

God's Unfolding Story

Bible Story:

David and Jonathan
(1 Samuel 18; 1-4;
19:1-3; 20:14-17; 41)

Bible Phrase: "A friend loves
at all times" (Proverbs 17:17)

Bible Truth: God wants me
to love and be kind to my
friends.



1. God created everything.



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



4. God sent Jesus to help us.



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

Suggested Schedule:

Arrival

Centers – 25 minutes

Clean-up Time – 5 minutes

Bible Story Time – 15 minutes

Craft Time – 10 minutes

Snack Time – 10 minutes

Game Time/Dismissal



Unfolding God's Story for Teachers

First Samuel 18–20 records some of David's turbulent experiences in King Saul's royal court. Underlying these chaotic events is one of the most beautiful examples of godly friendship in the Bible; 1 Samuel 18–20 shows the depth of an extraordinary friendship and how it survived in the crucible of reality.

After David defeated Goliath, Saul directed that he would live in the royal court. Saul had a son, Jonathan, and when David and Jonathan first met, they became fast friends. One was a prince and the other a shepherd, but their spirits bonded together in a friendship that God blessed. We can conclude from Jonathan's words and actions that he was a man of God. This would be a common thread in this friendship, for David and Jonathan both recognized and affirmed God's authority and provision. These young men spent much time together and perhaps participated in warrior games. It is unlikely at this early point that Jonathan knew David would succeed his father as king, but surely he sensed that David's role in Israel would be significant. Later, Jonathan knew David's destiny and was supportive of it (see 1 Sam. 23:17).

Unlike his father, Jonathan did not see David as a threat, but as a faithful warrior and friend who wanted the best for his people. Jonathan's gifts of robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt in 1 Samuel 18:4 were a tribute to the honor and respect he had for David. To a Prince, these were treasured possessions. The gifts foreshadowed events to come. They, along with the covenants the two made, sealed this friendship. Its impact would last even beyond Jonathan's death.

Jonathan was troubled and angry when he learned his father wanted to kill David. He interceded for his friend, even putting his own life at risk to protect David's. Yet in the end, Jonathan realized he could not convince his father about David. He no doubt loved his father but knew that Saul was in the wrong.

Surely Jonathan's love for God, his nation, and David helped him to do what was right. His plan to send David safely away was bittersweet. When they parted, David respectfully bowed to Jonathan as prince but wept sorrowfully as they parted as friends. These were two friends who loved each other as they loved themselves and who remained faithful regardless of cost. Sadly, they saw one another only one more time before Jonathan's death.

The friendship of David and Jonathan provides a wonderful example to emulate. A true friend is a treasure, and genuine friendships are characterized by faithfulness and respect. Of course, we find the ultimate friend in Jesus Christ. Praise God for your friendships! Go to bat for your friends, and always appreciate and love them!

Lesson Plan

Arrival

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.

Center Time



Puzzle Center:

Work Puzzles

Supplies:

- Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.

What to Do: Encourage preschoolers to finish puzzles they begin. Affirm children as they work together to complete the puzzles.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, look for opportunities to say the Bible phrase or to briefly tell the Bible story.

Art Center:

Make a Card

Supplies:

- White construction paper
- Crayons, washable markers
- Commercial Dot Painters
- Child's scissors, glue, construction paper

What to Do: Fold each paper in half to make a card. Print today's Bible phrase, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17), inside the card. Invite children use the dot painters and other art materials to decorate the cards for their friends.

Link to the Bible Story: As preschoolers work, talk about the Bible story. You might say, "Today our Bible story is about two friends, David and Jonathan. Our Bible phrase is 'A friend loves at all times, (Proverbs 17:17). David and Jonathan had a strong friendship, and each looked out for the other. Jonathan gave a special gift to David to show his appreciation and love for David. One way we can show love and concern for a friend is to give him or her a card."

Bible Learning Center:

Maze

Supplies: Copies of Activity Page: Maze "Help Jonathan Find David" (Reproducible)

- Washable markers or crayons

What to Do: Invite each child to use a marker or crayon to follow the maze to help Jonathan find David.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work the maze, talk about the Bible story. You could say, "Our Bible story is about two friends named David and Jonathan. They loved each other as friends, and each wanted the best for the other. Perhaps David and Jonathan hunted and rode horses together. Jonathan wanted to show his love to David by giving David special gifts. Help Jonathan find David so he can give him his gift."

Home Living Center:

Role Play

Supplies:

- Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit and small table and chairs; plastic dishes, child pots and pans; pretend food items; doll, doll bed, and doll accessories

What to Do: Home living items naturally encourage children to act out roles and activities they observe at home.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work and play together, look for opportunities to talk about the Bible story. Say, "In our Bible story today we will learn about two friends named David and Jonathan. These friends worked and played together. What are some fun things that friends do together? "

Block Center:

Build with Blocks

Supplies:

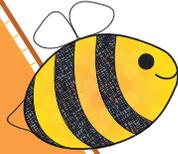
- Wooden blocks
- Transportation toys
- Optional: people figures

What to Do: Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow.

Link to the Bible Story: While children are engaged in building with the blocks and playing with the cars and figures, use the opportunity to share a portion of the Bible story, Bible phrase, or Bible truth.

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.



Bible Story Time

- Supplies:**
- Bible
 - Teaching Picture "David and Jonathan" (Reproducible)
 - God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

Introduction

• Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Express to the boys and girls that even though we find many stories in the Bible, the Bible really tells one big story, and all the little stories are a part of the big one we can call God's Unfolding Story. Tell children that each picture represents a chapter in God's Unfolding Story. Turn the cube and talk about each chapter in the story. (Refer to page 1.) Express that every story from the Bible is from one of the main chapters. Today's story is from the third one, God chose a special people.

• Introduce the story. Here's a suggestion about what to say. "We have been learning about a boy named David. You might remember that God had chosen David as king, but it would be a while before David was ready to take the throne. God wanted to prepare David for that special task. While David was waiting, God helped him learn many things that would make him a good king. Today we will hear another story about David. David was living in King Saul's house, where he made a special friend. Do you have a special friend? Our story will help us to know how God wants us to treat our friends."

Bible Story

David and Jonathan

(1 Samuel 18; 1-4; 19:1-3; 20:14-17; 41)

After he fought Goliath, David was directed to live at King Saul's house. God was preparing David for the time he would be the king of Israel. Living in the palace and watching the king would help David learn more about what was involved in being king.

Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan was likely several years older than David, but the two apparently had a lot in common. They quickly became friends and likely spent a lot of time together. David and Jonathan may have practiced shooting arrows with their bows. They may have ridden horses around the countryside. David ate meals and slept in the same house where Jonathan lived. Jonathan made sure David felt at home.

Often a person will show appreciation for a friend by giving that person gifts. Jonathan decided to give David some things that were special and important to him—his coat, his

sword, his bow, and his belt. Surely these gifts were very special to David.

David and Jonathan make a promise to each other. They promised they always would be friends no matter what happened. They promised to always help each other and care for each other and their families. In the Bible we read, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17). David and Jonathan were true friends.

Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture for today's Bible story. Review by using these or similar questions. "Where did David go to live after he fought Goliath? Who was David's new friend? What kinds of things did David and Jonathan do together as friends? Jonathan showed he loved David as a friend by giving him gifts. What was one thing Jonathan gave David? David and Jonathan made a promise to each other. Can you remember one thing they promised?"
2. Read the Bible phrase on the teaching picture. Say the phrase together, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17). Explain, "God wants us to have friends. God wants us always to be kind and loving to our friends. That means that even if we disagree or if a friend gets a new toy and we don't, we still love that person and want to be their friend."
3. Close the Bible Story Time by inviting children to join you in prayer. Say a prayer asking God to help each one be the kind of a friend that is loving and caring at all times.
4. Direct children to Craft Time.

Craft Time: Friendship Necklace

Supplies:

- Copies of "Bible Phrase Hearts" – Reproducible – (1 copy for every 6 children)
- Crayons or markers
- Yarn, tape
- Plastic beads

What to Do: Cut out the hearts and cut lengths of yarn long enough for stringing necklaces. To make stringing easier, wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn and tie a bead to the other end. Invite preschoolers to string beads and Bible Phrase Hearts on their necklaces.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, review the Bible phrase together. Comment, "Sometimes we may disagree with our friends or misunderstand them, but that does not mean we stop loving and caring for them. Talk about ways David and Jonathan expressed their friendship. Ask each boy and girl to think of a friend to whom they could give the necklace, as a way of showing love and concern.

Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Game Time / Dismissal: "Will You be Our Friend?"

Supplies: Beanbag

What to Do: Ask children to sit in a circle. Choose a child to be "It" and hold the beanbag. Explain to children they will help you sing a song as part of the game. Teach the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Will you be our friend?

We'd love to be your friend.

Drop the beanbag 1, 2, 3.

Will you be our friend?

Tell children the one holding the bag will walk inside the circle of friends as everyone sings the song. Tell children that when you reach the part of the song that says "Drop the beanbag 1, 2, 3," the person holding the bag drops the bag in front of the friend closest to where he is standing. The class identifies the individual and asks if he or she would be their friend. Then the new friend takes the beanbag and walks around the circle, and the game continues.

At the close of the game, talk about some ways people can show love to their friends—ways like sharing, taking turns, visiting in their homes, eating together, going to the movies or park together, giving gifts, celebrating happy time together, etc.





Resources and Supplies

Old Testament Unit 10: David
Lesson 4: David and Jonathan

Standard Art Supplies

(Supplies that are generally in the room)

- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Child scissors
- Playdough and accessories
- Drawing paper
- Easel (optional)
- Glue/glue sticks
- Tempera paint, 4 colors
- Tape/masking tape
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Teacher scissors
- Stapler/staples
- Permanent markers
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn

Standard Equipment

(Equipment that is generally in the room)

- Bible
- Small beanbag for Bible Story Time
- Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles
- Set of wooden blocks
- Small cars and trucks
- Doll bed
- Baby doll (soft plastic)
- Stove/sink unit
- Play dishes/pots and pans
- Small table and chairs
- Small carpet for block area
- Play food items
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, and Bible Learning Center
- CD player/Children's Worship CDs

Reproducibles

(Included with the lesson plan downloads)

- Activity Page: Maze "Help Jonathan Find David" (1 per child)
- "Bible Phrase Hearts" (1 copy for every child)
- Teaching Picture: "David and Jonathan" (1 copy per class)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock—1 copy per class)
- Parent Page (1 copy per child)
- Coloring Page, "David and Jonathan"

Additional Art Materials

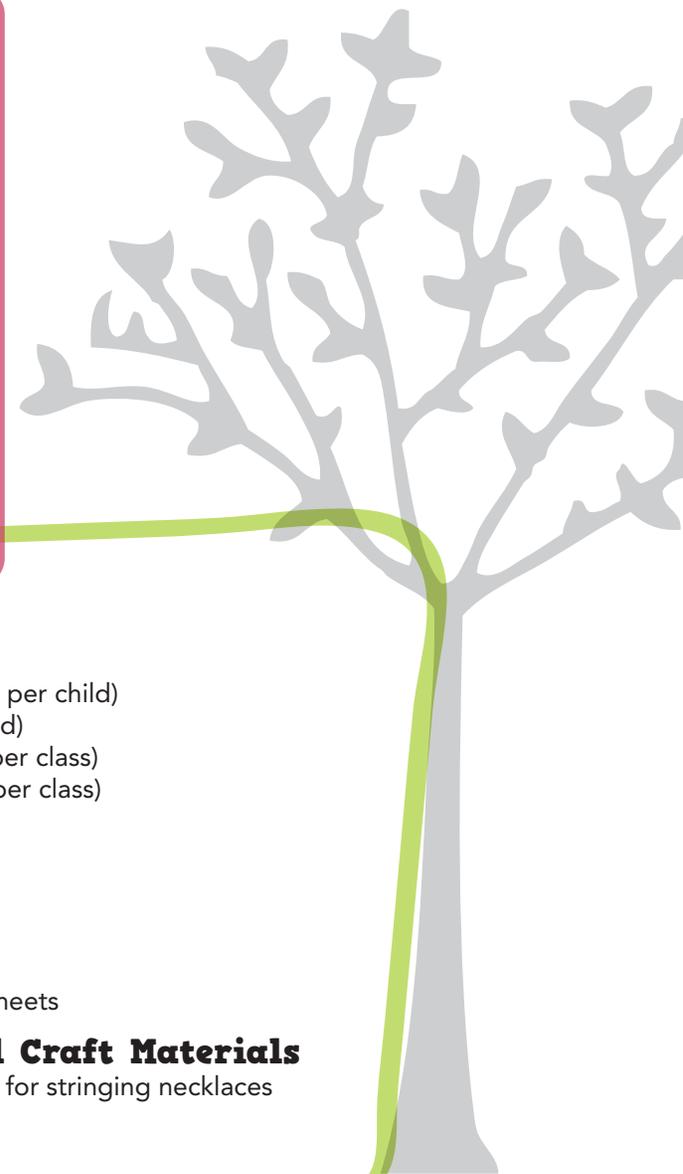
- White construction paper – 1 per child
- Commercial Dot Painters
- Various colors of construction paper – 5 or 6 sheets

Additional Block Materials

- Optional: Plastic people figures

Additional Craft Materials

- Plastic beads for stringing necklaces



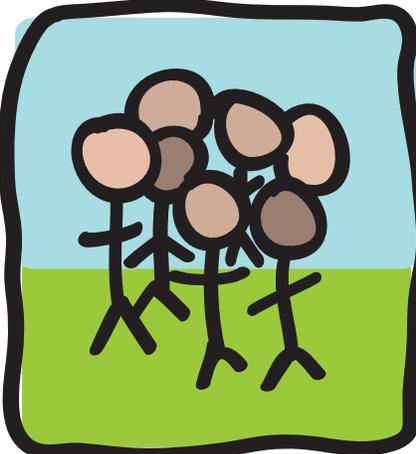
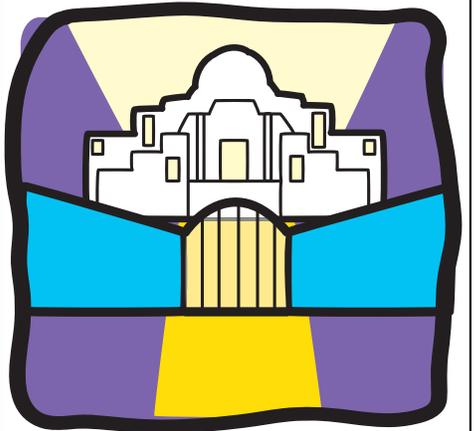
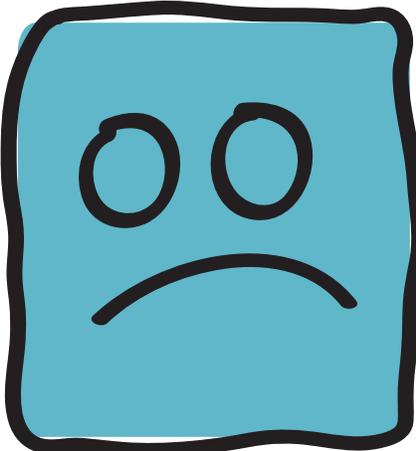
Help Jonathan Find David



Bible Learning Center: Activity Page, Maze, "Help Jonathan Find David"
Instructions: One copy per child. Use a crayon or marker to follow the path to help Jonathan find David to give him a special gift.



Craft: Friendship Necklace
Instructions: One copy for every 6 children, cardstock recommended. Cut out the Bible Phrase Hearts. Use the hearts along with plastic beads and yarn to make a friendship necklace.



God's Unfolding Story Cube
Instructions: Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.



A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17