

17.07 Michal Saves David (1 Samuel 19:1-17; Psalm 59)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

- **Visuals and Tools** Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (none this week)

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 19:1 And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul’s son, delighted much in David. 2 And Jonathan told David, “Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you.” 4 And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. 5 For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?” 6 And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, “As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death.” 7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

8 And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. 9 Then a harmful spirit from the Lord came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. 10 And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

11 Saul sent messengers to David’s house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David’s wife, told him, “If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.” 12 So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped. 13 Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats’ hair at its head and covered it with the clothes. 14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, “He is sick.” 15 Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, “Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.” 16 And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats’ hair at its head. 17 Saul said to Michal, “Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?” And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go. Why should I kill you?’”

A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him. Psalm 59:1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me; 2 deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men.

3 For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O Lord, 4 for no fault of mine, they run and make ready. Awake, come to meet me, and see! 5 You, Lord God of hosts, are God of Israel. Rouse yourself to punish all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah

6 Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. 7 There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips—for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?”

8 But you, O Lord, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision. 9 O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress. 10 My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in

triumph on my enemies.

11 Kill them not, lest my people forget; make them totter by your power and bring them down, O Lord, our shield! 12 For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride. For the cursing and lies that they utter, 13 consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah

14 Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. 15 They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill.

16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. 17 O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

Introduction/Review:

David had married Saul's daughter, Michal. David was growing more and more in wisdom and in war experience and in favor with the people. On the other hand, Saul was growing worse and worse in depression (an evil spirit from the Lord) and in hatred for David.

Story:

A threat to slay

Saul's hatred grew to the point that he actually told Jonathan his son and all his servants, "Kill David." How did this command affect Jonathan? He loved David as a brother, and now his father, the king, commanded to do away with his best friend! What could he do? He decided he would do his best to negotiate peace.

Therefore, Jonathan told David, "My father wants to kill you; so be very careful until morning. Hide yourself in a secret hiding place out in the hills. I'll bring my father out there to talk to him about you, and later I will tell you what he says." Why did Jonathan want to talk to Saul in the hills? So that their conversation would be private. (Remember, Jacob and his wives also conversed in the fields before leaving Laban.)

A change of mind

David hid while Jonathan brought his father out into the field to speak well of David. He said, "Do not sin against your servant David because he has not sinned against you. In fact, his works to you have been very good."

What were some ways David had been good to Saul? He had killed Goliath; he had play his harp to calm Saul; he had not retaliated when promised Saul's daughter, who was given to another man; he had been a faithful, wise servant; he had done anything Saul asked; he had slain at least 200 Philistines.

The one thing Jonathan recalled to Saul was David's slaying of Goliath. He said, "David risked his life and slew the Philistine. The Lord worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and you were so happy. Why, now, will you sin against innocent blood to slay David without a reason?"

Saul listened to Jonathan and changed his mind. He promised with an oath, "As the Lord lives." He promised that as surely as God lives, he would not slay David. Wow! That's a pretty strong promise. Will he keep it? We will see.

Jonathan must have been delighted. After Saul left, he called David and told him all that he and Saul had discussed. He brought David back to Saul, and David stayed in the royal court just as he had before. He was able to do good to Saul who had done evil to him. Are you able to do good to those who do wrong to you? Jesus did. He can give you strength for the same task.

There was war again with the Philistines. David went out and fought against them. Many Philistines died, and the rest ran away.

Another change of mind

After the battles, David came back to Saul's house. ✓Maybe jealousy about David's successes overcame Saul. The Bible states that an evil spirit from the Lord came upon him; so David played his soothing harp music. Think of it: a captain over a thousand soldiers coming back from victories and humbly playing the harp for his king. But don't think about that too long, for one must beware of Saul. Yes, he did what we might think he would do. He grabbed his spear and threw it at David. David ducked and escaped, but the javelin went right into the wall.

A life-saving wife

So much for Saul's strong promise. The Lord still lives, but Saul broke his promise. In fact, he was so determined to get rid of David that he sent messengers to David's house in order to watch for him and to slay him in the morning when he came out of his house. Apparently, ✓Michal saw those messengers outside the house and said to David, "If you don't save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be slain."

So Michal, ✓perhaps with a rope, let David out of the house through a window. The messengers didn't see him escape, and David was able to run away.

Michal took an image (✓maybe a statue or even an idol) and put it in the bed, placing goat's hair on the head of the image and covering it all up to look as if David were in bed.

A person might wonder why Michal placed the image in David's bed. We will see how this action added time for David's escape while Saul's messengers dillydallied back and forth between Saul and David's house.

In the morning when David didn't come out, ✓one of the messengers went back to Saul, saying, "David didn't come out of his house this morning."

Saul replied, "Go ask for him."

The messengers approached the door of David's house. Michal answered, saying, "David is sick."

The messengers went back to Saul. Saul said, "Get David out of bed and bring him here to me so that I may slay him!"

This time the messengers actually went into David's house, into his bedroom, and—what did they find? The image with goat's hair in the bed. Yes! David had escaped.

Saul scolded his daughter, Michal, for letting David go, but David praised God for delivering him.

A psalm of David

This is what David wrote about his experience that night: "Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me; deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men. For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O Lord. . . . But you, O Lord, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision. O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress. My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in triumph on my enemies. . . . But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love (Psalm 59:1-4, 8-10, 16, 17).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

David humbled himself before King Saul, coming from victorious battles as a mighty leader over one thousand men to serve the king humbly by playing his harp. Jesus, "being in the form of God . . . made

himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant . . . humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:6–8).

Activities:

- Play dough: bed, spear, rope, harp
- Snack: A rope-like snack; e.g., Nerds[®] Rope or Clif Kid[®] Organic Zfruit or cherry licorice
- Hide an object in a secret place, or hide a David doll or puppet. Have students find the object.
- Use a yardstick to show Christ, who is strong and straight. Use a tape measure to represent people and to show that it cannot be strong. We should put our trust in Christ, not people (CEF, “Life of David,” p. 27).
- Discuss taking an oath like “as the Lord lives” and not keeping the promise. What should/would happen to the person breaking a vow in God’s name?
- Review questions: (Game: To remind students of the field where Jonathan met with Saul, have stalks of grass or grain. Students who answer questions correctly may place a stalk in a container.)
 1. What command did Saul give to his servants and Jonathan? [To kill David.]
 2. What did Jonathan do about Saul’s distressing command? [Persuaded his father not to go through with the plan to slay David.]
 3. When David played the harp for Saul again, what did Saul do? [Tried to slay him with a spear again.]
 4. What was Saul’s next plan of attack? Whom did he send to David’s house? [Messengers to slay David in the morning.]
 5. Who helped David escape? [His wife Michal.]
 6. How did David escape his house? [Michal let him down through a window.]
 7. How did Michal disguise David’s bed? [Put an image in it with goat’s hair on the pillow.]

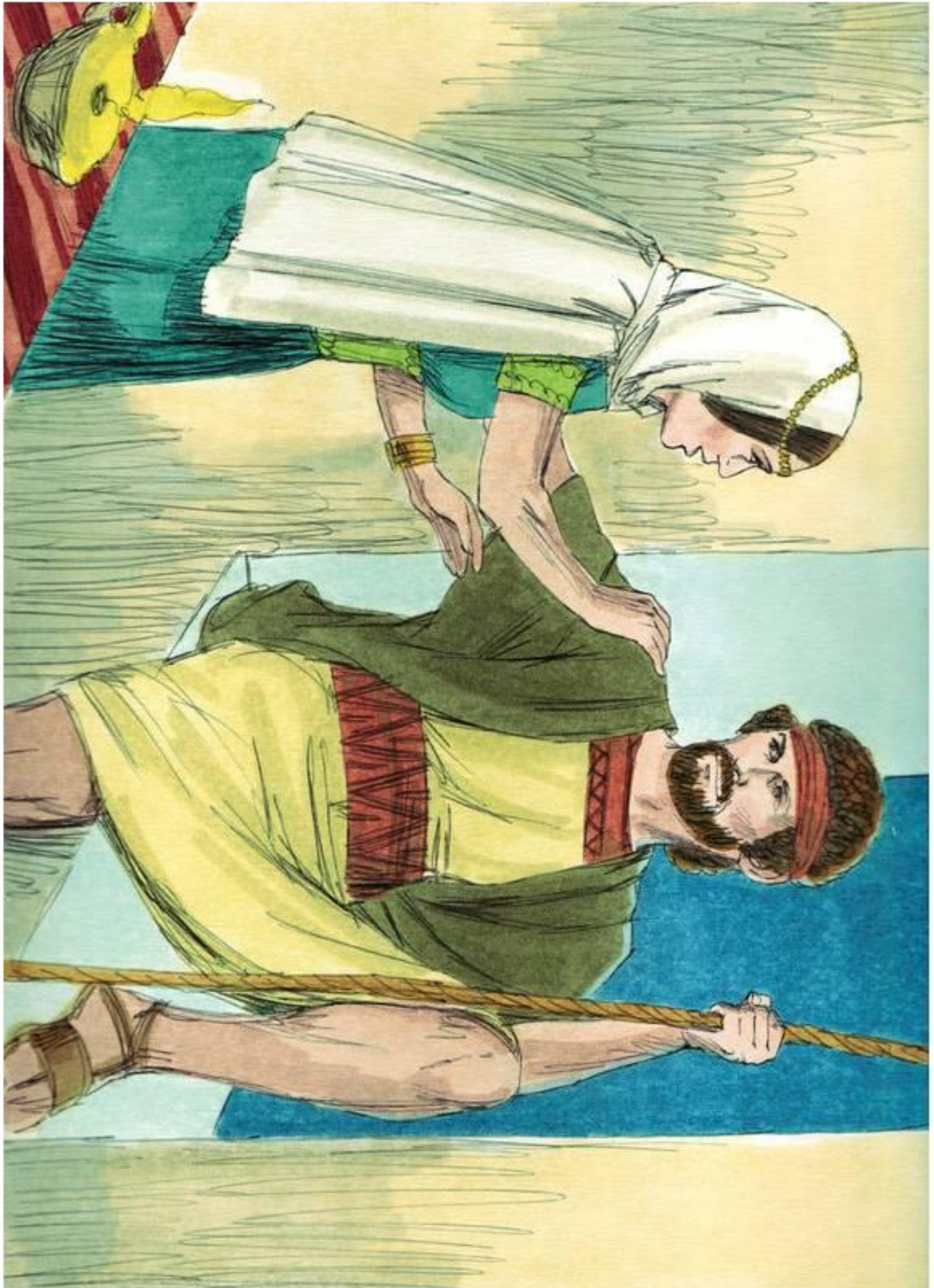
Memory Verse[s]:

- Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Handwork:

- Depending on the age of students and time constraints, the teacher may wish to prepare some of this craft in advance. Print the Psalm 23 poster found below. Put glue on the back of the entire picture. Attach to light cardboard or to card stock, or back with flannel or paper towel. Cut out along the outside lines, and cut horizontal lines on the poster. Students will put the puzzle together correctly. Provide envelopes for the pieces to be taken home.









The Lord is
my shepherd;
I shall
not want.