

1 SAMUEL 17-22

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

These chapters tell the story of David's rise as a brave leader, his friendship with Jonathan, and his journey as he runs from King Saul. The Israelite army is terrified because of a giant named Goliath, a super tall Philistine warrior. He comes out every day and dares someone to fight him. No one is brave enough—until David, a young **shepherd**, visits the camp. A shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep. Nobody believes that David will be able to defeat Goliath because of his small size, but David believes God will help him win. He refuses to wear heavy armor and instead uses his sling and a stone. With God's help, David strikes Goliath in the forehead and defeats him! The Israelites are amazed, and David becomes a hero.

After the victory, King Saul makes David a **commander** (a military leader) in his army. David wins many battles, and the people sing songs praising him more than they praise King Saul. This makes King Saul angry and jealous. David becomes best friends with Jonathan, King Saul's son. Jonathan loves David like a brother and gives him his robe, sword, and bow, but Saul's jealousy grows so strong that he tries to kill David by throwing a spear at him. Saul keeps trying to harm David. Jonathan speaks to his father and convinces him to spare David's life, but Saul changes his mind again and sends men to David's house to kill him. Michal, David's wife (who is also Saul's daughter), helps him escape through a window. David runs away to Samuel, the **prophet**, for safety. A prophet is someone chosen by God to speak His messages to His people. When Saul sends men to capture him, God's Spirit protects David and causes the men to start prophesying instead of fighting.

David meets with Jonathan in secret. David wants to know if Saul still wants to kill him. Jonathan promises to help and comes up with a plan using arrows to send David a secret message. When Jonathan realizes Saul is determined to kill David, he warns him to flee. They promise to always be faithful to each other and their future families. David escapes to a town called Nob and meets a priest named Ahimelek. David asks for food, and the priest gives him holy bread. David also takes Goliath's sword, which had been kept there. Then David flees to the Philistine city of Gath, pretending to be crazy so they won't harm him. David hides in a cave, and many people who are in trouble or need help come to join him. David becomes their leader. Meanwhile, Saul is really mad when he hears that Ahimelek helped David. Saul orders his guards to kill the priests, but they refuse. A man named Doeg obeys and kills many priests and their families. One priest, Abiathar, escapes and joins David. David promises to protect him.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	● God gives strength to those who trust Him!
KEY STORIES:	● David and Goliath ● Saul tries to kill David ● Michal saves David's life ● Jonathan helps David
KEY VERSES:	● 1 Samuel 17:45 ○ "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty.'" ● 1 Samuel 18:3 ○ "Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself." ● 1 Samuel 18:14 ○ "In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him."
WORDS TO KNOW:	● Shepherd ○ Someone who takes care of sheep ● Commander ○ A military leader ● Prophet ○ Someone chosen by God to speak His messages to His people.

Reflection Questions

1.	What made David brave enough to face Goliath when no one else would? Have you ever had to face something scary or hard?
2.	Why do you think Saul was so jealous of David? What can jealousy do to our hearts and our relationships?
3.	How can we be happy for others instead of feeling jealous?
4.	What made David and Jonathan's friendship special? What does it mean to be a good friend?