

17.20b David Learns of the Saul's Death (2 Samuel 1:1–27; 1 Chronicles 8:29–40; 9:35–44 Saul's genealogy)

✓ “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.
- Fabric or clothes to tear; dirt for head
- The song, “Holding Up Hands,” found in Lesson 12.12 or on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibletochildren.org, where an audio version as well as a visual aid is available

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: (None this week)

- *Amalekites*: a people group who had attacked the feeble as Israel left Egypt; God had told Saul utterly to destroy these people [Teacher, have the students sing “Holding Up Hands.”]
- *sojourner*: a person living for a time in a land not his own
- *uncircumcised*: a term for gentiles, those who are not Israelites/Jews

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 1:1 After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. 2 And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. 3 David said to him, “Where do you come from?” And he said to him, “I have escaped from the camp of Israel.” 4 And David said to him, “How did it go? Tell me.” And he answered, “The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead.” 5 Then David said to the young man who told him, “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?” 6 And the young man who told him said, “By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. 7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, ‘Here I am.’ 8 And he said to me, ‘Who are you?’ I answered him, ‘I am an Amalekite.’ 9 And he said to me, ‘Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.’ 10 So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord.”

11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 13 And David said to the young man who told him, “Where do you come from?” And he answered, “I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite.” 14 David said to him, “How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?” 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, “Go, execute him.” And he struck him down so that he died. 16 And David said to him, “Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, ‘I have killed the Lord's anointed.’”

17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, 18 and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said: 19 “Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! 20 Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

21 “You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings! For there the

shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

22 “From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

23 “Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions.

24 “You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

25 “How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain on your high places. 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.

27 “How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”

1 Chronicles 8:29 Jeiel the father of Gibeon lived in Gibeon, and the name of his wife was Maacah. 30 His firstborn son: Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab, 31 Gedor, Ahio, Zecher, 32 and Mikloth (he fathered Shimeah). Now these also lived opposite their kinsmen in Jerusalem, with their kinsmen. 33 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish of Saul, Saul of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal; 34 and the son of Jonathan was Merib-baal; and Merib-baal was the father of Micah. 35 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz. 36 Ahaz fathered Jehoaddah, and Jehoaddah fathered Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri fathered Moza. 37 Moza fathered Binea; Raphah was his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son. 38 Azel had six sons, and these are their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel. 39 The sons of Eshek his brother: Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third. 40 The sons of Ulam were men who were mighty warriors, bowmen, having many sons and grandsons, 41 All these were Benjaminites.

(1 Chronicles 9:35–44 is essentially the same as 1 Chronicles 8:29–41.)

Introduction/Review:

While Saul was watching the Philistines prepare their chariots, weapons, and soldiers to war against Israel in northern Israel, David was coming home to Ziklag from the south where he had warred against the Amalekites in order to regain the families and substance of his own and of his soldiers. ✓It was probably about the same day as they returned to Ziklag that the Philistines up in the north fought Israel, chasing them, and destroying many, including Saul and his three sons.

Story:

A messenger

On the third day ✓after David had gotten back to Ziklag, a young man came to David. He had put dirt on his head and had torn his clothes, a sign of great calamity. He honored David by falling to the ground in front of him.

“Where did you come from?” asked David.

“I have escaped from the Israelite camp,” the man answered.

“Tell me what happened,” demanded David.

“The Israelite men ran from the battle with the Philistines. Many of them fell and died, and Saul and Jonathan are dead.”

“How do you know Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?” David asked.

“I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear. Philistine chariots and riders were almost to him. When he saw me, Saul called out to me, ‘Who are you?’ he asked. I said, ‘I’m an

Amalekite.”

Who was that young man? [An Amalekite.] Hmmm! Interesting. Jewish tradition states ✓this man was a son of Saul’s armor bearer, whom they say was Doeg. But let’s get on with our story.

The young man continued, “Saul said, ‘Stand over me and kill me, for I am dying but still alive!’ So I stood over him and killed him because I knew he could not survive the arrow wounds he had. When he was dead, I took the crown from his head and the band on his arm and have brought them to you, my lord.”

A time of mourning

Then David and his men, grieving with great anguish, grabbed their clothes and tore them. [Teacher, tear a piece of fabric.] They mourned and cried and fasted all that day until evening because Saul was dead, because Jonathan was dead, because the army had run, because many had died, and because the nation of Israel was acting weaker than God’s enemy, the nation of Philistia.

Then David asked the young messenger, “Where are you from?”

“I am the son of a sojourner, someone not from Israel: I am an Amalekite.”

A payback

With condemnation David asked, “Why weren’t you afraid to lift your hand against the Lord’s anointed?” Then he commanded one of his men to strike the man down so that he died. As the execution took place, David said, “Your blood be upon your own head.” In other words, “You deserve to die because with your own mouth you said you destroyed the Lord’s anointed.”

Then David wrote a sad song of lament to help Israel remember how great Saul and Jonathan had been. In this song, David shows great love for Jonathan, his friend, but also for Saul, his beloved king and father-in-law who had become his enemy. What an example of forgiveness David is. These are his actual words:

A lament [Older students may read; use excerpts for younger students.]

“Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places (Mount Gilboa)! How the mighty (Saul and Jonathan) have fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon (two major cities in Philistia), lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

“You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. (Both were valiant soldiers.) Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions. You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

“How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain on your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” (2 Samuel 1:17–27).

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
David is a type of Jesus Christ in his forgiveness and in his judgment of sin.
- May we learn that our sin will find us out, for just as Saul’s disobedience to destroy the Amalekites ended in his own death by the hand of an Amalekite (probably), so our sin will come back to us.
- May we learn to forgive as David did.

Activities:

- Play dough: sword; arm band; crown
- Snack: Sugar cookies in the form of crowns
- Watch a five-minute video that shows the regions involved in the Battle of Gilboa at [King Saul's Death on Mt. Gilboa - Bing video](#). (The last half minute is an appeal to support this video ministry.)
- With older students, discuss whether the young Amalekite was telling the truth about his slaying of Saul.

Some arguments against his claims include the following:

- 1) His statement that the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. This “does not agree with the account in [1 Samuel 31] for according to that they were the archers that pressed him hard, and hit him” (2 Samuel 1:6 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse (biblestudytools.com)).
- 2) His telling Saul he was an Amalekite, “which he might be; but it is not likely he should tell Saul he was, which would not recommend him to him; though indeed [Saul] was now in such circumstances, that the Amalekites had nothing to fear from him; and if he was slain by him, as Josephus affirms he was, it seems to be a just retaliation on him for sparing any of that race, contrary to the will of God” (2 Samuel 1:8 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse (biblestudytools.com)).
- 3) It seems unlikely that Saul would ask an Amalekite to slay him “since he might as well have died by the hands of the uncircumcised Philistines, which he endeavoured to avoid, as by the hands of an Amalekite” (2 Samuel 1:9 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse (biblestudytools.com)).
- 4) The young man’s statement, “I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen” is not consistent with what he had said before, “both that he was leaning on his spear, and not fallen to the ground, and that his life was whole in him” (2 Samuel 1:10 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse (biblestudytools.com)).

To think that the young Amalekite did slay Saul, one might argue the following:

- 1) If the Jewish historian, Josephus, states the Amalekite slew him, he would have better resources about the event, and we might trust his research.
 - 2) The man certainly had at least been at the scene, being in possession of the crown and arm band.
 - 3) Since the man was an Amalekite, a nation devoted to destruction, “David might suppose that he killed Saul to take vengeance on him for what he had done to their nation” (2 Samuel 1:16 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse (biblestudytools.com)).
 - 4) David seemed to have believed the man because he slew him for slaying Saul.
- Review questions: (Game: Older students who answer a question correctly may give their opinion about whether or not the Amalekite young man actually did finish off Saul. Tally the responses. Younger children may have either individual or team tally points for correct answers.)
 1. While David was returning to Ziklag with his men, what was happening to Israel in the north? [The Philistines were attacking and chasing Israel.]
 2. Besides many soldiers, who else died in the Battle of Gilboa? [Saul, his three sons including Jonathan, and his armor bearer.]
 3. Who came to report all of this to David? [A young man, an Amalekite.]
 4. Describe the death of Saul as the Amalekite reported it. [The man happened to be at Gilboa and saw Saul leaning on his spear but not yet dead. Saul asked the man to slay him. The Amalekite did so.]
 5. Tell two things David and his men did in response to the grievous news of Saul’s and Jonathan’s deaths. [Tore their clothes; wept and fasted until evening; David wrote a lament.]
 6. Why did David execute the young man? [Because he said he had killed the Lord’s anointed.]

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

sinner, 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:

- Print the tree found at the end of this lesson. Cut green tissue paper in one-inch squares. Students will wrap a tissue square around the erase end of a pencil, dip that tissue in a bit of glue, and attach to the printed tree. Continue to attach to various parts of the tree (only about ten tissue leaves need be placed, not so many as to fill the entire tree).

Amalekites

sojourner

uncircumcised

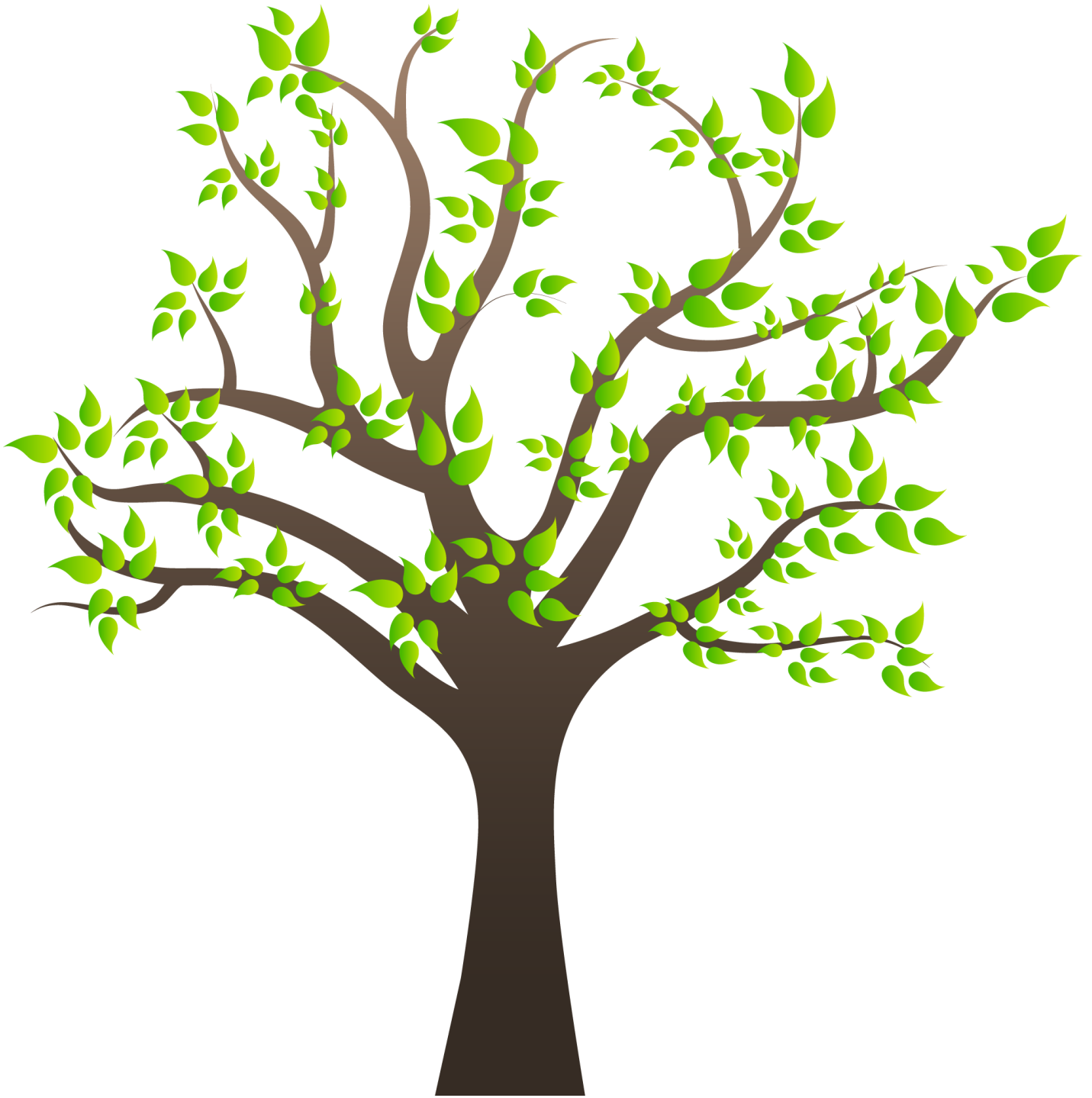


Adam Shaw

(picture source unknown)

2 Samuel 1





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.

Psalm 1:3