

General Church Education



David Rescues His People

1 Samuel 29:1-7; 30:1-10, 17-25

Lesson 20

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is Our King

For ages 10-11

David Rescues His People

1 Samuel 29:1-7; 30:1-10, 17-25

Teacher Background

As the Philistines prepared to fight Israel they gathered their army to assess their military strength. Achish brought David and his men to join the review, but the Philistine princes did not trust him and sent him back to Ziklag. When David reached Ziklag he found that an enemy had come from the south, destroyed the city, and taken his people captive. David inquired of the Lord what he should do. The Lord told him to pursue the attackers. As David followed them he assisted an Egyptian he found in the field and learned that the attackers were Amalekites. The Egyptian led David to their camp. David's men surprised the Amalekites, killed many of them, and recovered everything his people had lost. David shared the spoils with everyone, even those who had stayed behind and not participated in the victory.

The Lord permitted these terrible acts because Israel was at war. David's victories over Israel's enemies provided evidence that the Lord had chosen him to be Israel's leader. David needed to be safe, and the Philistines needed to be weakened because they worshiped false gods and therefore did not follow the Lord.

Focus Points

- The Philistine princes refused to let David fight against Israel so he returned to Ziklag.
- David found that Ziklag had been destroyed, and his people taken captive.
- David located the Amalekites, killed many of them and recovered everything he had lost.

Readings from the Writings

"It is not from the Divine Providence that wars occur...because they involve evils which are diametrically opposed to Christian charity....

It is of the Divine Providence that everyone is allowed to act from freedom in accordance with reason...without permissions people cannot be led from evil by the Lord, and consequently cannot be reformed and saved. For unless evils were allowed to break out, people would not see them and therefore would not acknowledge them, and thus could not be induced to resist them.

The wars described in the Word are those which the children of Israel waged with various nations.... Moreover, when the children of Israel, who represented the Church, departed from their precepts and statutes and fell into the evils which were represented by those nations, for each nation with which the children of Israel waged war signified some particular kind of evil, then they were punished by that nation." *Divine Providence* 251.3

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer:
My God, my strength in whom I will trust." (Psalm 18:2)

Projects and Activities (see back of lesson for answers)

David Rescues His People True or False?
Read statements and decide if they are true or false.

David Seeks the Lord

David turned to the Lord for guidance. He also gave the Lord credit when things went well and asked His help when he had to do something difficult. Fill in a chart about David's faithful actions.

Additional Project and Activity Choices

Calligraphy Quote

Decorate the quote, "What the Lord has given us we shall share alike." Online at <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/calligraphy-what-the-lord-has-given-us-we-shall-share-alike-1-samuel-30.pdf>

Treasure Hunt Activity

David had several clues that helped him find his missing family. The first clue was that the Lord told him was that he would overtake them. The second clue came from an Egyptian servant he found. Finally, he found the Amalekites dancing and celebrating. Create a treasure hunt for others to follow. Start by giving a clue about where to look first. Hide a clue in that place that will lead to another clue. Continue leaving clues that lead to a treasure you have hidden.

Discussion: Give the Lord Credit for Your Success

David knew that it wasn't luck that led him to find the Amalekites, but that the Lord had helped him. Encourage students to identify times when they are successful. For example, getting a good grade, having a good time with a friend, or seeing something beautiful. Then remember to thank the Lord for these good things!

David Rescues His People

1 Samuel 29:1-7; 30:1-10, 17-25

Vocabulary

dilemma—a situation in which someone faces a difficult choice

ephod—a linen tunic to which was attached the breastplate with precious stones

spoil—treasures taken in a battle

David was living in Ziklag among the Philistines when the army started preparing for war with Israel. David faced a dilemma. Achish, the Philistine king, told David:

“You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men.” (1 Samuel 28:1)

Achish was ordering David and his soldiers to join the Philistine army to attack David’s homeland!

The Philistines Review Their Troops

The Philistine army gathered at Aphek where the lords of the Philistines watched thousands of Philistine troops march past in review. Have you ever watched a parade of soldiers march past a stand, where leaders stand to watch or “review” their soldiers? That is what the Philistines were doing.

King Achish marched at the end of the parade with David and his soldiers. The other Philistine lords were surprised to see him. For more than a year David’s base of operations was far away in Ziklag. The lords had probably not heard about David, but they knew he was powerful.

Achish tried to explain that David had been with him for a long time. He believed that David was now an enemy of Israel and a friend of the Philistines. But he could not convince the Philistine princes that this was



The Philistine Lords Review their Troops

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true. They did not trust David. He was famous for killing thousands of Philistines. They were worried that David would turn against them to gain Saul's acceptance and insisted,

“He shall not go up with us to the battle.” (1 Samuel 29:9)

They demanded that David return to Ziklag. Achish encouraged David to set out early in the morning, as soon as it was light. What do you think David thought about being sent back to Ziklag ?

Ziklag Is Destroyed

It took David and his men three days to reach Ziklag. When they arrived, they were shocked by what they saw! An enemy from the south had burned Ziklag to the ground. The enemy had also taken their wives and children, their flocks and herds, and everything they owned.

“David and his men lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.” (1 Samuel 30:4)

David's men turned on him. They blamed David for this terrible event and wanted to stone him! Have you ever felt very upset, and shouted at someone you cared about even though they had nothing to do with causing the problem? What might David do next? What had David always done before making big decisions?

“So David inquired of the Lord, saying, ‘Shall I pursue this troop?’” (1 Samuel 30:8)

David went to a priest named Abiathar and asked for the ephod. The precious stones in the ephod would flash to give the Lord's answer. David asked if he should pursue the enemy troops, and if he would be able to overtake them. The stones of the ephod showed the Lord's answer:

“Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.” (1 Samuel 30:8)



David Pursues His Enemy

David and his six hundred men pursued the enemy that had destroyed Ziklag. By the time they reached the Brook Besor, two hundred men were too tired to go further and stayed there.

After crossing the brook David's men found an Egyptian in a field. He had had no food or water for three days. They gave him food and discovered he was the servant of an Amalekite who had been left behind be-

cause he had become ill. The Egyptian gave David all the information he needed to find the attackers. The Amalekites had burned Ziklag, and the man knew where David could find them!

The Amalekites

The Egyptian servant led David to the Amalekites. They were eating and drinking and dancing and celebrating the spoils they had taken on their raid.



David launched a surprise attack. In a fight that lasted from twilight until the evening of the next day his men killed all the Amalekites except four hundred who escaped on their camels. They recovered everything the Amalekites had carried away, including David's wives, Abigail and Ahinoam. They also took the Amalekites' flocks and herds as spoil for themselves.

Sharing the Spoil

The Word tells us that some of David's men were "wicked and worthless." When his army reached the two hundred men waiting at Besor, these men did not want to share the spoils with the warriors who had not fought the Amalekites. They said those who stayed behind could have their wives and children back, but that was all. But David said,

"My brethren, you shall not do so with what the Lord has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us." (1 Samuel 30:23)

David didn't think of the spoil as something he had earned himself and could do with as he pleased. He attributed everything to the Lord. The *Lord* won it for him; the *Lord* kept them safe; the *Lord* defeated their enemy.

He would share the spoil with everyone. This became a law for Israel.

"But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike." (1 Samuel 30:24)

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer:
My God, my strength in whom I will trust.” (Psalm 18:2)

Projects and Activities (answers are at the back of this lesson)

Choose one or two.

David Rescues His People True or False?

Decide if statements are true or false.

David Seeks the Lord

David turned to the Lord for guidance. He also gave the Lord credit when things went well and asked His help when he had to do something difficult. Fill in a chart about David's faithful actions.

David Rescues His People True or False?

1 Samuel 29, 30

Decide if each statement is true or false. Write T for true, or F for false next to each statement.

1. ____ The princes of the Philistines wanted David and his men to fight with them.
2. ____ It took David and his men three days to return to Ziklag.
3. ____ David knew right away that the Amalekites had attacked Ziklag.
4. ____ David was in such a hurry to pursue them that he forgot to inquire of the Lord.
5. ____ Half of David's men were weary so they stayed behind at a brook.
6. ____ An Egyptian helped David to find the Amalekites.
7. ____ When David found the Amalekites they were all asleep.
8. ____ David and his men recovered absolutely everything.
9. ____ David shared the spoil equally with all of the men.
10. ____ David gave the credit for his victory and success to the Lord.

David Seeks the Lord

1 Samuel 17-1 Samuel 30

David once more turns to the Lord for guidance. He also gives the Lord credit when things go well and seeks His help when he must do something difficult. Discover David's faithful relationship with the Lord by filling in the chart. 1. Look up the reference. 2. Write a brief description of the situation. 3. Check a box to show what David did.

Describe the situation	Asks the Lord a question	Asks the Lord for help	Thanks the Lord	Place in the Word
1. David fights against Goliath				1 Samuel 17:45-47
2.				1 Samuel 23:2
3.				1 Samuel 23:4
4.				1 Samuel 23:10-12
5.				1 Samuel 25:32-34
6.				1 Samuel 25:39
7.				1 Samuel 30:8
8.				1 Samuel 30:23-24

Answers

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David Rescues His People True or False?

1. F, 2. T, 3. F, 4. F, 5. F, 6. T, 7. F, 8. T, 9. T, 10. T.

David Seeks the Lord

Describe the Situation	Asks the Lord a question	Asks the Lord For help	Thanks the Lord	Place in the Word
1. David fights against Goliath			X	1 Samuel 17:45-47
2. The Philistines loot the threshing floor of Keilah	X			1 Samuel 23:2
3. David asks whether to attack the Philistines	X	X		1 Samuel 23:4
4. David wonders if the citizens of Keilah will surrender him to Saul	X			1 Samuel 23:10-12
5. Abigail prevents David from doing something foolish			X	1 Samuel 25:32-34
6. David hears Nabal died			X	1 Samuel 25:39
7. David discovers Ziklag was sacked	X	X		1 Samuel 30:8
8. Sharing the spoils after defeating the Amalekites			X	1 Samuel 30:23-24