

Lessons from David

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Session 1: What does God think of when he thinks of you?

Series: Lessons from David

Themes: self-esteem, priorities

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Suggested age group: 11-14's

Session aims: To encourage pupils to recognise God's love of them and his unconditional acceptance

Way in 1 – X factor

Time: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: recording of X factor auditions

1. Play a portion of X factor auditions, showing background comments about candidate, and chat with judges – stop before candidate actually performs.
2. Ask group what they think this candidate's performance will be like.
3. Point out that we often form opinions based on how people look, without really knowing anything about them as people. Ask how accurate those opinions might be.
4. Remind the group about Susan Boyle – a contestant that the judges seemed to be putting down because of her appearance. However once they heard her sing, they had to change their opinions. (Comment that although we now know that Susan Boyle can sing, we still do not really know what sort of person she is!)

Way In 2 – Learning from a statue

Time: 5-10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: resource sheet 1 'David' by Michaelangelo

1. Show pupils the picture of the statue of David, asking if anyone recognises it.
2. Make the following comments:
 - This is the most famous statue in history and can be found in Florence.
 - Leonardo de Vinci and other sculptors were offered the block of marble but saw only problems with it. There were flaws and veins in the marble.
 - Michelangelo looked inside and saw what he could do with it then took years shaping the masterpiece.

Way In 3 – 'You know who I mean!'

Time: 5-10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Ask all the pupils to think of one word or phrase that would describe them if, for example, two teachers were talking in the staff room and trying to confirm that they were talking about the same pupil.
2. Ask them all to stand up.
3. Suggest different ways of being described and tell pupils to sit down when you mention their choice, e.g. height, hair colour or style, clothes or glasses worn, sporting or musical ability etc - all outward appearances.

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4. Commend those who chose descriptions that are about what we are like on the inside. That's the bit that God is most interested in.

Connecting 1 – Bible reading

Time: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: Bibles or resource sheet 2 '1 Samuel 16:1-13'

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 asking pupils to listen out for the first mention of "David" and his becoming King. (David is in verse 13 and there's no mention of King in the passage.)
2. Ask pupils what they think God's impression of David is.
3. Reread 1 Samuel 16:7 'But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the LORD looks at the heart."' Ask what this verse tells us about what God thinks of David.

Connecting 2 - Bible study

Time: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: Bibles or resource sheet 2 '1 Samuel 16:1-13'

1. Ask pupils to read the passage again to themselves.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - How would you have felt if you had been one of the brothers?
 - Or Jesse?
 - Or David?
 - How much would David have said?
3. Comment that there is no mention at the time of why David has been anointed. Notice that he goes back to work in the fields again (v19) as a humble, caring person would.

Connecting 3 - Role plays

Time: 10-15 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: Bibles or resource sheet 2 '1 Samuel 16:1-13'

1. Divide the pupils into pairs or small groups.
2. Ask them to act out the following role-plays:
 - The conversation between the brothers over breakfast the next morning.
 - Samuel being interviewed by the local TV station about his visit to Bethlehem.
 - David talking to his sheep.

Responding 1 – God's description of you

Time: 5-10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: pencils/pens and paper; container

1. Remind the pupils of God's description of David in 1 Kings 15:3 'his heart was fully devoted to the LORD his God'

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2. Ask the following questions, inviting the pupils to write their answers on a piece of paper.
 - What might be God's description or nickname for you?
 - What would you like him to call you in the future?
 - If God was to ask you one question, what could it be?
 - What would your answer be?
3. If pupils are willing to share their answers, ask them to put the papers into a container.
4. Draw one or two papers out and read them anonymously.

Responding 2 - In Christ's head

Time: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: resource sheet 3 'Christ carrying the Cross' by El Greco (1605)

1. Remind pupils that Jesus was God in human form.
2. Show them the picture of Christ carrying the cross.
3. Ask
 - What impression does the artist give of Jesus?
 - What did he suggest Jesus was thinking?
 - Ask pupils what they think Jesus was thinking of as he went to the cross?
4. Comment that as Christ went to the cross he was thinking of us.
5. Ask
 - What does he think of you?
6. Invite pupils to find other pictures of the crucifixion to reflect on during the week ahead.

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Resource sheet 1 **'David' by Michelangelo**



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Resource sheet 2 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel Goes to Bethlehem

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you continue to feel sorry for Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. Fill your container with olive oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse who lives in Bethlehem, because I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

But Samuel said, "If I go, Saul will hear the news and will try to kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a young calf with you. Say, 'I have come to offer a sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will tell you what to do. You must appoint the one I show you."

Samuel did what the LORD told him to do. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of Bethlehem shook with fear. They met him and asked, "Are you coming in peace?"

Samuel answered, "Yes, I come in peace. I have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. Set yourselves apart to the LORD and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he set Jesse and his sons apart to the LORD, and he invited them to come to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab, and he thought, "Surely the LORD has appointed this person standing here before him."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and told him to pass by Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this man either." Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "No, the LORD has not chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass by Samuel. But Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

Then he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

Jesse answered, "I still have the youngest son. He is out taking care of the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him. We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

So Jesse sent and had his youngest son brought in. He was a fine boy, tanned, and handsome. The LORD said to Samuel, "Go, appoint him, because he is the one." So Samuel took the container of olive oil and poured it on Jesse's youngest son to appoint him in front of his brothers. From that day on, the LORD's Spirit worked in David. Samuel then went back to Ramah.

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Resource Sheet 3

'Christ carrying the Cross' by El Greco (1605)



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Session 2: What do you think of when you think of God?

Series: Lessons from David

Themes: God, revelation, truth

Bible Passage: Psalm 145

Suggested age group: 11-14's

Session aims: To evaluate which ideas about God are true and biblical

To help pupils understand that the Bible teaches us what God is like

Way in 1 - One Lie

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: pens and paper

1. Divide the pupils into groups of no more than six.
2. Ask pupils a range of questions such as:
 - What colour do you think of when you think of God?
 - What is on God's bedside table?
 - If you were to ask God one question, what would it be? (keep these questions to refer to later)
 - If and when you pray, how do you start and what do you call God?
 - When have you felt closest to God?
 - What is your favourite Bible passage and why
3. Pupils note down their answers on a piece of paper, making one answer a lie.
4. Now ask each person to take a turn at telling their group their answers. The rest of the group have to guess which answer is the lie. Then tell the truth.

Way in 2 - True or false quiz

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: "True" & "False" signs or resource sheet 1 & pen per person

1. Have a 'true or false' quiz. This could either be done by placing a sign saying 'true' at one side of the room and a sign saying 'false' at the other, asking pupils to move to whichever sign they think is correct for each 'fact', or by giving pupils copies of resource sheet 1 and asking them to write in their answers:
 - In space it is impossible to cry?
True (there is no gravity, so tears cannot flow)
 - "Copyrightable" is the longest word in the English language that can be written without repeating a letter?
False (it's "uncopyrightable")
 - Slugs don't have any noses?
False (they have four)
 - Most Eskimos have fridges?
True (to keep their food from freezing)
 - An Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain?
True
 - Thomas Edison, who invented the light bulb, was afraid of the dark?
True
 - There are no anagrams of the word "stationed"?

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False ("antidotes")

- Taphephobia is the fear of losing your teeth?
False (it's the fear of being buried alive)
- Over 8,000 photographs are taken around the world every second?
False (approximately 2,700 are)
- The letter "t" is the second most common letter used in the English language?
True

(Source: www.quiz-zone.co.uk/quizrounds/020317trueorfalse/answers.html)

Connecting 1 - What is truth?

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Comment, 'Truth is not changed by how many people believe it or how strongly they believe it. God is Truth (John 14v6) and He does not change based on what we think of him.'
2. Ask pupils what picture they have when they think of God. Some images of him may be traced back to the Bible, e.g. heavenly Father; but others, e.g. old man on a white cloud, are not based on truth. We need to be able to sort out truth from fiction, testing our perceptions of God against the truth and reality shown in the Bible.
3. Discuss the answers that pupils had to the "One Lie" Game and see how many impressions of God are Biblical and how many come from elsewhere.

Connecting 2 - Bible Study 1

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

Needs: different coloured pens, resource sheet 2, 'Psalm 145'

1. Give everyone two different coloured pens and a copy of resource sheet 2, 'Psalm 145'.
2. Read the Psalm through together.
3. Give pupils a few moments to go through the Psalm on their own, noting in one colour all the ways God is described and in the other colour anything that shows David's response to God.
4. Discuss the different things that people have highlighted.

Responding 1 - Bible study 2

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: some or limited

Needs: pens, resource sheet 2, 'Psalm 145'

1. Give everyone an opportunity to mark '!' on the passage for something that surprised or excited them and '?' for something they don't understand.
2. Exchange ideas if time and group dynamics allow.
3. Encourage them to keep working at finding an answer to their '?'s.

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Responding 2 - Ask God a question

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Refer back to the questions pupils wrote for God during 'Way in 1'.
2. Together, try to answer them from what we know of God – from the Bible!
3. Ask the group to find answers to any of the more difficult questions for next week.

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Resource sheet 1 True or False Quiz

Are these statements true or false? Circle the answer you think is most likely to be correct.

- 1 In space it is impossible to cry. T/F
- 2 'Copyrightable' is the longest word in the English language that can be written without repeating a letter. T/F
- 3 Slugs don't have any noses. T/F
- 4 Most Eskimos have fridges. T/F
- 5 An Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. T/F
- 6 Thomas Edison, who invented the light bulb, was afraid of the dark. T/F
- 7 There are no anagrams of the word "stationed". T/F
- 8 Taphephobia is the fear of losing your teeth. T/F
- 9 Over 80,000 photographs are taken around the world every second. T/F
10. The letter "t" is the second most common letter used in the English language. T/F

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Resource sheet 1

Psalm 145

Praise to God the King

- ¹ I praise your greatness, my God the King;
I will praise you forever and ever.
- ² I will praise you every day;
I will praise you forever and ever.
- ³ The LORD is great and worthy of our praise;
no one can understand how great he is.
- ⁴ Parents will tell their children what you have done.
They will retell your mighty acts,
- ⁵ wonderful majesty, and glory.
And I will think about your miracles.
- ⁶ They will tell about the amazing things you do,
and I will tell how great you are.
- ⁷ They will remember your great goodness
and will sing about your fairness.
- ⁸ The Lord is kind and shows mercy.
He does not become angry quickly but is full of love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to everyone;
he is merciful to all he has made.
- ¹⁰ LORD, everything you have made will praise you;
those who belong to you will bless you.
- ¹¹ They will tell about the glory of your kingdom
and will speak about your power.
- ¹² Then everyone will know the mighty things you do
and the glory and majesty of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom will go on and on,
and you will rule forever.
- The Lord will keep all his promises;
he is loyal to all he has made.
- ¹⁴ The LORD helps those who have been defeated
and takes care of those who are in trouble.
- ¹⁵ All living things look to you for food,
and you give it to them at the right time.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand,
and you satisfy all living things.
- ¹⁷ Everything the Lord does is right.
He is loyal to all he has made.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is close to everyone who prays to him,
to all who truly pray to him.
- ¹⁹ He gives those who respect him what they want.
He listens when they cry, and he saves them.
- ²⁰ The LORD protects everyone who loves him,
but he will destroy the wicked.
- ²¹ I will praise the Lord.
Let everyone praise his holy name forever.

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Session 3: David wins

Series: Lessons from David

Themes: opposition, confidence

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 17:20-54

Suggested age group: 11-14's

Session aims: To

Way in 1 – Giant Killers

Duration: 3 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Ask the group about the latest “Giant-Killing Act” that they have heard of. It may be Queen of the South getting to the Scottish Cup Final or a school team fixture not going the way that everyone expected.

Way in 2 - Michaelangelo's David

Duration: 3 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: resource sheet 1 'David' by Michaelangelo

1. Show pupils the resource sheet and ask them what they notice about the statue
2. Many people believe that the fight with Goliath was the defining moment in David's life. Michaelangelo was interpreting that in this statue. Ask pupils how they think he has done this.
3. Point out that David's head and hands are out of proportion with his body – they are bigger. Ask why pupils think Michaelangelo has done this – what might he have been trying to emphasize about David? (If no ideas are forthcoming, you could say that he wanted to emphasize David's thoughtful approach to those who oppose God (hence the bigger head) and his eagerness to act on his thinking (hence the bigger hands))

Way in 3 - Heights and Weights

Time: 5-10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: scales and/or tape measure

1. Measure out three metres (nine feet) tall and see if you can safely get a pupil to be that tall. How intimidating is it to look up at someone that height? (This is Goliath's height.)
2. Find the pupil whose weight is closest to 5,000 shekels (57kg or 8st 13lbs). Time a couple of other pupils to carry them round a simple course or to hold them off the ground in their arms. (This was the weight of Goliath's armour)

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Connecting 1 - Read the Passage

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: Bibles or resource sheet 2 '1 Samuel 17:20-54

1. Read the whole of the story together with different people taking on the speaking parts. These are a narrator (who might benefit from more advanced notice of the passage!) Israelite soldiers, David's brother Eliab, David, Saul and Goliath.
2. This is worth the effort to see what is actually said in the passage and to get the sense of opposition coming from all sides.

Connecting 2 - Initial Impressions Discussion

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Ask pupils to comment on what they noticed as they read. Possible responses might include:
 - David's response in v29 being typical of a younger brother—"Now what have I done?"
 - Why did David lift five stones if he only needed one?
 - How quickly everyone joins a winning side—v52.
 - How gory the death was.

Connecting 3 - Opposition talk

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Talk about the different oppositions that David faces in the story.
2. The most obvious one is the outright, physical defiance of Goliath. It is the element of the story that we all notice and which has contributed a phrase to everyday English language—or at least political, legal or sporting journalism. David tackled it head on and killed him.
3. He is also opposed by his brother (v28) who criticises him for even being there. David challenged it once but left the matter there and looked elsewhere for his answers.
4. In the middle King Saul who liked the idea of what David was going to do but wanted it done his way and with him having a part in the success. David tried to accommodate this but was not limited by it.

Connecting 4 - Confidence Discussion

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Discuss where David's confidence came from. (In all this it came from the regular

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- experience that he had of God in the past – e.g. when bears and lions attacked - and his certainty of the rightness in standing up to what is wrong.)
2. Consider whether any of David's experience in Psalm 145 (last week's study) sheds any light on this.
 3. David was confident because of his faith in God, who was powerful enough to deliver; Goliath was arrogant because of his faith in himself, who proved not to be powerful enough. How can we ensure that our faith is in God? Are there areas we are relying on our own gifts, abilities, strengths, without depending on God?

Response 1 - Opposition now

Duration: 3 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Ask everyone to think of the various people in their life – friends at school, family, people at their church, teachers, pupils in their class.
2. Are any of them opposing you *as you try to do what is right for God?* How would David respond to your circumstances based on this story? Are you ready to respond in a similar way?
3. Are you opposing others at the moment by laughing at their efforts or trying to make them fit your mould? What do you need to do about that?

Response 2 - In the name of the Lord!

Duration: 5 mins

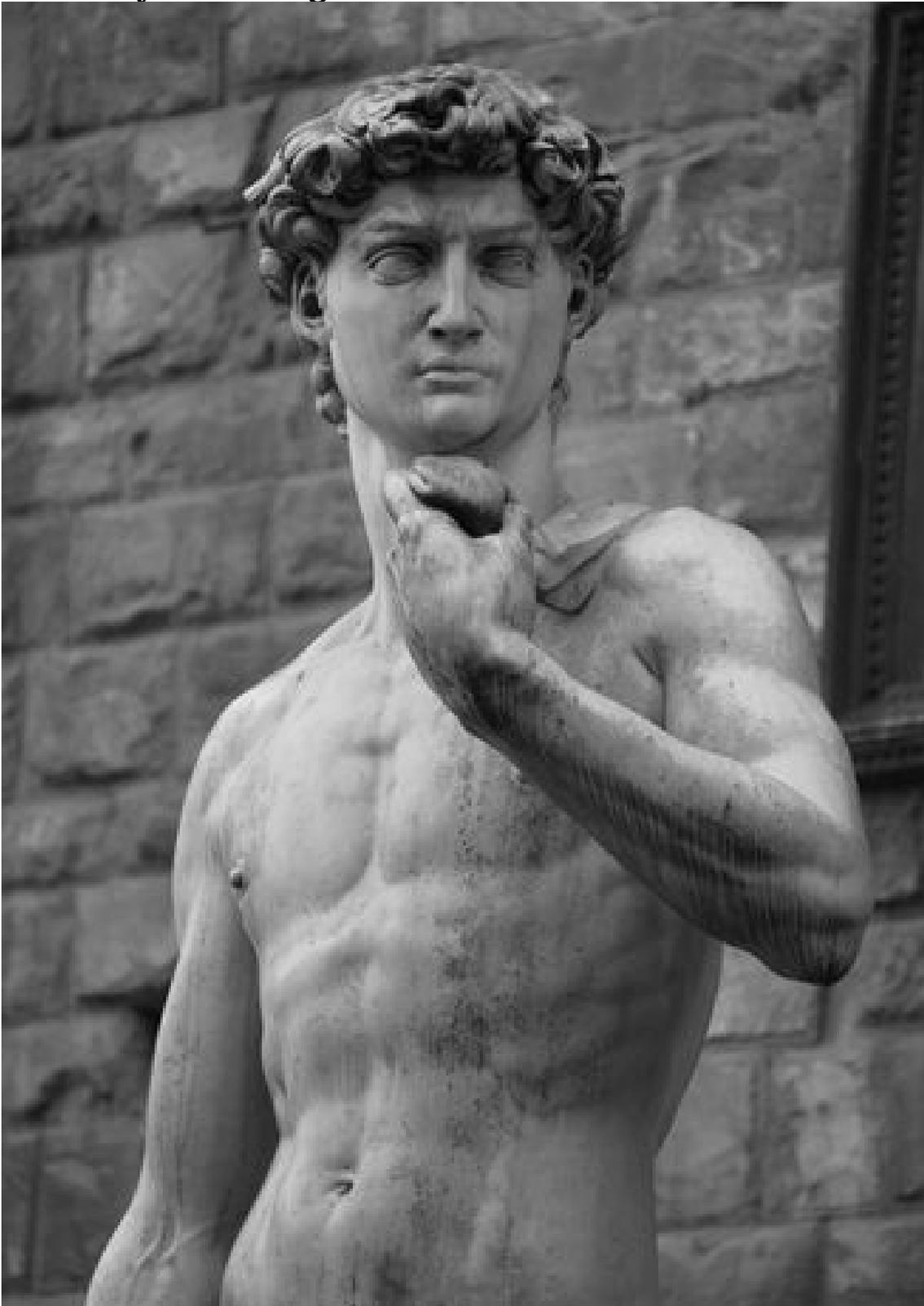
Bible knowledge: some

1. David said (v45) "I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...whom you have defied." David saw Goliath for what he was – a challenge to God's authority. He knew he was dependent on God and he wanted God to get the glory for defeating Goliath. Opposition tests our dependence on God too, and when we turn to prayer, we show that we know we need God.
2. Pray for members of the group to have confidence to stand for God whatever circumstances they find themselves in.

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Resource sheet 1 'David' by Michelangelo



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Resource sheet 2 **1 Samuel 17:20-54**

Early in the morning David left the sheep with another shepherd. He took the food and left as Jesse had told him. When David arrived at the camp, the army was going out to their battle positions, shouting their war cry. The Israelites and Philistines were lining up their men to face each other in battle.

David left the food with the man who kept the supplies and ran to the battle line to talk to his brothers. While he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out. He shouted things against Israel as usual, and David heard him. When the Israelites saw Goliath, they were very much afraid and ran away.

They said, "Look at this man! He keeps coming out to challenge Israel. The king will give much money to whoever kills him. He will also let whoever kills him marry his daughter. And his father's family will not have to pay taxes in Israel."

David asked the men who stood near him, "What will be done to reward the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the shame from Israel? Who does this uncircumcised Philistine think he is? Does he think he can speak against the armies of the living God?" The Israelites told David what would be done for the man who would kill Goliath.

When David's oldest brother Eliab heard David talking with the soldiers, he was angry with David. He asked David, "Why did you come here? Who's taking care of those few sheep of yours in the desert? I know you are proud and wicked at heart. You came down here just to watch the battle."

David asked, "Now what have I done wrong? Can't I even talk?" When he turned to other people and asked the same questions, they gave him the same answer as before. Yet what David said was told to Saul, and he sent for David.

David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone be discouraged. I, your servant, will go and fight this Philistine!"

Saul answered, "You can't go out against this Philistine and fight him. You're only a boy. Goliath has been a warrior since he was a young man."

But David said to Saul, "I, your servant, have been keeping my father's sheep. When a lion or bear came and took a sheep from the flock, I would chase it. I would attack it and save the sheep from its mouth. When it attacked me, I caught it by its fur and hit it and killed it. I, your servant, have killed both a lion and a bear! This uncircumcised Philistine will be like them, because he has spoken against the armies of the living God. The LORD who saved me from a lion and a bear will save me from this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you." Saul put his own clothes on David. He put a bronze helmet on his head and dressed him in armor. David put on Saul's sword and tried to walk around, but he was not used to all the armor Saul had put on him.

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Resource sheet 2 (continued)

1 Samuel 17:20-54

He said to Saul, "I can't go in this, because I'm not used to it." Then David took it all off. He took his stick in his hand and chose five smooth stones from a stream. He put them in his shepherd's bag and grabbed his sling. Then he went to meet the Philistine.

At the same time, the Philistine was coming closer to David. The man who held his shield walked in front of him. When Goliath looked at David and saw that he was only a boy, tanned and handsome, he looked down on David with disgust. He said, "Do you think I am a dog, that you come at me with a stick?" He used his gods' names to curse David. He said to David, "Come here. I'll feed your body to the birds of the air and the wild animals!"

But David said to him, "You come to me using a sword and two spears. But I come to you in the name of the LORD All-Powerful, the God of the armies of Israel! You have spoken against him. Today the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll kill you and cut off your head. Today I'll feed the bodies of the Philistine soldiers to the birds of the air and the wild animals. Then all the world will know there is a God in Israel! Everyone gathered here will know the LORD does not need swords or spears to save people. The battle belongs to him, and he will hand you over to us."

As Goliath came near to attack him, David ran quickly to meet him. He took a stone from his bag, put it into his sling, and slung it. The stone hit the Philistine and went deep into his forehead, and Goliath fell facedown on the ground.

So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. He did not even have a sword in his hand. Then David ran and stood beside him. He took Goliath's sword out of its holder and killed him by cutting off his head.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. The men of Israel and Judah shouted and chased the Philistines all the way to the entrance of the city of Gath and to the gates of Ekron.

The Philistines' bodies lay on the Shaaraim road as far as Gath and Ekron. The Israelites returned after chasing the Philistines and robbed their camp. David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem and put Goliath's weapons in his own tent.

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Session 4: David loses

Series: Lessons from David

Themes: dealing with temptation

Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 11

Suggested age group: 11-14's

Session aims: To encourage

Way in 1 – Competitions

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: cream cakes or doughnuts, fruit pastilles

1. Have a competition between two people to eat a cream cake or doughnut each without licking their lips.
2. Give everyone a fruit pastille with the instruction to hold it in their mouth without chewing it while talking about what folk have been up to this past week. Anyone caught chewing is out!
3. Ask each person to hold their partner's right wrist with their left hand. All participants should now be free to try and slap their partner's face with their right hand while trying to stop their own face being hit. Allow a few moments to achieve and experience this.
4. Form a fairly tight circle with everyone sitting on a chair. One person then moves to stand in the middle. The rest of the group tries to stop them sitting down again by moving to their left every time there is an empty seat beside them. If the person from the middle does manage to sit down then they are replaced by the person on their right who failed to move quickly enough. (If the group are good at it, allow the person in the middle to shout "change" anytime they want the circle to change direction.)

Way in 2 - Video clip

Duration: 4 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: Video or DVD and the means of showing it.

1. Show the clip from *O Brother where art thou* (12), Located 42 minutes and 30 seconds after the studio logo. It runs for 2 minutes and 30 seconds. In this scene, Everett, Pete and Delmar discover three beautiful women washing laundry seductively in the river while singing an enchanting song. The men allow themselves to be captured in their tempting web of 'come hither' looks, lulling song and numbing liquor. (The film is a "12" classification so the clip is imaginative rather than overt but it still rules out showing it to 11 year olds.)
2. Ask any of the following questions:
 - What mistake did the men make in the scene?
 - How might Jesus have faced this particular temptation?
 - Does temptation feel this overwhelming to you? Explain.

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3. God never gives us more temptation than we can withstand. (1 Corinthians 10:13 - The only temptation that has come to you is that which everyone has. But you can trust God, who will not permit you to be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, he will also give you a way to escape so that you will be able to stand it.)
4. It is not wrong to be tempted – that happens to everyone. It is wrong when we give in to temptation and commit a sin.

Way in 3 – Riddle

Duration: 2 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Ask the group to work out what you are talking about with this riddle:
*Men have two important sex organs; they are on the outside of their bodies.
Women have one important sex organ; it is inside their bodies.*
(The answers are “their eyes” and “her mind or imagination.”)

Way in 4 - Two voices

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: resource sheet 1 ‘Colour words’ either printed on paper or displayed on PowerPoint

1. Print off resource sheet 1 ‘Colour words’ or “capture” it from within the pdf file and paste it into a PowerPoint Slide.
2. Ask the group to pair off. One person closes their eyes and the other is allowed to see the coloured chart. Tell them to read the top line of instructions to themselves and then do what is asked of them.
3. Swap roles.
4. Discuss what was going on and what made the task difficult. (Two messages were arriving in the brain at the same time with conflicting suggestions of what to say.)

Connecting 1 - Bible reading

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

With: Bibles or resource sheet 2, 2 Samuel 11

1. Read 2 Samuel 11 together.
2. Comment that despite the best efforts of David’s servants (v3) he still strolls into an area of weakness and takes what he wants - despite being a 50 yr old man with dozens of wives.
3. Ask the group to identify what David did wrong - either as you read it through as a group or in smaller discussion groups thereafter. Did they notice: laziness - not going off to war & afternoon naps when he was unable to sleep; covetousness; adultery; murder.

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Connecting 2 – Discussion

Duration: 10 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Discuss how David could kill a giant and yet be defeated by this, apparently smaller, challenge. Sex was a real weakness for David; he had many wives and concubines (2 Samuel 5:13) but his appetite was never satisfied and he never learned to take avoiding tactics.
2. What were the conflicting messages going through his head? (I suppose I should go off to battle; I'll have a nap; I'm not really tired; laziness, greed; there's someone new!)
3. Discuss what Bathsheba's role in all this was. (Was she a very willing party, irresponsible, flaunting, unloved by her husband, a victim of the king's power?)

Connecting 3 - Plan David's day

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: some

With: Bible verse written out on white board or flip chart

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, 'The only temptation that has come to you is that which everyone has. But you can trust God, who will not permit you to be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, he will also give you a way to escape so that you will be able to stand it.'
2. Ask the group: What were the ways of escape open to David as the story developed? (This is as much about reading into the text as reading the text. Answers might include – being at war rather than at home; working on affairs of state during the day; spending time with his wives; walking off the balcony/roof when he saw Bathsheba; not sending the letter; not trying to implicate Uriah.)
3. Remind group again that it is not wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to give in to the temptation. It is said "you can't prevent birds flying over your head, but you can prevent them building nests in your hair."

Responding 1 - Helping with the two voices

Duration: 2 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Remember the devil is out to attack so we need strength and tactics to keep him at bay - like the slapping game. (Way in 3)
2. You may wonder why others struggle with certain temptations (as you may have thought that reading a list of colours could not be hard – Way in 4). What you may be able to resist, others may struggle with.
3. Ask pupils what would help resist temptation.
4. Having other people to whom we are accountable is important; being aware of how our actions could be unhelpful to others is as well. Most important is keeping in close relationship with God – reading his word and praying regularly.

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Reflection 2 - More riddles

Duration: 2 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. It is sometimes said 'Men play at love, looking for sex. Women play at sex, looking for love.'
2. Ask pupils whether they can see these attitudes in the story of David and Bathsheba. (David has many wives – 2 Sam 5:13 – yet is not satisfied. Is he still out there trying to win other women with messages and invitations? Is she frustrated at home while her husband is at war?)
3. Does the group see any truth in the statements in their peers? How would they respond to these statements? Attitudes to sex within the peer group may be grossly over simplified to "conquests" and "relationships" – what you do versus how you feel. Each person needs to be able to examine their motives and expectations and not to compromise their Biblical standards of godly behaviour with others.

Reflection 3 - Plan your day

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: some

With: Bible verse written out on white board or flip chart

1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, 'The only temptation that has come to you is that which everyone has. But you can trust God, who will not permit you to be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, he will also give you a way to escape so that you will be able to stand it.'
2. Give everyone time to think through their day and to identify and plan routes of escape for tempting situations that they face on a regular – foreseeable - basis.

Reflection 4 – Has God's view changed?

Duration: 5 mins

Bible knowledge: n/a

1. Remind group members what God thought about David at the beginning of his life. (God chose David from among his older brothers, in fact, from all Israel, because his heart was right – he worshipped God and put him first.)
2. Ask whether group members think God's opinion of David has changed because of his sins with Bathsheba and Uriah.
3. Comment that God knows people completely. Sometimes when we do things wrong, it takes us by surprise because we don't like to think that we are capable of doing such bad things, but it does not take God by surprise, because he knows us. In 1 John 1:9 it says, 'But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done.' David did confess his sin to God, and God forgave him and restored the relationship between them.

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Resource sheet 1
Colour words

Look at the chart and say the COLOUR not the word

YELLOW BLUE ORANGE

BLACK RED GREEN

PURPLE YELLOW RED

ORANGE GREEN BLACK

BLUE RED PURPLE

GREEN BLUE ORANGE

Left – Right Conflict

**Your right brain tries to say the colour but
your left brain insists on reading the word.**

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Resource sheet 2 2 Samuel 11

¹ In the spring, when the kings normally went out to war, David sent out Joab, his servants, and all the Israelites. They destroyed the Ammonites and attacked the city of Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem.² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of his palace. While he was on the roof, he saw a woman bathing. She was very beautiful.³ So David sent his servants to find out who she was. A servant answered, "That woman is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam. She is the wife of Uriah the Hittite."⁴ So David sent messengers to bring Bathsheba to him. When she came to him, he had sexual relations with her. Then she went back to her house.⁵ But Bathsheba became pregnant and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent a message to Joab: "Send Uriah the Hittite to me." And Joab sent Uriah to David.⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were, and how the war was going.⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go home and rest."

So Uriah left the palace, and the king sent a gift to him.⁹ But Uriah did not go home. Instead, he slept outside the door of the palace as all the king's officers did.

¹⁰ The officers told David, "Uriah did not go home."

Then David said to Uriah, "You came from a long trip. Why didn't you go home?"

¹¹ Uriah said to him, "The Ark and the soldiers of Israel and Judah are staying in tents. My master Joab and his officers are camping out in the fields. It isn't right for me to go home to eat and drink and have sexual relations with my wife!"

¹² David said to Uriah, "Stay here today. Tomorrow I'll send you back to the battle." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next.¹³ David made Uriah drunk, but he still did not go home. That evening Uriah again slept with the king's officers.

¹⁴ The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah.¹⁵ In the letter David wrote, "Put Uriah on the front lines where the fighting is worst and leave him there alone. Let him be killed in battle."

¹⁶ Joab watched the city and saw where its strongest defenders were and put Uriah there.¹⁷ When the men of the city came out to fight against Joab, some of David's men were killed. And Uriah the Hittite was one of them.

¹⁸ Then Joab sent David a complete account of the war.¹⁹ Joab told the messenger, "Tell King David what happened in the war.²⁰ After you finish, the king may be angry and ask, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight?' If King David asks that, tell him, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite also died.'"

²² The messenger left and went to David and told him everything Joab had told him to say.²³ The messenger told David, "The men of Ammon were winning. They came out and attacked us in the field, but we fought them back to the city gate.²⁴ The archers on the city wall shot at your servants, and some of your men were killed. Your servant Uriah the Hittite also died."

²⁵ David said to the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't be upset about this. The sword kills everyone the same. Make a stronger attack against the city and capture it.' Encourage Joab with these words."

²⁶ When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she cried for him.²⁷ After she finished her time of sadness, David sent servants to bring her to his house. She became David's wife and gave birth to his son, but the LORD did not like what David had done.

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