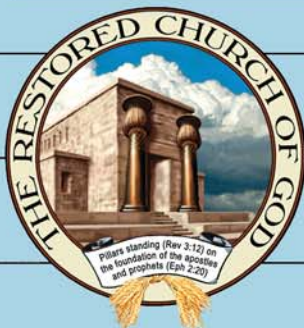


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



David is Anointed King



LEVEL 4 LESSON 10

David is Anointed King

In the previous Lesson, we learned that Samuel had told Saul, “When you were anointed king over Israel, you didn’t think of yourself as high and mighty or as knowing more than God. Because you have turned away from following the word of the Lord, He has rejected you from being king.” Then God told Samuel to take his anointing oil to the home of Jesse in Bethlehem.

God Chooses David

The man who would take Saul’s place as king was going to be chosen from among Jesse’s sons.

“But if Saul hears about this, he will kill me,” Samuel said to God.

God replied, “Take a young cow with you and say that you have come to make an offering to the Lord. Then invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You shall anoint the one I name” (I Samuel 16:2-3).

When Samuel met Jesse and his sons, he did not make it known that one of them was to be Israel’s next king. He saw the eldest son, Eliab, and thought, “Surely this is the man whom the Lord wants me to anoint.”

But God said to Samuel, “Don’t look at how handsome, strong or tall he is. The Lord doesn’t decide by how a person looks, but by what a person thinks and feels inside.”

Then Samuel saw Abinadab, but he was not God’s choice either. Finally, seven of Jesse’s

sons had come to stand before Samuel, but God chose none of them.

“Are all of your sons here?” Samuel asked. Jesse answered, “Only the youngest is not here. He is out in the field taking care of the sheep.”

“Bring him in, for we will not sit down to eat until he comes,” Samuel said. When David came in from the field, God told Samuel, “Arise and anoint him, for I have chosen him.” Samuel took the vial of oil and anointed David, with his father and brothers looking on (I Samuel 16:13).

You will notice that, once again, to lead His people, God had chosen someone who was not seeking a position for himself. David was hard working, obedient to his father, respectful, and did not think of himself as better than anyone else. He also had deep faith and trust in God, and tried his very best to live God’s Way.

David’s Music Calms Saul

After Saul had been told that God had rejected him as king, he began to see that God was no longer blessing him. He became filled with doubts, fear and sadness. Some of his servants suggested he should bring in a talented musician to help calm his mind when he was bothered by evil and unreasonable thoughts. They suggested he send for David.

In addition to being known as a brave young man of good character, and someone with faith in God, David was well-known as a musician who could play the lyre, a type of

small harp, with great skill. He also wrote his own poems to be sung as songs. Many of them can be read in the Bible in the book of Psalms.

Taking his servants' advice, Saul sent messengers to Jesse, saying, "Send David your son to play for me."

David came to serve Saul, and he soon earned Saul's appreciation. He learned about all the different things a king had to do, and what it meant to rule over a whole nation of people. Throughout his training under Saul, and his later experience as king over Israel, David would show by his obedience to God that he was the right person to rule Israel in the future kingdom of God.

Whenever Saul became bad-tempered, David would play the lyre for him, which would improve his mood and make him feel better for awhile (I Samuel 16:14-23).

David and Goliath

Before long, the threat of war returned to trouble the land of Israel. The Philistines camped at Socoh, ready to attack. Saul's armies were camped by the valley of Elah. Between the two armies was a steep ravine that ran through the middle of the valley.

The Philistine army was especially proud of its star warrior, a giant named Goliath. Goliath stood almost ten feet tall! His helmet was made of bronze rather than leather, which the ordinary troops wore. His coat of mail, a vest-like piece of armor made of woven metal, weighed 125 pounds! Armor of bronze covered his legs, and he carried a bronze javelin. He also carried a spear, a weapon used in hand-to-hand combat—just the iron head of the spear weighed 17 pounds! His armor-bearer carried a large shield that measured almost six feet long (I Samuel 17:4-7).

For 40 days, Goliath came to the edge of the valley and shouted threats at the Israelite sol-



diers. "Who is able to kill me? Send your best man over here, and if he is able to kill me, we will become your servants. But if I kill him, then you will serve us," he proclaimed.

Day after day, every morning and every evening, when Saul and his soldiers heard these threats, they grew more and more afraid. No one wanted to fight Goliath. Clearly they had forgotten that God had helped them in times past.

The three eldest of Jesse's eight sons were part of Saul's army. While Saul led the army to battle, David had returned home to care for his father's sheep. Bethlehem was about 15 miles away from Elah.

One day, Jesse asked David to take food to his brothers and their commander. He bundled up supplies of grain, bread and cheese. David rose early in the morning and traveled to

Israel's camp, where he found the armies facing each other across the ravine, shouting threats and waving their weapons at each other. But no one moved forward to begin the attack. David went to greet his brothers, and as he talked with them, Goliath came forward to stand at the front of the Philistine soldiers and shout threats at the Israelites.

David heard him, and saw the soldiers of Saul's army backing away in fear. David asked his brothers, "Who is this who dares to challenge the army of the living God?"

Soldiers passing nearby asked David, "Have you seen this man who threatens Israel? He is bigger than our king! Surely the man who kills him will receive lots of money from the king. He will marry the king's beautiful daughter, and he will be considered a hero in all of Israel."

David's brother Eliab grew angry at what David was saying. "Why have you come? You are just curious to see the battle. And while you are here, who is taking care of our father's sheep?"

"I came at our father's request," David replied. "I haven't behaved badly or said anything wrong. I have only stated the truth; God is stronger than any giant."

When Saul heard what David was saying, he sent for him. "You can't go up against this Philistine, you aren't even a soldier. You are barely more than a boy!"

"I will go and fight this Philistine," David told the king.

"But the Philistine has been a man of war since his youth," Saul reminded.

David said, "When I was keeping my father's sheep, if a lion or bear came in and stole a lamb from the flock, I went after him, struck him, and rescued the lamb. If the bear or lion came back to attack me, I caught him by the fur of his chin and killed him. I have killed both lions and bears, and this Philistine is no different than one of them. Because he has dared to challenge the army of the living God, I feel certain

that God will deliver me from this giant, just as He delivered me from the lion and bear."

Even though he was a young man, David trusted that God would help him. David knew that no matter what age a person is, whether old or young, as you learn to obey God and try your very best to do so, you will also learn to trust God.

Saul thought for a moment, but since this had been going on for 40 days, he knew no other man in Israel would come forward to face the giant. Then Saul said, "Go, and the Lord be with you." He gave David his armor to wear, but it was too heavy for him, so he took it off. David went down to a nearby brook and chose five smooth stones, which he put in a pouch tied at his waist. Taking his sling in hand, he moved toward the other edge of the valley to face Goliath.



A sling could hurl a stone with more force than a person could when throwing with just his arm. The sling was made of a leather strap with cord fastened to each end. When a stone was placed on the strap, the person held the two strings and whirled the sling above his head, letting go of one end of the string to hurl the stone. Some became so good at using the sling that they could aim at a hair and not miss (I Chronicles 12:2; Judges 20:16). While watching over his father's sheep, David had many hours to practice and become skillful at using this weapon.

Goliath was standing at the edge of the valley with his shield-bearer in front of him. When he saw David coming toward him, he began to laugh, saying, "Am I a dog that you have come against me with sticks and stones?" Then he cursed David by all the Philistine false gods, "Come to me, and I will feed you to the birds and beasts."

David did not panic. "You have come out with a sword, a spear and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the army of Israel, whom you have treated with disrespect. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down, and cut off your head. I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine soldiers to the birds and beasts to feed on, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And that all gathered here may know that God does not save with sword or spear, for this battle is the Lord's, and He will deliver you into our hand" (I Samuel 17:45-47).

Very angry at David's boldness, the giant headed toward David. David quickly ran toward Goliath. From the pouch at his waist, he took a stone, placed it in the sling, whirled it around over his head, and then hurled it straight at the giant. The stone

struck Goliath in the forehead so hard that it sank into his head. He fell face down, causing the ground to shudder under his great weight. David stood over Goliath, and with the giant's own sword, cut off his head.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, their self-confidence drained away. They ran toward their own land with Israel's soldiers right behind them, not stopping until they had chased the Philistines off their land. Then Israel's soldiers returned to the enemy camp to take all the weapons, equipment, food, animals, and even some jewelry that had been left behind.

Everyone praised David, but David did not consider himself a hero. He knew that God had given Israel the victory over the Philistines.

Saul Hates David

Afterward, Saul would not let David return to his father's home. He made David captain over the best group of fighting men in the army. Before long, Saul's son Jonathan got to know David, and they grew closer than brothers in their wholehearted friendship with each other (I Samuel 18:1-3).

When the army came marching home from the victory over the Philistines, news of David's bravery had already spread throughout the countryside. Women of the towns came out singing and dancing, saying, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

When Saul heard this, he got very angry, and grew jealous of David. Evil thoughts filled his mind, and he began to see David as an enemy, rather than a friend. Saul's ranting and raving upset his servants, so they sent for David to bring his lyre to play for the king.

While David played, Saul twirled his spear around and around in his fingers, looking at



David through half-closed eyes. Saul felt it was bad enough that God had rejected him as king, now he had to put up with everyone singing the praises of this young man. Suddenly, Saul threw his spear at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David jumped out of the way and quickly fled from the room.

Saul's hatred for David now turned to fear. He became worried that David would try to get even for his attempt to spear him. To get David



out of his sight, Saul made him a commander in the army over 1,000 men.

With everything David did, he had success because he trusted in God for help, and God was with him. But David's success only worried Saul more. Soon all the people in Israel loved David for his honesty, faithfulness and respectful manners.

Test Your Memory:

- 1) Who chose David to be Israel's next king?

- 2) What was the name of the Philistine giant?

- 3) What weapon did David take to fight against the giant? _____

4) Who did David know would help him fight and give him victory over the giant? _____

5) Why did David have success in his life? _____

Saul Tries to Kill David

Saul's daughter Michal fell in love with David. Saul thought the marriage between them would be a good chance for him to gain the upper hand over David, believing his daughter would act as a spy and report back to him.

But before he would agree to the marriage, Saul told David, "You must bring me proof that you have killed 100 Philistines. Then I will welcome you as my son-in-law."

So David went out with his company of soldiers and killed 200 Philistines. When Saul was given the proof he required, he saw that David could do anything with God's help, so he allowed the marriage to his daughter. However, he grew more afraid and jealous of David (I Samuel 18:25-28).

Day after day, Saul heard of David's successes on the battlefield. Day after day, he saw that high regard for David grew among the people of Israel. At the same rate, his hatred for David grew. Finally, Saul decided he must take action.

"Jonathan, take some soldiers and kill David," Saul ordered.

Now Jonathan and David had become the best of friends, so Jonathan knew he must try to change his father's mind, saying, "David has served you well. He has fought and killed our enemies for you, and God has given us victory over the Philistines at David's hand. Even you rejoiced at that! How can you want to kill this man who has done no wrong to you, and who has only wanted to be your loyal servant?"

Saul listened to his son's wise advice and changed his mind. "He shall not be put to death," Saul said.

Then David was allowed to return to the city, and before long, the Philistines attacked Israel again. Once again, with God's help, David and Israel's army sent the Philistines running away in fear for their lives. And once again, Saul's mind filled with anger and jealousy at David, and he looked for a chance to kill him. Saul's lack of help from God made him all the more jealous because it was clear to him that God was helping David.

One day, when Saul was in a very bad mood, David brought his lyre, hoping the music would help the king relax into a better frame of mind. Saul held his spear, turning it around in his fingers. Then without warning, he hurled it at David. David quickly jumped out of the way as the spear sailed past him and stuck into the wall. He ran home, hoping Saul's temper would cool down with time.



David Escapes

Saul sent men to watch David's house, planning to kill him the next morning. David's wife, Michal, told him, "If you don't get away from here tonight, tomorrow my father will surely kill you." So she waited until the darkest part of night, then let him down through the window at the back of the house where her father's guards

would not see. David hurried to Ramah, where he could stay with Samuel.

Then Michal put household items and pillows in the bed, throwing covers over them to make it look as if David was asleep. When her father's men came to take David, she told them, "He is sick."

They went and told Saul, who shouted, "Bring him on his sickbed. I will kill him there!"

Saul went into a rage when he learned that his daughter had used pillows and blankets piled in the bed to give David time to escape. Then he learned that David had gone to stay with Samuel, so he sent men to Ramah to capture him. But time after time, they came back empty-handed because God was protecting both David and Samuel. Finally, Saul went to Ramah to capture David himself, but God intervened once again, sending David and Samuel to the town of Naioth (I Samuel 19:11-22).

Jonathan and David met in secret without Saul hearing of it.

"What have I done that your father wants to kill me?" David asked his best friend.

"I won't let him kill you,"

Jonathan promised. "Before he does anything, he and I talk about it. Surely he wouldn't hide it from me if he planned to kill you."

"But he knows we have become close friends, so he may keep it from you knowing you would be upset by his plans. I feel there is only one small step between me and death," David said.

"Whatever you say, I will do," Jonathan promised.

"I will be expected at the king's table tomorrow for a feast," David reminded his friend. "When I don't show up, you must tell him that I have gone to my father's house. If he says it is good, then I will know he doesn't plan to hurt me. But if he is angry, then we will know he has evil planned against me."

The two friends agreed on how to let David know of Saul's reaction when he learned David did not plan to attend the feast. In the field where they sat talking was a heap of stones. David would hide nearby, and in three days, Jonathan would come to practice with his bow and arrows. He would shoot the arrows on one side of the stones if it was safe for David to return to the king's table or the other side if he should run for his life.

When Jonathan sat at the king's table over the next two days, David's place was empty. Saul raged when he heard that David had gone home to be with his family. He was so angry that he threw a spear at Jonathan, barely missing him, all the while swearing that David would die. Angry and embarrassed by his father's bad behavior, Jonathan left the table without eating the meal.

The next morning, as they had discussed, Jonathan went to the field with his servant. He shot the arrows in such a way to let David know that his life was in danger, so David fled into the wilderness where Saul could not easily find him (I Samuel 20:35-42).



Hungry and tired, David went to the priests in the city of Nob and was given food as well as the sword of Goliath that had been kept there by the priests.

However, when Saul heard that the priests and the people at Nob had helped David, he ordered every person and animal in the city to be killed. Once again, Saul let himself be overcome by anger and jealousy.

By looking at Saul, we can see that when someone does not control his temper, other people can be hurt or killed. On the other hand,

David set the right example for us by showing respect for the king and by not trying to get even with him, even though the king kept trying to kill him.

When David's brothers learned that he was hiding from Saul in the caves of Adullam, they went to join him. Men who were in trouble or owed lots of money, and those who were unhappy with the king, also joined David. Altogether about 400 men came to follow him as their captain.

Meanwhile, the Philistines had made a raid against Israel, so Saul stopped chasing David and went to battle the Philistines. This gave David time to hide in the wilderness and caves of En-gedi.

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he took 3,000 of his best warriors and headed into the wilderness after David once again. Along the way, Saul went into a cave to rest. What he did not realize was that David and his men were already hiding in the dark shadows at the back of the cave.

David's men wanted to kill Saul right then, but David would not allow them. He knew that God was aware of Saul's bad behavior and that it would be going against God for him to harm Saul. However, while Saul rested, David crept up and cut a piece off the hem of Saul's robe.

Afterward, David's sense of right and wrong made him feel sorry, because what he had done was not respectful to the king. He told his men, "The Lord would not approve that I took such action against the king, the Lord's anointed."

After Saul was rested and left the cave, David went out to the opening of the cave and called after him. Already half way down the hill to where his army waited, Saul turned around. Then David bowed down to him as a sign of respect.

When he rose to his feet, he held up the piece of cloth from Saul's robe, and said, "Why do you listen to men who tell you that I seek to hurt you? You did not know we were in the cave with you. I could have easily hurt you, but I did not because I know that you are the Lord's

anointed. Here is the hem of your robe. By this you will know I have not plotted against you" (I Samuel 24:5-16).

Saul was deeply moved by David's kindness, saying to him, "You are more honorable than I, for you have shown me good, whereas I have shown you evil. You did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. May the Lord reward you with good for the kindness you have shown me this day. I know that you shall surely be king over Israel."

Then Saul went home, but David and his men remained in the wilderness.

Nabal Refuses to Help

Eventually, Samuel died, and all the people of Israel mourned (I Samuel 25:1).

Then David and his men went to the wilderness of Paran, near the city of Carmel. In Carmel, there lived a very rich man named Nabal, who was known to be a bad-tempered, ill-mannered man. He was married to a beautiful woman named Abigail who was known for her intelligence and kindness. While in the area, David and his men guarded Nabal's servants and his sheep, and did not ask for payment or try to steal from them.

One day, David sent ten men to Nabal asking for meat, bread and water for his troops. He expected that Nabal would be willing to help since David's men had protected his property and his shearers, as well as dealing honestly with them by not stealing.

But Nabal refused their request, saying, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? He is nothing to me. Should I take food prepared for my shearers and give it to someone I do not know? Get out of here, and don't bother me!" He chased them off his property, calling them names and using bad language to curse them. When David heard how rudely Nabal had treated his messengers, he mustered 400 of his men to march on Nabal's property.

Nabal's servants realized that many lives would be lost if David decided to attack. So



they went to Abigail and told her all that had happened. She hastily gathered together 200 loaves of bread, five sheep ready for cooking, wine, grain, raisins and fig cakes. She loaded everything on donkeys and took servants with her to meet David and his men before they could harm her husband or their property.

When she reached David, she bowed down respectfully before him, saying, “My husband’s name is Nabal, which means fool, and he is one. Please accept this food and drink as my gift. I ask you to forgive the rude behavior of my husband.” David thanked her for her kindness and promised he would not attack her husband or their property (vs. 35).

Abigail returned home to find her husband holding a big feast. He was very drunk, so she told him nothing of her trip to see David. In the morning, when he was sober, she told him what she had done. He got so angry that he passed out and fell over onto the floor. He was unconscious for ten days, and then he died.

When David heard of Nabal’s death, he sent for Abigail to become his wife.

David Shows Mercy to Saul Again

When Saul learned that David and his men were in the wilderness of Ziph, he took 3,000 with him to help search for David. Spies returned to David with news that Saul and his army were camped nearby. David waited until

dusk to see for himself. Saul was in the center of the camp with all his men surrounding him. God had caused a deep sleep to come upon them all.

David took two men and crept into Saul’s camp. Saul lay with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and all of his soldiers lay around him. One of the soldiers with David wanted to kill Saul right then, but David told him, “Do not kill him, for who can attack

the Lord’s anointed and be free of guilt? We will take his spear and the jar of water and leave.”

After they had taken the king’s spear and jar of water, David and his men left the camp as quietly as they had entered. None of Saul’s soldiers saw them or knew what they had done (I Samuel 26:4-12).

David went to a nearby hilltop, where he could call down to Saul’s camp. His shouts woke everyone up. “Why have you not kept watch over your king? Someone could have killed him. See, here is the king’s spear and water jar that were at his head,” David shouted.

Saul’s army scrambled to their feet, grabbing their weapons. Saul woke up, and heard David’s shouts to his soldiers. He saw David was holding his spear and water jar, and realized that David could have killed him while he slept. “I have done wrong against you, David. You could have taken my life this day, but you did not,” admitted Saul.

“Send one of your men to me, and I will give back your spear. In return, let my life be spared,” David said.

Saul agreed, and then returned to his home. David went his way.

Saul Does Wickedly

Meanwhile, the Philistines once again gathered their troops for war against Israel. Saul brought together the men of Israel to serve in the army.

But since Samuel had died, Saul could not ask him for guidance as he had done in the past. Before they went into battle, Saul asked God to make known His will in the matter. When he did not receive an answer, Saul sent servants to search for a medium to help him. They found a woman in the town of Endor (I Samuel 28:8).

Saul had ordered all mediums, witches and wizards out of Israel, or they would be put to death. The few who remained kept themselves hidden. In the last Lesson, we learned that rebellion and witchcraft are serious sins in God's sight (I Samuel 15:23). God's people must never turn to witches, fortune-tellers, astrologers or anyone who claims to speak to people from the grave.

That night, Saul covered himself so no one would recognize him, and then he took two servants with him to visit the woman. "I need you to bring up the spirit of a man who is dead," Saul said.

"King Saul has ordered the death of anyone found to be a medium or a wizard," she replied. "Why do you lay a trap for me that will lead to my death?"

"No punishment will come upon you," Saul promised. "Bring up Samuel for me."

So the woman called upon the evil spirits with whom she worked, and then cried out, "You are Saul! You have trapped me!"

Saul insisted, "There is no trap. You must call upon Samuel so I can talk to him."

She called upon the evil spirits again, then said, "I see an old man in a robe."

"It is Samuel," Saul cried out, then bowed down to worship the vision. "The Philistines are gathering to war, and God has turned his back on me. Samuel, what should I do?"

The evil spirit who pretending to be Samuel told him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom from you, and given it to David. Tomorrow, God will deliver the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines, and you and your sons will die."

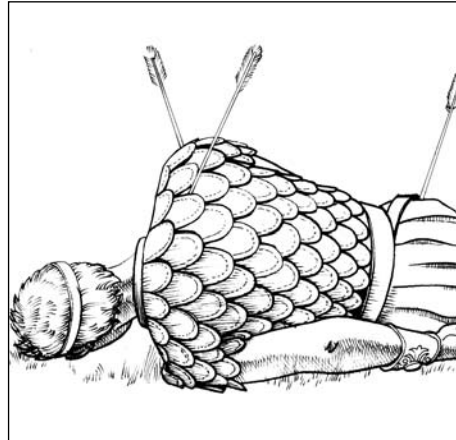
Saul fell to the ground with fear. He was too weak to move because he had not eaten all day and all night. Saul and his servants ate a meal prepared by the woman, then left her house (I Samuel 28:20-25).

Saul Dies

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other in battle. During the war, many of Israel's soldiers were killed. Others who tried to run

away were hunted down and killed by the Philistine soldiers. Saul's three sons, including Jonathan, were killed in battle.

Saul could not stop the battle to mourn the death of his sons. While he continued to fight, an arrow shot by one of the Philistine archers struck him, badly wounding him. Saul told his armor-



bearer, "Take your sword and finish me." But the young man could not bring himself to kill the king, so Saul took his own sword and fell on it, rather than be captured by his enemies (I Samuel 31:1-4).

When the people of Israel heard that their king and all his sons were dead, they deserted their cities and ran away, and the Philistines came and lived in them.

The time had come for the man whom God had chosen to rule over Israel.

Test Your Memory:

1) With whom did David become best friends?

2) What does Nabal mean? _____

3) What was Nabal's wife's name? _____

4) Whom did Saul seek when he did not receive an answer from God? _____

5) How did Saul die? _____

BIBLE MEMORY: I Samuel 13:13-14

Unscramble the Words and Fill in the Blanks

LASMPS	SICUM	IKGN	LIGAABI	VADDI
ULAS	OSLUAJEY	ESOMP	THOBRER	
NASTA'S DROWL	OGD	STEEPCR		
MEH	EBOR	TCU	RENAG	
STRIPES	LEEPOP	SNAILAM		

- 1) By wisdom and with quick action _____ saved an entire household from death.
- 2) _____ traded a spear for his life.
- 3) _____ continuously allowed anger and _____ to get the better of him.
- 4) David could play _____ fit for a _____ and wrote many beautiful _____ that are in the book of _____ today.
- 5) David's _____ called him insolent, but David knew the true situation: that armies of _____ were attacking the army of _____. How dare they even think of that!
- 6) When David _____ off the _____ of Saul's _____ he was sorry he did not _____ the office of God's King.
- 7) Saul's _____ was merciless. He killed not only the _____ who helped David but all the _____ in the town and _____ too.