

A GOOD FRIEND

NARRATOR: Long ago a man named Saul was king of Israel. King Saul was tall, handsome, and proud. There was also a young man named David. He was not much older than some of you! David became famous when he killed the Philistine giant Goliath.

DAVID: Praise God! He helped me defeat Goliath, who mocked God. The Philistine army fled in fear. The Lord has given us victory!

KING SAUL: *(To David)* I am glad you defeated Goliath!

NARRATOR: King Saul had a son named Jonathan, who was to become king when his father died. Jonathan loved David as he loved himself. They became best friends.

JONATHAN: *(To David)* Today I make a covenant of brotherhood with you. Here, take my robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

David and Jonathan hug.

NARRATOR: King Saul did not allow David to return home but had David stay with him. David fought many battles for the king. One time, as David and King Saul returned home from battle, the Israelite women welcomed King Saul with singing and dancing. They sang, "Saul kills thousands of Philistines, but David kills tens of thousands!" This made King Saul very angry!

KING SAUL: How dare the women give David credit for killing more Philistines than I? Soon the people may try to give David my kingdom. I do not trust David. I will watch him closely.

NARRATOR: God was with David everywhere he went. As David became more successful in battle, King Saul became more jealous of him.

KING SAUL: I will send David to fight on the front lines against the mighty Philistine army. Surely David will die in battle! Then I will not have to worry about him taking over my kingdom!

NARRATOR: God was with David, and David did not die in battle. David's popularity among the people grew. King Saul became insane with jealousy and anger.

KING SAUL: *(To Jonathan)* I order you to kill David!

Jonathan goes to David.

JONATHAN: *(To David)* My father the king, wants you killed. I have a plan to make sure that you stay safe. I will talk to my father. In 3 days, hide behind the big rock in this field. I come here to shoot some arrows. I will bring a servant with me to pick them up. If King Saul no longer wants you killed, I will tell my servant that he can find the arrows on this side of the big rock. If King Saul still wants you killed, I will tell my servant that my arrows are on the other side of the big rock. Then you must run and hide. May the Lord be with you!

Jonathan goes to King Saul.

KING SAUL: *(To Jonathan)* Where is David? Why isn't he here with me? I know you have sided with David over me! Send someone to bring David to me, for he must die!

The child playing King Saul returns to his seat.

NARRATOR: Jonathan knew King Saul was still angry with David. He knew David had to run away and hide to stay safe. Jonathan returned to the field where David was hiding.

David crouches down as though hiding behind a rock. Jonathan pretends to shoot 3 arrows past David.

NARRATOR: Jonathan shot 3 arrows past David. David knew this meant his life was still in danger.

David stands up and walks to Jonathan. He bows down 3 times to Jonathan, and then they hug.

JONATHAN: *(To David)* Go in peace! I will always consider you my friend and love you like a brother.

David and Jonathan walk away from each other. Both children return to their seats.