him. He wanted to do something special for God. *Why did David want to build a great temple?* God wasn't opposed to the idea of a temple. *What did God oppose?* (David, a man of war and bloodshed, was not the one to build a temple.) *What promise did God make to David about the temple?*

What promise did God make about David's future? (God promised to establish David's throne forever through one of his descendants—Jesus!) *This blessing was something that David would never see. In fact, it would be 1,000 years until Christ was born! After hearing this great promise, what did David do?* (picture 6D.12)

David wanted to build God a temple, but instead God promised to build a "house" for David that would last forever! The Lord has also given us, His children, many other promises. We can be sure that God will be faithful to keep every promise in His Word.

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Level 6D—After God's Own Heart Lesson 7: David's Conquests

Big Idea: **God achieves great victories through Christians who trust Him.**

2 Samuel 5, 8-10 [outline form]

Intro: *Because God was on David's side, he met with success in all his endeavors.*

Ask: *What can you do with God on your side?*

1. After becoming king, David experienced many victories over enemies.

- *David and his army defeated the Philistines* 2 Samuel 5:17-25
- *David won many other victories* (picture 6D.13) 8:2-6
- *The LORD was the source of David's victories* 8:14
- *David always did what was just and right.* 8:15

2. Even in victory, David was compassionate.

- *David wanted to honor Jonathan's memory* 9:1
- *He showed great kindness to Jonathan's son* (picture 6D.14) 9:7
- *David gave his spoils back to Mephibosheth, Saul's heir* 9:9-10

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3. David desired to repay the kindness of the former Ammonite king.

- *The new king did not trust the delegation David sent.* 10:3-4
- *After humiliating David's men, the Ammonites hired mercenaries.* 10:5-6
- *David sent his army against the Arameans and Ammonites* 10:7-11
- *David's army defeated everyone.* 10:13-19

Conclusion: *Because David trusted and followed the Lord, he achieved great victories. You can also see God at work in your life. Your battles don't involve swords and chariots, but God goes before you. He's preparing you to do great things for His kingdom!*

2

Level 6D—After God's Own Heart Lesson 7: David's Conquests

Big Idea: **God achieves great victories through Christians who trust Him.**

2 Samuel 5, 8-10 [narrative form]

For several hundred years, the Philistines kept bothering Israel. *Now that David was king, how many times did the Philistines attack Israel? How many times did David's army gain victory?*

The Philistines wouldn't give up. David knew he must defeat them once and for all or continue losing soldiers in battles. *What was different about this battle?*

Next, David confronted the Moabites. In those days, the winning army killed all the soldiers in the losing army. This prevented anyone from retaliating or taking revenge. David was a mighty warrior, but he was also a man of mercy. *How did David's actions show mercy?* David proved he could break the cycle of revenge and demonstrate mercy.

(picture 6D.13). *Why was David victorious in all his conquests?* David's string of victories was unblemished. No enemy could defeat him. *How do you think David's soldiers felt? What was David's motivation for victory?* David wanted to bring glory to

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God in everything he did. He viewed anyone who hated God as his personal enemy.

As David conquered, he took valuable gold, silver, and bronze plunder and brought it to Jerusalem. *What do you think he did with the treasures?* David knew his victories were the result of God's blessing, so he wanted to honor the LORD with the treasures. He stored them to be used when his son, Solomon, built God's Temple.

Read 2 Samuel 8:15. *What do we learn about David as a king?* David not only treated the Israelites fairly, he also treated the people he conquered fairly. David wanted righteousness for the good of all people (picture 6D.14).

Read 2 Samuel 10:1-19. *Why did David try to show kindness to the new king? How did the Ammonites respond?* In David's time, that was a great insult that brought dishonor, so David allowed the men to go to another city until their beards grew back. *When the Ammonites realized they had angered David, how did they respond?* The hired armies were impressive in size. *How did David's commander respond? What battle strategy did Israel use? What was the outcome of the battle?*

Because David trusted and followed the LORD, he achieved great victories. You can also see God at work in your life. Your battles don't involve swords and chariots, but God goes before you. He's preparing you to do great things for His kingdom!

2

Big Idea: **God graciously offers forgiveness when Christians sin.**

2 Samuel 11-12 [outline form]

Intro: *David's sins were horrible, but God forgave him when he repented.*

Ask: *How much more has God forgiven you because of Christ's death?*

1. One night in Jerusalem, David saw a beautiful woman bathing on a rooftop.
 - *The woman was Bathsheba, the soldier Uriah's wife 2 Samuel 11:3*
 - *David had her brought to him and slept with her 11:4*
 - *Bathsheba became pregnant with David's child 11:5*
2. David was desperate to cover up his sin. He sent for Uriah so that he would be with his wife and think the child was his.
 - *As an honorable soldier, Uriah refused twice to see his wife 11:7-13*
 - *Then David ordered Joab to send Uriah to the battle lines to die 11:14-15*
 - *David's plan worked, and Uriah was killed. 11:16-17*
 - *After she mourned Uriah, Bathsheba became David's wife 11:26-27*

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3. David's sin greatly displeased God.

- *Nathan confronted David about his sin (picture 6D.15) 12:1-10*
- *David repented, and God spared his life (picture 6D.16) 12:13*
- *God punished David by taking his son's life 12:14-18*
- *David accepted God's punishment, and God forgave him 12:22-25*

Conclusion: *David messed up—just as we all do. God punished David's sin, but when David confessed and repented, God forgave him. When we sin, God is eager to do the same for us. He wants us to repent and be restored to a relationship of full trust and dependence on Him.*

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Big Idea: **God graciously offers forgiveness when Christians sin.**

2 Samuel 11-12 [narrative form]

King David stayed at home in his Jerusalem palace while his soldiers, led by Joab, were out fighting. From the rooftop, David saw a beautiful woman bathing. David should have turned away, but he didn't. When we are tempted to sin, we can either run from the temptation or give in to it. David made the wrong choice. He turned his back on the LORD and pursued his own way.

King David found out that the woman, Bathsheba, was married to David's military leader, Uriah. Because no one had authority to stop the king, David sent for her to sleep with him. A while later, David received a message from Bathsheba—she was pregnant.

How did David deal with his sin? David thought Uriah would go home to spend time with his wife. People would then assume that Bathsheba was pregnant by her husband. *Why didn't Uriah go home to his wife? What does this reveal about Uriah? Why did David encourage Uriah to become drunk? Did David's plan work?*

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David was desperate to cover up his sin. He made a final choice that certainly grieved God's heart. In a battle, no one would suspect that David was responsible for Uriah's death. *How do you think David felt when he heard the news that Uriah was dead? How did Bathsheba respond? Do you think David got away with his sin?*

Why did the prophet, Nathan, go to David? How did David respond? (picture 6D.15) *How did Nathan know David had sinned?* God knew that because David had been a shepherd, his heart would be softened through a story about sheep.

(picture 6D.16) *How did David respond to Nathan's rebuke? How was God merciful to David?* Although God forgave David, the consequences of his sin were very painful for everyone involved. As a result of David's sin, their son became sick and died.

After his son's death, David repented and tried to make things right again. We may have a hard time forgiving ourselves, but God doesn't! David messed up—just as we all do. God punished David's sin, but when David confessed and repented, God forgave him. When we sin, God is eager to do the same for us. He wants us to repent and be restored to a relationship of full trust and dependence on Him.

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Big Idea: **God desires that Christian families live in harmony.**

2 Samuel 13-15 [outline form]

Intro: *David did not lead his family well, and it led to great trouble.*

Ask: *Why is it so much better when families live in harmony?*

1. King David's son, Amnon, committed a terrible sin against his half-sister.

- *Amnon raped Tamar and then cast her away 2 Samuel 13:10-15*
- *David did nothing to punish Tamar 13:21*
- *Tamar's brother, Absalom, hated Amnon and had him killed 13:28-29*
- *David was distraught, but longed to forgive Absalom 13:39*

2. David refused to reconcile with Absalom. He used the law as an excuse to keep Absalom away.

- *Joab had a wise woman appeal to the king with a story 14:1-11*
- *The woman showed David that he should not hide behind the law . . 14:13-17*
- *David brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. 14:21*
- *It was still two more years before David saw Absalom. 14:28-33*

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3. Absalom began to gather support for himself among the Israelites.

- *He sympathized with the discontented (picture 6D.17) 15:1-6*
- *Absalom prepared to declare himself king. 15:10-12*
- *David heard and decided to flee (picture 6D.18) 15:13-14*
- *David was ready to accept God's judgment 15:16-29*

Conclusion: *This story shows the terrible pain caused by a jealous and rebellious son and a father who made mistakes raising his children. But let us never forget that God can turn situations around and restore harmony where there is conflict and discord.*

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Big Idea: **God desires that Christian families live in harmony.**

2 Samuel 13-15 [narrative form]

Today's Bible passage shows how conflict grows in a family. David's unwillingness to address a family crisis created greater problems for everyone. The great king of Israel did not manage his own family well.

One of David's sons, Amnon, committed a terrible sin and crime against his half-sister, Tamar. Amnon was David's oldest son, the heir to the throne. He probably thought he could get away with anything.

Tamar's brother, Absalom, discovered what had Amnon had done and became furious. When King David found out, he was angry, but he didn't discipline Amnon as a father should. *When someone isn't punished, how can it affect others? How did Absalom respond?* Afterwards, Absalom ran away for three years until David had a change of heart and allowed him to return to Jerusalem. However, for two more years David didn't see or talk with his son.

(picture 6D.17) *What did Absalom do to build his reputation? How did Absalom*

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steal the hearts of Israel?

Why did Absalom ask permission to go to Hebron? Why would this please David? Why was Hebron significant to David? How did Absalom take over Hebron?

(picture 6D.18) *How did David respond to the news? Why didn't David feel safe with his own son? What gave David comfort during this time of great distress?*

Why had the Levites brought the Ark of the LORD with them? Why did David send the priests back to Jerusalem? After they sacrificed to God, David was hopeful that the LORD would one day allow him to return to Jerusalem.

What did David's attitude and actions indicate about his feelings? What plan did David and his trusted advisor, Hushai, put into action?

This story shows the terrible pain caused by a jealous and rebellious son and a father who made mistakes raising his children. But let us never forget that God can turn situations around and restore harmony where there is conflict and discord.

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Big Idea: **God wants Christians to base their decisions on God's Word.**

2 Samuel 16-18 [outline form]

Intro: *Absalom followed bad advice and did not consult the Lord before acting.*

Ask: *Why is it important to go to God first with your decisions?*

1. King David and his family were fleeing from David's son, Absalom (picture 6D.19).
 - *Mephibosheth had stayed in Jerusalem, hoping to inherit 2 Samuel 16:3*
 - *A man from Saul's clan cursed David as he traveled. 16:5-8*
 - *David humbly accepted his enemy's curses 16:10-12*
2. Hushai had stayed with Absalom in order to secretly help David.
 - *At Ahithophel's advice, Absalom fulfilled God's punishment of David . . . 16:21*
 - *Absalom did not heed Ahithophel's military advice. 17:1-4*
 - *Instead, he took the false advice of Hushai 17:11-14*
 - *Hushai sent messengers to warn David 17:15-22*

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3. David prepared his men to meet Absalom's troops (picture 6D.20).
 - *The field of battle, a forest, helped the men in David's army 18:6-8*
 - *Absalom became tangled in tree branches. 18:9*
 - *Joab killed Absalom—against David's direct orders 18:12-15*
 - *David greatly mourned his son's death. 18:33*

Conclusion: *This passage gives insight into making good decisions. Godly decisions require 1) a right relationship with God—and a heart to do what is right; 2) humility to see clearly; 3) godly counselors; 4) the ability to discern between good and bad advice. Absalom lacked all these. David possessed them and he won the victory.*

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Big Idea: **God wants Christians to base their decisions on God's Word.**

2 Samuel 16-18 [narrative form]

King David and his family were fleeing from David's son, Absalom. *Why was David afraid of his own son?* Let students review—a family conflict grew from bad to worse. Now Absalom wanted to take over David's throne.

David was fleeing for his life. *Why did he show godly humility? Given the same situation, do you think Absalom would have responded like David? Why or why not?*

Absalom sought advice about how to defeat his father. *What advice did Ahithophel give? What advice did Hushai give? Whose advice did Absalom and all the men of Israel choose? Why?* (God had determined to frustrate the advice of Ahithophel.)

In 2 Samuel 15, David told Hushai to give conflicting advice and to send information to David through the priest's sons. So, according to the plan, Hushai informed the priests of Absalom's plans so they could warn David and give him an opportunity to escape.

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(picture 6D.20) *What advantages did David's army have over Absalom's larger army? Why didn't David lead his men into the forest?*

Why didn't Absalom stay outside the forest? Possible answers: he was proud and certain he would win; he wanted to see the victory himself; he thought he was invincible; etc. *What problem did Absalom not anticipate?* (His thick hair caught in a large oak tree and he was left hanging.) *Why didn't the servant kill Absalom?* (He knew David wanted Absalom to live.) *Why do you think Joab disobeyed David's orders?*

How did David respond to the news that his son was dead? (He was shaken and wept.) *Why did David wish he had died instead of Absalom?*

This passage gives insight into making good decisions. Godly decisions require 1) a right relationship with God—and a heart to do what is right; 2) humility to see clearly; 3) godly counselors; 4) the ability to discern between good and bad advice. Absalom lacked all these. David possessed them and he won the victory.

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Big Idea: **God calls Christians to be examples in their words and actions.**

2 Samuel 19-20 [outline form]

Intro: *David surprised everyone with actions after his victory.*

Ask: *What kinds of actions separate Christians from the rest of the world?*

1. King David mourned for Absalom.

- *David's army felt low and sad.* 2 Samuel 19:2-3
- *Joab rebuked David for ignoring his men* 19:5-7
- *David accepted his duty and praised his soldiers.* 19:8

2. When David returned to Jerusalem, he “dealt” with friends and foes (picture 6D.21).

- *David gave Amasa, Absalom's commander, command of his army.* 19:13
- *David spared Shimei's life.* 19:16-23
- *David listened to Mephibosheth and pardoned any wrongdoing* (picture 6D.22) 19:24-30
- *David rewarded Barzillai for his kindness.* 19:27-29

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3. Sheba rallied some men of Israel against David.

- *David sent Amasa and his men to defeat Sheba* 20:1-4
- *Amasa delayed, so David sent Abishai and his men* 20:5-7
- *Amasa joined them there, and Joab killed him.* 20:8-10
- *Sheba fled to Abel Beth Makaah.* 20:14
- *Joab began to attack the city, but the city gave Sheba up.* 20:15-22

Conclusion: *After quashing such a serious rebellion, a typical king would have taken revenge and behaved very differently than David. But years of walking with God had helped refine godly qualities in David. His actions are inspiring examples. Here was a man who knew and loved God—and it showed in his conduct.*

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Big Idea: **God calls Christians to be examples in their words and actions.**

2 Samuel 19-20 [narrative form]

Any person can exhibit good behavior from time to time, but godly conduct comes from deep within those who have a heart for God. Let's see how David displays extraordinary character in today's lesson.

Read 2 Samuel 19:1-8. *Why did Joab become angry with King David? Even though Joab knew David wanted his son to live, Joab had killed Absalom. What does that tell you about Joab's character? Why was David sad that Absalom, who wanted to kill him, was dead? When David came out to praise the soldiers, what did that reveal about his character?* Encourage responses.

Read 2 Samuel 19:9-15. *Amasa had commanded Absalom's defeated army. What do you think Amasa expected the king to do to him? Why do you think David promoted Amasa over Joab?* (picture 6D.21) *David's wise actions helped reunite his people. How difficult do you think it was for David to show mercy to a man who had plotted against him?*

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Read 2 Samuel 16:5-13 and 19:16-23. *Instead of killing Shimei, the king surprised everyone by pardoning him! When a person possesses great power, his or her true character is often revealed. Why do you think David chose to show mercy to someone who had ridiculed him during a tough time?*

Read 2 Samuel 16:1-4 and 19:24-30. (picture 6D.22) *What evidence showed that Mephibosheth deserted David? What evidence showed that Mephibosheth was distraught? At first, David had believed Ziba and gave him Mephibosheth's land. Now he heard Mephibosheth's explanation. Who do you believe, Mephibosheth or Ziba? Encourage responses. How did David's conduct show fairness? How did Mephibosheth's conduct show his true character?*

Read 2 Samuel 17:27-29 and 19:31-40. *Why did David want to reward Barzillai? Why didn't Barzillai accept David's generous offer? What did Barzillai suggest? Why do you think David showed kindness to Kimham?*

After quashing such a serious rebellion, a typical king would have taken revenge and behaved very differently than David. But years of walking with God had helped refine godly qualities in David. His actions are inspiring examples. Here was a man who knew and loved God—and it showed in his conduct.

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Big Idea: **God yearns for intimate friendships with His children.**

2 Samuel 22-24 [outline form]

Intro: *David's story concludes with a song to God and a focus on others.*

Ask: *What does it mean to you that God wants to be your friend?*

1. King David wrote a psalm of praise to the LORD (picture 6D.23).
 - *God is a fortress of safety.* 2 Samuel 22:1-4
 - *God rescues us from danger and our enemies* 22:5-20
 - *God gave David what he needed to be victorious* 22:33-46
 - *David gave God all the credit for his triumphs.* 23:1-7
2. David's "mighty men" were faithful to him and to the LORD.
 - *Five men performed incredible feats in service to David* 23:8-23
 - *David highly respected and honored them* (picture 6D.24) 23:16-17
 - *In all, thirty-seven men were key to David's success.* 23:24-39

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3. The author provides one last snapshot of David's imperfection and God's forgiveness.

- *David pridefully wanted to know the size of his armies* 24:1-4
- *David realized he had sinned against God.* 24:10
- *God punished David and the Israelites* 24:15-16
- *David wished deeply to atone for his sins.* 24:17
- *God provided sacrificial steps for David to be forgiven* 24:18-25

Conclusion: *It is possible to maintain an intimate, lifelong relationship with the Lord. David is just one example of many, but his life and legacy shows us that it is definitely worth it!*

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Big Idea: **God yearns for intimate friendships with His children.**

2 Samuel 22-24 [narrative form]

This final lesson highlights two very different aspects of David's fascinating life: his gift as a poet/musician, and his military genius. First we will focus on one of David's victory songs, then we will discover some of the amazing battle exploits of his "mighty men."

David's Song: On the day the LORD delivered David from his enemies, he wrote this song to express his thoughts and feelings. Because no one has ever seen God, David used word-pictures to describe Him. Ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 22:1-4 (picture 6D.23). *What words did David use to picture God?*

Read verses 8-20. David discovered God's overwhelming power when he had no hope for victory. This gave God the opportunity to demonstrate His greatness and strength. *What dramatic words did David use to describe God's power?*

Read 2 Samuel 22:21-25. At first glance, these words might seem to be boastful, but they reflect what God did in David's life. *When have you felt that God rewarded*

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you for right attitudes? Let children respond. *Did David live a completely righteous life? How could David call himself righteous?* David's life demonstrated righteous conduct flowing from a passionate love for God.

The song continues with David recalling his firsthand experiences with the LORD. David gives examples of God's deliverance. Read verses 26-46. *What are some things David expressed about God?* David experienced many times when God showed His power. *How have you seen God at work in your life?* Encourage responses.

Read verses 47-51. David refers to God as "LORD among the nations." At that time, only Jews could belong to the LORD—but when Jesus came, He opened the door for people from every nation to know God!

David's Mighty Men: In 2 Samuel 23, David presents the names and accomplishments of his thirty-seven most celebrated warriors. These brave and trusted men often accompanied David in battle and also helped him ascend to the throne. *Some of their exploits are incredible!* Divide into five groups and ask kids to report on each hero's "claim to fame." (picture 6D.24)

Encourage your children to maintain an intimate, lifelong relationship with the Lord. David's example shows that it is possible, and definitely worth it!

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