

Lower Elementary

**David and
Jonathan**

Checklist

yarn

cardboard strips

hole puncher

Introduction:

Does anyone have a friend who has moved away?

What made them a good friend?

Do you miss your friend?

Having friends move away can be very sad.

But it is something that will happen throughout your life.

Are you alone because your friends have moved away?

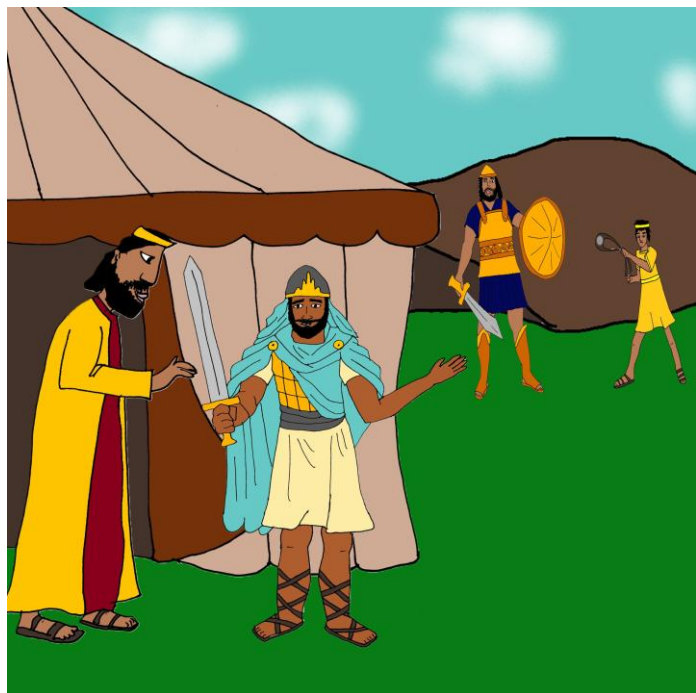
Who is still with you? (family, other friends, God)

David had already been one of the court musicians in Saul's palace before he came to fight Goliath. David came to Saul when his mind was distracted and overwhelmed. In addition to being his harp-player, David also carried Saul's armor. Despite all this, Saul did not know very much about the life of his servant, who often traveled back and forth between his home in Bethlehem, where he continued to help with his father's sheep, and Saul's camp.



But after David killed Goliath, Saul realized he needed to pay much more attention to David--and to keep a much closer eye on his competitor for the people's love. "Abner," Saul asked the commander of his army as he watched David, "whose son is that young man?"

"I have no idea," Abner answered, so Saul commanded him to find out what family David belonged to.



Although he had been anointed by Samuel years before, David had not come to take Saul's throne. When he was brought to Saul, who asked again whose son he was, he simply replied, "I am David the son of Jesse. A loyal Israelite from Bethlehem."



No longer willing to let David travel back and forth between His camp and Bethlehem, Saul kept David close to him from that day forward. David still had the job of carrying Saul's armor and playing music for him whenever his mind became distracted. But now he was also Saul's prized warrior, fighting in battles against the Philistines on his behalf.



Saul's son Jonathan was next in line to become king. But David and Jonathan quickly became best friends. Jonathan thought as highly of David as he did of himself and the two young men promised to always be loyal friends. Although he could have been jealous that David had been chosen to be the next king instead of him and tried to stop David, Jonathan accepted God's decision. He showed David that he accepted him as the next king by giving him his prince's robe, which showed he was heir to the throne. Jonathan also gave David his armor, sword, bow and arrows, and belt.



Saul promoted David to become an officer in his army. David was successful in everything he did for his king. When the army marched home from fighting the Philistines the women of each town threw a parade for King Saul, dancing and singing to their harps and tambourines.

Saul loved the attention and felt powerful, until he listened more carefully and heard the words they were singing.

“Saul has defeated a thousand enemies!” the women sang out.

“And David has defeated ten thousand!”

“Why are they giving more praise to this newcomer than to their king?” Saul thought angrily.

“What’s next? They’ll want to make him king?”

Saul’s heart turned against David and from that day, he never trusted him.



But all of Israel, and especially all of Saul's family, loved David. Saul's daughter, Michal, fell in love with David and wanted to marry him. Although David insisted he came from too humble of a family to marry a princess, Saul had David marry his daughter and now David was more than his servant or military leader; he was his son-in-law.

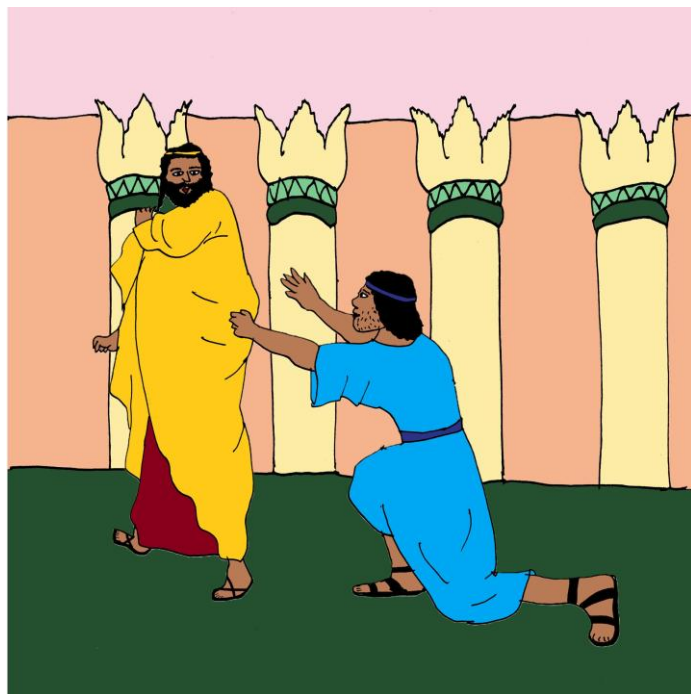


Saul saw that his son and daughter were loyal to David, and every day he grew more and more jealous of him. When David played music for Saul during his fits, he threw his spear at him and David ran out of the room, fearful of the king who was losing his ability to think with reason.



Michal told David to run away, but Jonathan was convinced Saul would never actually hurt David. Jonathan talked to his father. He reminded Saul how David had served him in so many ways.

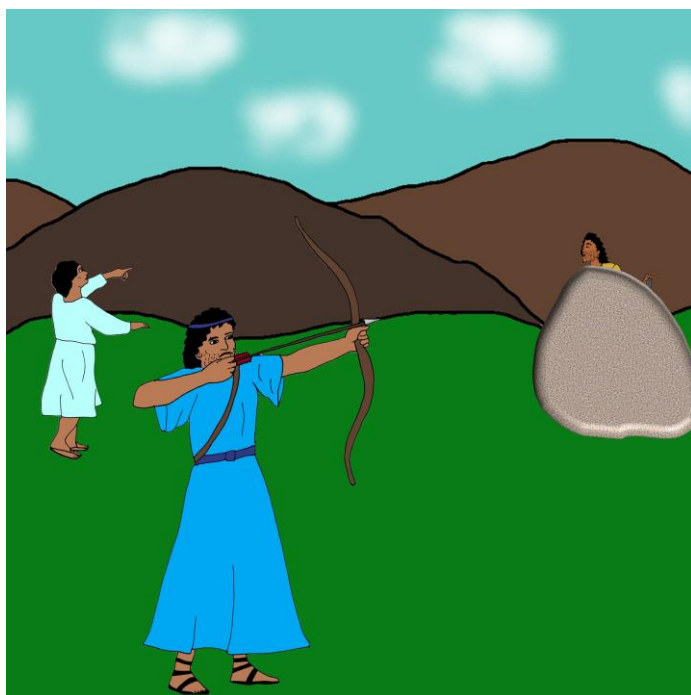
“David has always been your loyal servant,” Jonathan insisted. And Saul, feeling sorry for his burst of anger, promised that he would be kind to David again. But this only lasted a short time before Saul’s anger overtook him once more.



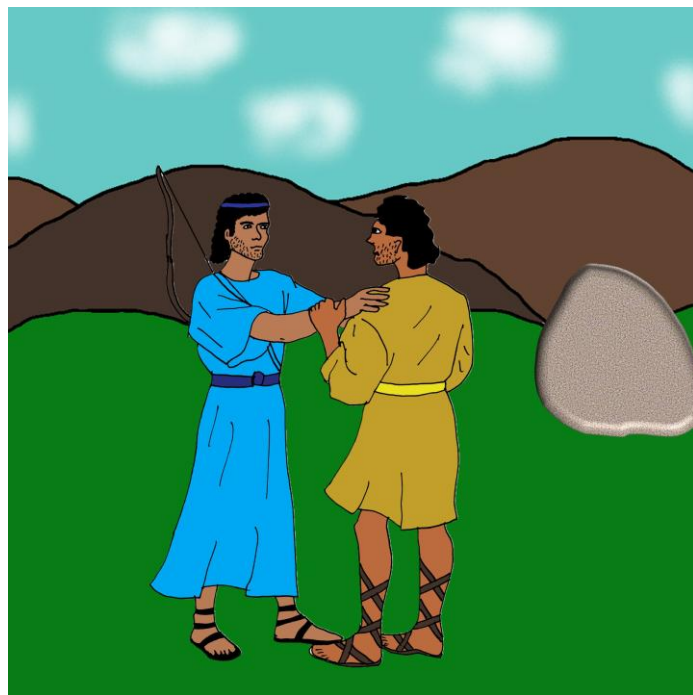
Jonathan told David to camp out in the field overnight while he talked to his father again.

“I will go out with a servant to practice my archery,” Jonathan said. “If it is safe for you to return I will shoot at the target and send my servant to retrieve the arrows. But if it is not safe, I will tell him the arrows are beyond him.”

That night when Saul learned that David was not there, he was overwhelmed with anger and jealousy and went into a fit. Jonathan sadly realized that King Saul would never be able to live at peace with David.



The next morning Jonathan walked out into the field with his bow and arrows. David, hiding behind a rock, waited eagerly to hear the secret message. Jonathan shot his arrows far beyond the target. David knew this meant he would have to leave. After the boy who collected his arrows had returned to town, David came out of his hiding place. He and Jonathan cried and hugged. “Be safe,” Jonathan told him. “Remember, nothing will ever take our friendship away. Let’s always remember each other.” Neither of the young men knew what would happen next, but both trusted that God was in charge, and no action they or Saul could do could be more powerful than God’s will.



Closing Discussion:

God had chosen David to be the next king after Saul. How did Saul feel when David became more popular than him? (jealous)

What could Saul have done instead of being jealous? (be friends with David, be happy for David, understand that God's plan might be different from his own)

How did David and Jonathan feel about having to say goodbye? (sad)

Is it hard to make new friends? (sometimes) What do you say to someone you have just met if you want to be friends? (Will you be my friend?)

Who will always be with you as your Friend, no matter what? (Jesus) Jesus wants to be everyone's friend. He wants to talk to you when you're sad and be a part of your life. It's easy to ask Him to become your friend. You always know the answer will be yes.

Craft:

Bow & arrows

Closing Activities:

Have children name things they do to be a good friend. Write them on the board and then choose one of them to have children act out, one at a time. Other children must guess which one they are acting out.

Choose three children to play Saul, David and Jonathan.

Have all other children make a circle around David, facing out and holding hands.

Saul tries to crawl under children's hands to tag David, while Jonathan tries to tag Saul before he can.

When David or Saul gets tagged, choose three new children for the roles.

David and Jonathan



Name: _____

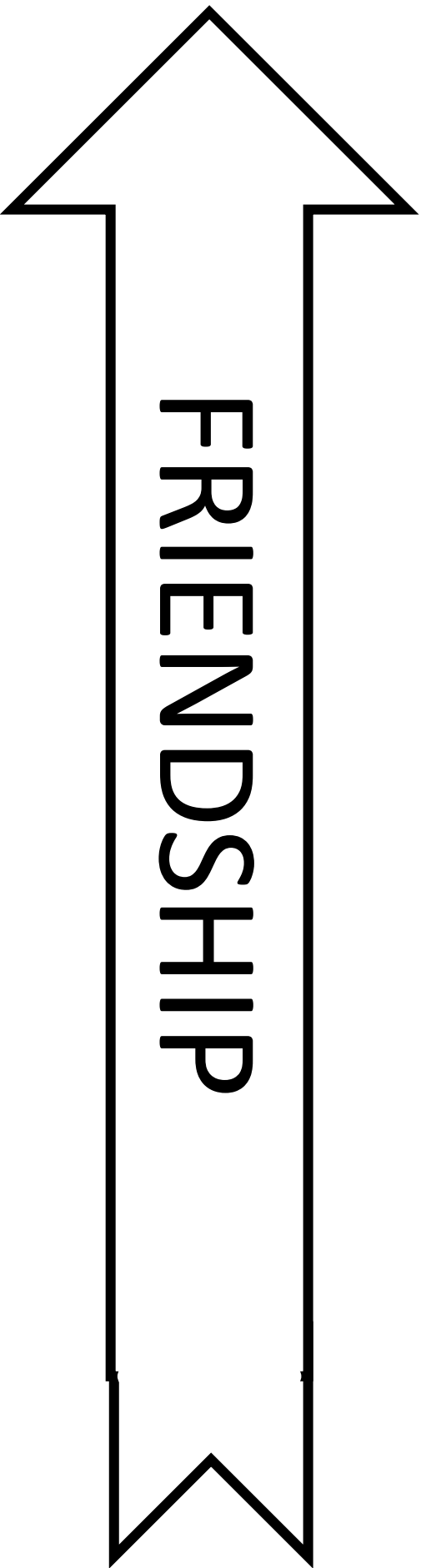


Some friends don't help, but a true friend is closer than your own family.

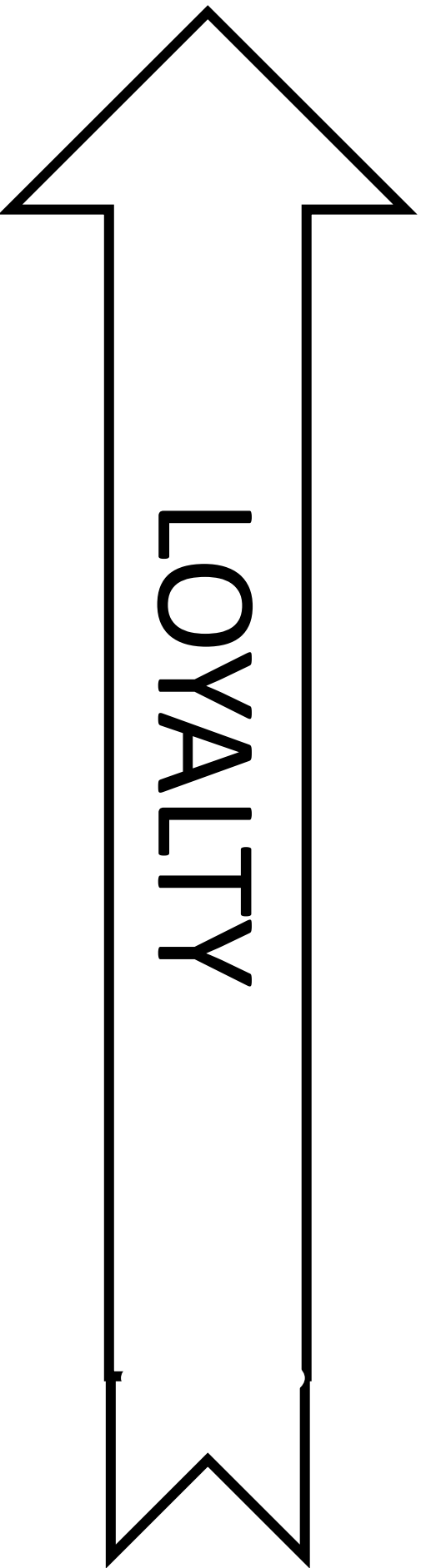
~ Proverbs 18:24

- ❖ Print arrows onto cardstock
- ❖ Teacher cuts 2" strips of cardboard from cereal box.
- ❖ Teacher hole punches (or punctures with pen) a hole at bottom and top of each strip.
- ❖ Children tie yarn through holes to make cardboard bend like bow.





FRIENDSHIP



LOYALTY