

JONATHAN: DAVID'S FRIEND

Scripture:

I Samuel 14:1, 6-15, 18:1-9, 19:1-7, 20:1-42, 23:16-18

Materials Needed:

Pictures
Cake ingredients or cake mix
box
Ties for a three-legged race

Memory Verse: Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*

Or Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

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

To Know: that Jonathan was a courageous soldier who relied on God's enabling to defeat the Philistines. After David killed Goliath, Jonathan loved him more than himself, even giving him his own robe and armor. Later, when David was praised above Saul and it became evident he would be the next king, Jonathan refused to help his father get rid of David, but instead protected, warned, and encouraged David, each time renewing their covenant of love and friendship.

To Realize: The closest friendships come from a mutual love and faith in God and a mutual purpose to see Him glorified; and even if one becomes greater than the other, a committed friend will not become envious or jealous, but will protect and encourage, trusting in God's overall plan.

To Respond: by choosing friends who love the Lord and loving them more than themselves, even if their friends become greater.

Setting Up the Story—

If I wanted to make a cake, what would I have to have to make it the most wonderful, delicious cake? (List ingredients on the board. Make sure someone says baking soda/baking powder—the part that makes the cake rise! Also, they might forget to mention that you need the oven—where it all comes together!)

You've given me all the necessary ingredients for a great cake. Now I'm going to stretch your thinking. I want you to tell me the ingredients I would need in order to have a great friendship. (List things on the board. Make sure someone says forgiveness. And also that God is a part of the friendship—the One who makes the friendship come together!)

There is one ingredient that can destroy a great friendship if it is allowed to get into the mix. In today's lesson, we are going to look at a great friendship. At

several points, there is an opportunity for this ingredient to enter the friendship and destroy it. At the end of the lesson, I want you to tell me what it is.

Telling the Story—

Scripture:
I Sam. 14:1, 6-15

- I. Jonathan is a Courageous Soldier
 - A. Only he and armor bearer
 - 1. Go to Philistine garrison
 - 2. Cross cliffs
 - B. Expecting God to work
 - C. 20 Philistines dead + rally other soldiers to fight= great victory

Scripture:
I Sam. 18:1-5

- II. Jonathan Loves David
 - A. After David fights Goliath
 - B. Loves him as himself
 - C. Gives him his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt

Scripture:
I Sam. 18:6-9

- III. Jonathan Remains Loyal as David Becomes Great
 - A. David is Praised
 - B. Saul has slain thousands
 - C. David tens of thousands

I Sam. 19:1-7

I Sam. 20:1-42

I Sam. 23:16-18

- B. Saul tries to Kill David: Jonathan protects

As you tell the story—

If you are the one that did this, what does everyone think of you?

At this point what does everyone think of David? Wait a minute! Isn't that what they were thinking of you not long ago when you were the hero?

What might Jonathan feel about David—this young shepherd, from some little family in a tiny little town—suddenly having everyone noticing him? Do you know what he does? He's helping David become GREATER by giving him the best equipment he has!

As David began to win more battles, they began to sing songs about him from when he had killed Goliath.

How many of you have ever watched someone you knew or maybe even a really good friend get something you really wanted? Maybe you were playing a game, and your friend got all the points! How did it make you feel? Did you want to go over and pat him on the back and say, "Well done! I'm so happy for you!"?

Saul certainly wasn't going to let this young soldier take anything away from him OR his son, Jonathan!

C. Saul tries to Kill David again: Jonathan warns

D. Saul tries to Kill Jonathan

E. Jonathan Encourages David in the Wilderness

But what was Jonathan's response?

What did Saul think they were saying about him and about David?

What would Jonathan think? "Hmph! I gave him my armor! That's why he's been able to be so successful! I'M the king's son—not him! They used to praise ME!" Is that what he is saying? No!

Why not? Because Jonathan is a loyal friend—even when David is becoming more successful.

What does Jonathan do? Why would he do that? Because he was a loyal friend.

When they left each other, David was sobbing. Do you know why? Because he knew he would never find another friend like Jonathan. He would never find another person who watched him become great and was just as happy for him, even though he himself wasn't becoming great.

Concluding the story:

At the beginning of the lesson, I told you there was one ingredient that would destroy a great friendship. What was it? (Jealousy/Envy)

Jonathan had lots of opportunities to let that come into his heart and ruin his friendship with David. How did he keep it from coming in? Loyalty—rejoicing with David's successes and sticking up for David when he was in trouble.

Right now I would like you to bow your heads and answer three questions quietly.

1. Do you have a friend like Jonathan? If you do—thank the Lord right now, because they are rare to find!
2. Are you a friend like Jonathan? If you aren't then ask the Lord right now to make you that kind of loyal friend.
3. Do you have any jealousy or envy in your heart right now towards a friend who has had successes you haven't had, or who has gotten something you wanted but didn't get? If there is, then right now confess it to God as a sin and ask Him to keep you from jealousy and envy when your friends get something that you really want and don't get.

Let's pray.

Boardwork

JONATHAN: DAVID'S FRIEND HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. What qualities do you appreciate most in a friend?
2. To what extent would you say those qualities are part of your own life? (i.e., would someone describe you as being that way?)
3. When are times that the opportunity has come to be envious or jealous of a close friend's success, when you haven't gotten what they have?
4. In what ways can you currently apply the verse in your life, "Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. In what ways can competition be a hindrance to a close friendship?
2. How can they show loyalty even when a friend gets what they want?
3. What steps of confession and restoration might your students need to take in a broken friendship?

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*

Or Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.*

Write here which game you will use to teach this verse and any supplies you might need:

Post-Lesson Activity:

If you have enough space, play a three-legged race.

Take a few students aside and tell them privately that for the second round, you want them to try to keep their partner from winning.

Play a second race. The unknowing partners will feel a bit frustrated at the sudden un-cooperation of their partners.

What was the difference between the first race and the second? In the first race each set of players had the same desire: they wanted each other to win. But as soon as one player didn't want the other player to win, both of them lost out.

Jealousy and envy is that secret ingredient that makes us want our friends NOT to 'win' and be successful. When that happens—everyone loses.