

SAUL IS JEALOUS OF DAVID

Scripture: I Samuel 18-23

Materials Needed: Mousetrap
Cards with "Snare #1-10"

Memory Verse: Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, (emphasis for this lesson)

but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted. (emphasis for next lesson)

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—Because Saul feared the people under him, he rejected God's commands, but when the people praised David's actions, Saul's jealousy destroyed his life as he tried to have David destroyed.

To Realize—When someone is more afraid of people rather than doing what God wants, it will be a destructive snare in their life.

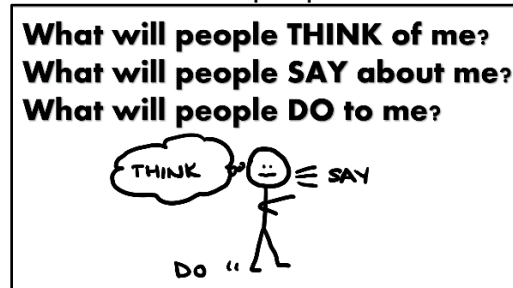
To Respond by—doing what God wants and not being afraid of what people will think, say, or do as a result.

Setting up the Story:

Teach the Memory Verse at the beginning of the lesson.

Define "Fear of man"—

1. "What will people **THINK** about me?" (thought bubble)
2. "What will people **SAY** about me?" (add speaking lines from the mouth)
3. "What will people **DO** to me?" (add lines to the feet)



Define "Snare" (show a Mousetrap)

There are **TWO** things that a snare does...it **TRAPS** something so that it can't get away, so that it is **DESTROYED**. (write the words "traps" and "destroys" on the board.)



What does the verse say is the snare, or trap that destroys a person? Always being afraid of what other people are going to THINK, or SAY, or DO to me. BUT...

How does a person get out of the Trap? "He who TRUSTS in the Lord" (write the word "trusts" under "traps" and the word "exalted" under the word "destroys")

In today's lesson we are going to look at how Saul tries to SNARE David..he tries to TRAP him! Let's review...

Scripture	Telling the story:	As you tell the story:
I Samuel 13	I. Saul Fears the People A. Offers the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel.	You remember that Saul had been told by Samuel to WAIT seven days, and Samuel would come and offer the sacrifice.
I Samuel 15	B. Saves some of the best sheep because the people want them.	But remember what Saul SAW? Philistines! Big army was gathering. And his army was running away! What was he AFRAID of?! (maybe they wouldn't think he was taking action and being a good king— FEAR OF MAN!) (repeat together: "The fear of man brings a SNARE!")
	C. The kingdom is taken from Saul 1. "The Lord has sought out for Himself a man..." (I Sam. 13:14) 2. "God has torn the kingdom from you and given it to your neighbor who is better than you." (I Sam. 15:28)	And then later, God told Saul to destroy all the Amalekites, but Saul didn't obey and he kept the BEST of the sheep. And do you know why? Because THE PEOPLE wanted them, and Saul was AFRAID...what would they think of him if he told them "no" they couldn't have them? Or what would they do?! (repeat together: "The fear of man brings a SNARE!") God told Saul through Samuel that his kingdom had been taken from him and given to someone God picked that was BETTER THAN Saul. No one knew who it was until...

<p>I Samuel 18:5-7</p> <p>18:16, 30</p>	<p>II. The People Praise David</p> <p>A. After he kills Goliath</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saul has slain his thousands! 2. And David his TENS of thousands! <p>B. As he leads the people into battle (18:16, 30)</p>	<p>David came to the battle one day and heard Goliath and because God was with him, he KILLED Goliath!!</p> <p>This was David's shining moment in the spotlight!!</p> <p>And one little song came to Saul's ears, and he was pretty sure who his kingdom was going to be given to! What did the people THINK and SAY about DAVID?!</p> <p>Saul was so jealous that the people weren't saying those things about HIM! So he was going to try to TRAP David and DESTROY him!</p>
<p>18:10-11</p> <p>18:17-30</p> <p>19:1-7</p> <p>19:8-10</p> <p>19:11-14</p> <p>19:15-17</p> <p>20:24-34</p> <p>22:6-18</p> <p>23:7-13</p> <p>23:19-29</p>	<p>III. Jealousy Takes Over Saul's life to destroy him</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Tries to pin David to the wall B. Tries to put David into dangerous battles to be killed by Philistines C. Tells his sons and servants to kill David D. Again tries to pin David to the wall with his spear E. Sends messengers to David's house F. Wants him brought on his sick bed to kill him G. Tries to pin Jonathan who is helping David H. Has priests killed who he thinks are helping David I. Takes all his soldiers to Keilah to get David J. Brings soldiers to wilderness of Ziph 	<p>To help with the storytelling, before class, write each of these 10 "traps" that Saul made for David on an 8-1/2x11 piece of paper (landscape). As you summarize the details of each one in a few sentences, include the phrases: "David was trapped" and "Saul wanted to destroy him." (The two parts of a SNARE definition).</p> <p>Draw a stick figure of Saul in the middle of the board. After each summary, tape the piece of paper onto the board until all 10 "snares" are completely surrounding Saul.</p> <p>In the middle of the lesson show them the pattern—Saul is trying to trap and destroy David, but what is happening? He is being trapped by his JEALOUSY and it is destroying him!</p>

Concluding the Story:

At the end of the lesson, all ten “snares” will be surrounding Saul.

Look at what has happened. Saul is now completely given over to his jealousy and it has trapped him.

WHY? What was the problem that led to the jealousy?

FEAR OF MAN!!

“What will people think of ME?!”

“What will people say about ME?”

“What will people do to ME?”

And when someone else got the spotlight and got praised, Saul was so focused on people and himself—who did he forget? GOD.

With the sacrifice and the battle against the Amalekites, Saul should have been asking: “What will God think of me doing this? What will God say about me?

What will God do to me?’

Is there anyone that you want their good opinion of you more than you want God’s good opinion? Is there anyone you are jealous of?

What is the answer to the problem according to the memory verse?

“trust in the Lord.”

In the next lesson, we are going to look at Saul and David some more, but we are going to see how David trusted in the Lord and what happened!

Let’s pray.

SAUL HATES DAVID HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. Whose opinion is the most important to you—a person's or God's?
2. Is there some obedient action you have refused to take, or something you have refused to speak because you are afraid of what people will think of you for doing it?
3. Is there anyone you are jealous of (past or present) that you need to confess to God that you've been looking at what people think of that person instead of trusting God to exalt you?

Application Questions to Think Through for your Students:

1. Comparison is a deadly poison. What are your students apt to compare with each other?
2. How does jealousy destroy the jealous person?

Memory Verse: (teach at the beginning of the lesson)

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

Post-Lesson Activity:

Use remaining time to help students learn the Books of History (Joshua-Esther).
Bible Skills, p. 25 "Book Guess"