LESSON 16

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE



Aim: **To show the children how David spared the life of King Saul, even though he was trying to kill David.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 26:1-25**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 1:3 (complete v 3)**
He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class how people treat someone they don't like. Hatred can lead to fighting and death.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. David had a fierce enemy. It was King Saul. **Show Picture 15. Briefly review the previous lesson by asking the class questions while referring to the picture.** Jealousy of David made Saul try to kill him many times, therefore David had to hide. What would David do if the situation was reversed and he had Saul in his power?
   The following story tells us.
2. One day messengers came and told King Saul where David was hiding. At once Saul took 3 000 of his best soldiers (all to catch one man!) and went out to catch him. But David also had spies, and he and his followers watched Saul and his army setting up camp (26:1-5).
3. During the night David and his friend Abishai crept into the camp right up to the place where King Saul lay sleeping. All his guards were asleep, too! David's enemy, Saul, was in his power at last. Abishai urged David to let him make use of the opportunity and kill Saul (26:6-8).
4. But David prevented Abishai from killing Saul. God had appointed Saul king of Israel, he said, and God would remove Saul when the time was right. David knew. God's plan and timing are perfect, even though we cannot always understand the way God works. **Show Picture 16.** Instead, David took Saul's spear and water jug from beside his head to prove that he had been there and could have killed him had he wanted to (26:9-12).
5. When they were a safe distance from the camp David shouted out to them. Only then did they wake up. He told them what he and Abishai had done. He held the spear and the water jug in the air to show them what poor guards they were (26:13-16).

Look,Listen&Live_Book4.indd 40 2012/09/10 11:05 AM



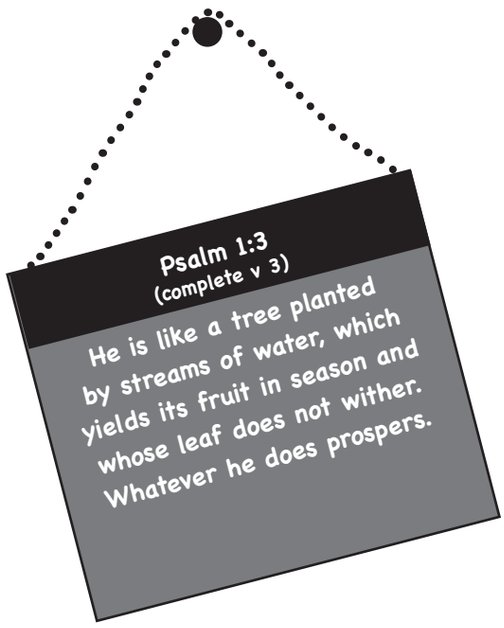
6. King Saul, too, recognised David's voice. David asked Saul why he was continually trying to kill him. When Saul realised how easily David could have killed him, he promised to stop trying to kill David. Saul and his army went home (26:17–25).

Our Response to the Story

David's reaction to having Saul in his power was very different to that of Abishai. David did not feel free to kill King Saul, even though Saul had tried to kill him many times. When the king realised this his behaviour changed towards David. How was David able to do that? He was a person after the Lord's own heart (13:14) and God's Spirit had come upon David (16:13).

How do you treat people you do not like or who have tried to harm you? Jesus instructed those who serve him to do the opposite of what the world does: to forgive. Many years later Paul gave the young Christian church some helpful instructions about this. This is still good advice today. **Read them Romans 12:17–21.**

Instil the Memory Verse



Look,Listen&Live_Book4.indd 41 2012/09/10 11:05 AM