

17.18 Ziklag Burned; David Fights the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:1–31; 1 Chronicles 12:19–22)

✓ “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.

- *Amalekites*: (see Introduction)
- *spoil*: the goods and animals captured from a defeated enemy; rewards from battle; also called *plunder*

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 30:1 Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire 2 and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. 3 And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. 5 David’s two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 6 And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the ephod.” So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?” He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue.” 9 So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

11 They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink, 12 and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. And when he had eaten, his spirit revived, for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. 13 And David said to him, “To whom do you belong? And where are you from?” He said, “I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me behind because I fell sick three days ago. 14 We had made a raid against the Negeb of the Cherethites and against that which belongs to Judah and against the Negeb of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire.” 15 And David said to him, “Will you take me down to this band?” And he said, “Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band.”

16 And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. 17 And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. 18 David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all. 20 David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, “This is David’s spoil.”

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow David, and who had been left at the brook Besor. And they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near to the people he greeted them. 22 Then all the wicked and worthless fellows among the

men who had gone with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except that each man may lead away his wife and children, and depart." 23 But David said, "You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the Lord has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us. 24 Who would listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike." 25 And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day.

26 When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the Lord." 27 It was for those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negeb, in Jattir, 28 in Aroer, in Siphmoth, in Eshtemoa, 29 in Racal, in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, in the cities of the Kenites, 30 in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, in Athach, 31 in Hebron, for all the places where David and his men had roamed.

1 Chronicles 12:19 Some of the men of Manasseh deserted to David when he came with the Philistines for the battle against Saul. (Yet he did not help them, for the rulers of the Philistines took counsel and sent him away, saying, "At peril to our heads he will desert to his master Saul.") 20 As he went to Ziklag, these men of Manasseh deserted to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, chiefs of thousands in Manasseh. 21 They helped David against the band of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor and were commanders in the army. 22 For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like an army of God.

Introduction/Review:

Who were the Amalekites? [The people who attacked the feeble while Israel was coming out of Egypt.] What had God promised against this people because of their bad treatment of Israel? [They would be utterly wiped out.] Whom did God assign to the task of destroying the Amalekites? [Saul.] Tell about what he did to these people. [He destroyed many people but saved the king and the best of the animals.] God said Saul's failure to obey in this event would cost him the throne of Israel: he would be removed from being king.

Story:

Going home to Ziklag

After being rejected by the Philistine lords to join in battle against Israel, David and his men marched three long, hard days back to Ziklag.

As they trudged toward home, seven chiefs over thousands from the tribe of Manasseh who had deserted Saul's army came to join David. These army commanders were all mighty men of valor. Joining David at this time, they would help him in his next sad adventure.

Nearing home after a weary, ✓seventy-mile journey, instead of finding "Home, Sweet Ziklag," David and his men were stunned to see black smoke rising from their burned-up town. The Amalekites, those people whom God had told Saul to destroy utterly, had attacked Ziklag while the soldiers were gone, had taken the women and children (thankfully, they hadn't killed them), and had burned the city.

This was too much for David and his men to comprehend! They started to cry and kept on crying until they were too weak to weep anymore. Then David's men started talking about stoning David because they blamed him for the grievous loss of their families.

In the midst of all this despair and uncertainty for David, we read a wonderful verse in the Bible: "But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (1 Samuel 30:6). David was trusting God again and later might have written a psalm (Psalm 4) about this event. Now, however, he asked Ahimelech, the priest, to bring the ephod to learn God's will. "Shall I go after those Amalekites?" David asked.

Going after the Amalekites

God somehow answered, "Chase them, for you will catch them and get everything back that you lost."

David and 600 soldiers went chasing, but when they were about to cross the brook, Besor [locate], 200 were just too exhausted to go any farther. So only 400 went on, and the tired 200 stayed at the brook.

As David and his men marched, they came across an Egyptian man in the open country. He had not eaten or drunk for three days and nights. They gave him some food, and when he revived, they learned he was a servant to an Amalekite who had left this man behind because he was sick. “Can you lead us to these people?” asked David.

“Promise me not to slay me or give me back to my master, and I will lead you to them,” he answered.

Sure enough, the Egyptian led them to the Amalekites. There they were, eating and drinking and dancing around—so happy because of all the stuff they had taken from Philistia and Judah and Ziklag.

David and his men attacked and fought against these Amalekites for two days and slew everyone except 400 Amalekites who got away on camels. David and company got back every single member of their families, all their things the Amalekites had taken, plus much more.

Dividing the spoil

They came back to where they had left the 200 exhausted men. Some men (the Bible calls them “wicked men” and “men of Belial” even though they fought for David) said, “Because these 200 tired men didn’t fight with us those two days that we fought the Amalekites, they can’t have any of the rewards of battle. They can have their wives and children but none of this extra spoil.”

David’s answer became the pattern for the way Israel divided the rewards of battle from that day on. This is what he said: “The Lord gave this to us. He preserved us. He caused us to win the war with the Amalekites. We will divide all the rewards, not just with the fighting soldiers, but also with the soldiers who had to stay behind to guard.”

David divided up all the rewards of the battle among *all* 600 of his soldiers. Still, there was so much left over that David sent some to at least thirteen different towns, some that had hidden and watched out for David and his men before and some to friends who were elders in Judah.

Truly, God was making David great, even when David was in great trouble (Psalm 4:1). God can do the same for us.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
Everyone, the soldiers who fought and the weak and weary who stayed, had their part in the spoil. Jesus gives salvation to the weak as well as to the strong. No one is more qualified than another for salvation.
- Do not despise the weak.

Activities:

- Play dough: spoil from war like clothes, money, animals
- Snack: Animal crackers
- Have children march until they are tired. When one-third of the students wishes to stop marching, set them apart, have all students stop marching, and note the percentage of soldiers who stayed and the percentage of those who went on to fight.
- Review questions: (Game: Divide the spoil. Print on card stock and cut out in rectangles the clipart of “spoil” found below. For each correct answer a student may place one of the pictures in a pocket chart.)
 1. How many days did it take to get from Aphek to Ziklag? [Three days.]
 2. What had happened to the city Ziklag? [It had been burned.]

3. What had happened to the families of David and his men? [They had been taken away.]
4. What were the people talking about doing to David? [Stone him.]
5. Whom did David and his men find in the open country? [An Egyptian servant to one of the Amalekites.]
6. What were the Amalekites doing when David and his men reached them? [Feasting and celebrating.]
7. Who won the ensuing battle? [David.]
8. How many family members were lost to David and his men? [None.]
9. What did wicked men among David's soldiers say about dividing the spoil? [Those who had stayed back because of exhaustion should get their family members but not any other spoil.]
10. How did David divide the spoil? [All his men got equal amounts; he gave some to those who had helped him previously and to elders of Judah.]

Memory Verse[s]: (KJV)

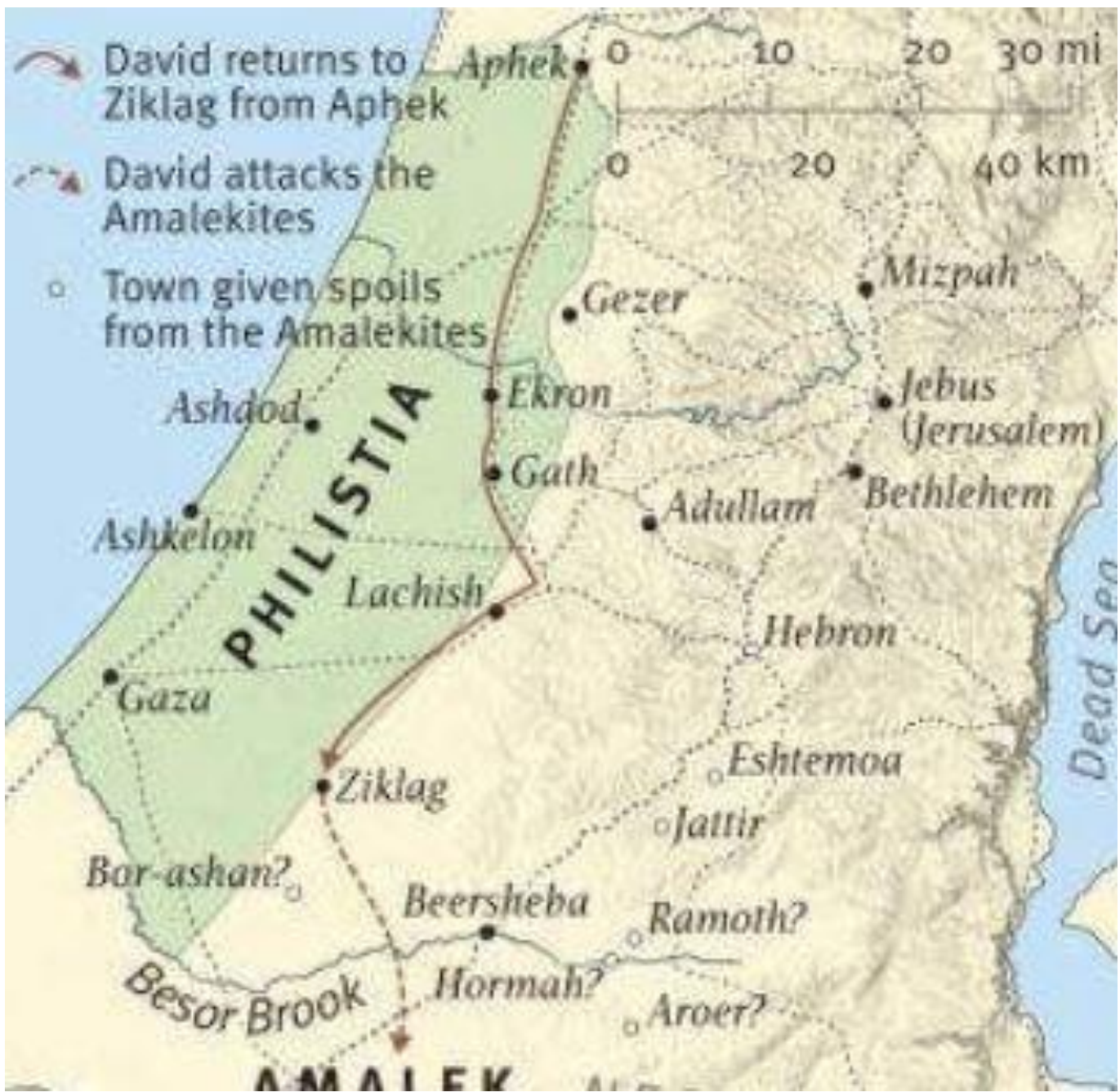
- Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Handwork:

- Go to 18.+David+%26+Amalekites+application+pack++%23Biblefun.JPG (441×568) (bp.blogspot.com) for a page with a word search, a question-and-answer section, a maze, and a verse lookup.
- For younger students go to [18. David and the Amalekites PTC #Biblefun.pdf - Google Drive](#) to select a page to color.

Amalekites

spoil



[Ziklag | Braman's Wanderings \(bramanswanderings.com\)](http://bramanswanderings.com)



St-Takla.org





[Dvd Defeats The Amalekites \(1 Sam 30 18\) 1184-363.jpg \(400x466\) \(bibleencyclopedia.com\)](#)

