

17.05 David's Chases Philistines; Friendship with Jonathan (1 Samuel 17:52–58; 18:1–13)

✓ “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.

- *to plunder*: to take the spoil of an enemy

Scripture: (ESV) (The text below is rearranged to show a chronology given by Youngblood [1992, 3:703] as cited at [Apologetics Press - Did Saul Know David Prior to Goliath's Death?](#))

1 Samuel 17:55 As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?” And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.” 56 And the king said, “Inquire whose son the boy is.”

57 And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.” [1 Samuel 18:1 fits here.]

52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp.

54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

18:1 As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 5 And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

“Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on.

10 The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. 11 And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice.

12 Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. 13 So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people.

Introduction/Review:

What had been Goliath's challenge? [If he slew an Israelite in a contest, Israel would be slaves to Philistia; if Israel won, the Philistines would be servants to Israel.] That supposed promise was not a serious one, for the Philistines did not surrender themselves when David killed Goliath.

What had Saul promised to the man who would slay Goliath? He promised to give that man great riches, to let him marry his daughter, and to free his father's family from taxes.

Story:

Question

When David had gone out against Goliath, Saul had asked Abner, his army commander, "Whose son is this young man?"

Abner had answered, ✓"I have no idea."

As soon as David returned from striking down the giant, Abner brought him, with the head of Goliath in his hand, to Saul. Saul asked, "Whose son are you, young man?" David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse, the Bethlehemite."¹

Evacuation

Meanwhile, the Philistines fled from the Valley of Elah in Israel. Remember, they had been there forty days at least and ✓had probably been well supplied. But they were in such a hurry to take off that they left ✓their money, gear, and food in their tents and got out of there, running for home.

The soldiers of Israel rose up, shouting, and chased those Philistines. This was no race: this was war. Many Philistines died as Israel hunted them down. Others were wounded along the way. This pursuit took Israel pursued all the way to the Philistine cities of Ekron and Gath.²

When Israel returned from the pursuit, soldiers plundered the Philistine tents in the camp at the Valley of Elah.

Friendly relation

Saul, delighted with David, said to him, "You are not going home to help your father again: you will stay with us."

This news made Jonathan, Saul's son, glad, for Jonathan greatly admired David. In fact, the Bible states "Jonathan loved David (in a brotherly way) as his own soul." The two young men made a covenant—a promise to each other—always to be friends. To prove his friendship, Jonathan took off his princely robe and gave it to David. Jonathan also gave David his sword (remember that ✓swords were probably still scarce in those days), his bow, and his belt (*girdle* in the KJV).

Admiration

So now David, having been put in charge over some men of war, went wherever Saul sent him. Even though David was young, he behaved wisely and all the servants highly respected him. In addition, he was successful in slaying the enemy. In fact, the women of Israel went out to meet Saul and his returning soldiers. They welcomed the army home with tambourines, tabrets, and other musical instruments. Oh, what a song they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands!" That song made King Saul feel very pleased. ✓Perhaps they sang this first stanza over and over.

But when the women sang the second stanza, Saul's ✓mood changed suddenly and drastically, for this is what they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, but David has slain his *ten* thousands."

Imagine attributing more victories to a young "newbie" than to the mature, experienced king! Saul snorted, "They applaud David for *ten thousands*, but me they applaud for only *thousands*. What more can he have except the kingdom?" And from then on, Saul eyed David with hatred and suspicion.

Suspicion

On the very next day, that evil spirit from God troubled Saul. He was raging about; so David came, as usual, to play his harp and to sooth Saul. Saul, however, had a spear in his hand and thought, “I will smite David to the wall with my spear.”

So Saul threw the spear, but David ducked in the nick of time and got out of Saul’s presence. Even though Saul tried to smite David twice, David escaped both times. Thus, Saul could see that God was definitely with David and not with him.

Position

When we fear God, we, too, grow in wisdom. But Saul, who had rejected God’s ways, grew more and more foolish. However, since he recognized David’s military ability and ✓perhaps because he hoped he might get David killed in battle, Saul put David over one thousand soldiers.

As David went in and out in his service for his king, this is what the people said of him: “There goes David. Boy, it sure was brave of him to fight Goliath. I hear he’s a very wise young man. You know, every time I see that man, I think more highly of him!”

On the other hand, Saul, when he saw how God was with David, became more and more hateful and evil in his intention to kill David.

¹This exchange has caused much consideration among Bible readers. Didn’t Saul know David, even after David had been playing the harp in his presence? Surely he did. Note that Saul did not ask *David’s* name but his *father’s* name. He might easily have forgotten Jesse’s name, especially since he was subject to evil fits. But the most likely reason why Saul needed to know the name of David’s father was to keep his promise to free from paying taxes the family of the one who slew Goliath.

²“Josephus says [in Antiqu. l. 6. c. 9. sect. 5], there were killed of the Philistines thirty thousand, and twice as many wounded. . . . [A]ccording to Bunting [in Travels of the Patriarchs p. 128], the whole chase was this, to the valley and river Sorek four miles; from thence to Ekron eight miles; to Ashkelon twenty miles, and to Gath twenty four miles; that is, from the place where Goliath was killed” ([1 Samuel 17:52 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
Jonathan’s friendship reminds us of Proverbs 18:24; “There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.” The friend in this verse reminds us of the Christian’s Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ, who never leaves us nor forsakes us (Hebrews 13:5).

Activities:

- Play dough: harp; coat, sword
- Snack: Armor of God snack as found at [Armor of God Snack – Ministry 2 Kids \(ministry2kidz.com\)](#). Supplies needed are Pringles[®], mandarin oranges, red licorice, green pepper, Tostitos Scoops[®], string cheese, knife, and a plate for each student.
- With tabrets made in “Handwork” below or with tambourines, each child may strike his instrument in rhythm as [s]he sings out, “Saul has struck down his thousands and David his ten thousands!”
- Review questions: (Game: Each student who answers a question correctly may tap a tambourine five times.)
 1. What question did Saul ask David? [“Who is your father?”]

2. How far did Israel chase the Philistines? [All the way back to their cities—Gath and Ekron.]
3. Which two young men made a friendship covenant? [David and Jonathan.]
4. Name two things Jonathan gave David. [A robe, his armor, his sword, his bow, and his belt.]
5. What were the lyrics to the song the women sang when the men came back from battle? [“Saul has struck down his thousands and David his ten thousands.”]
6. David escaped what danger in Saul’s house? [Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear twice.]

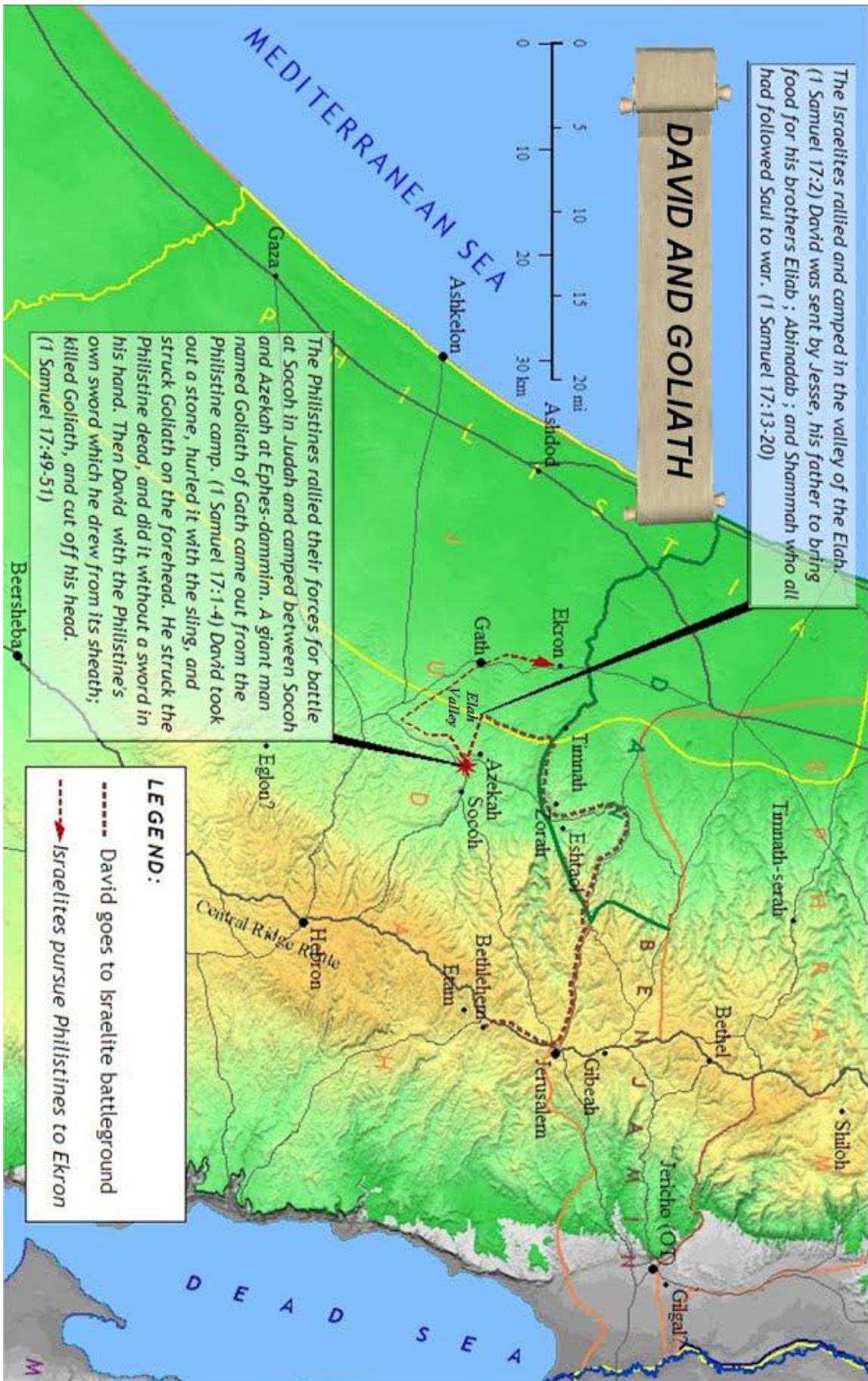
Memory Verse[s]:

- 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.

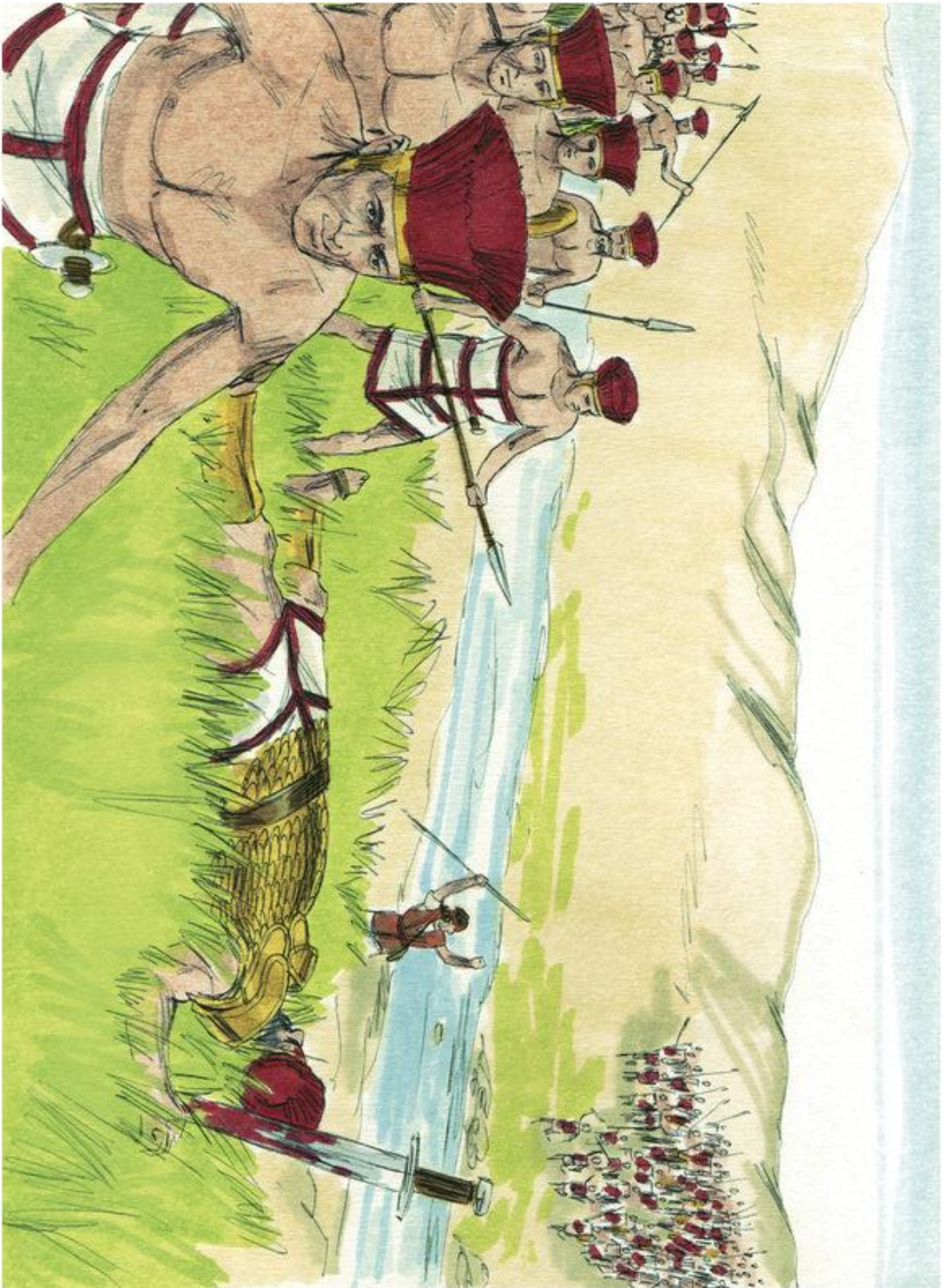
Handwork:

- Make tabrets by looping 30-inch lengths (folded in half) of shiny or regular curling ribbon about 2/3 of the way around a hoop. Make the hoop by cutting out the center of a plastic lid. (See photo below. It is not necessary to fill the center of the hoop as pictured; however, to give sound to the tabret, attach one or two jingle bells to the ribbon.)

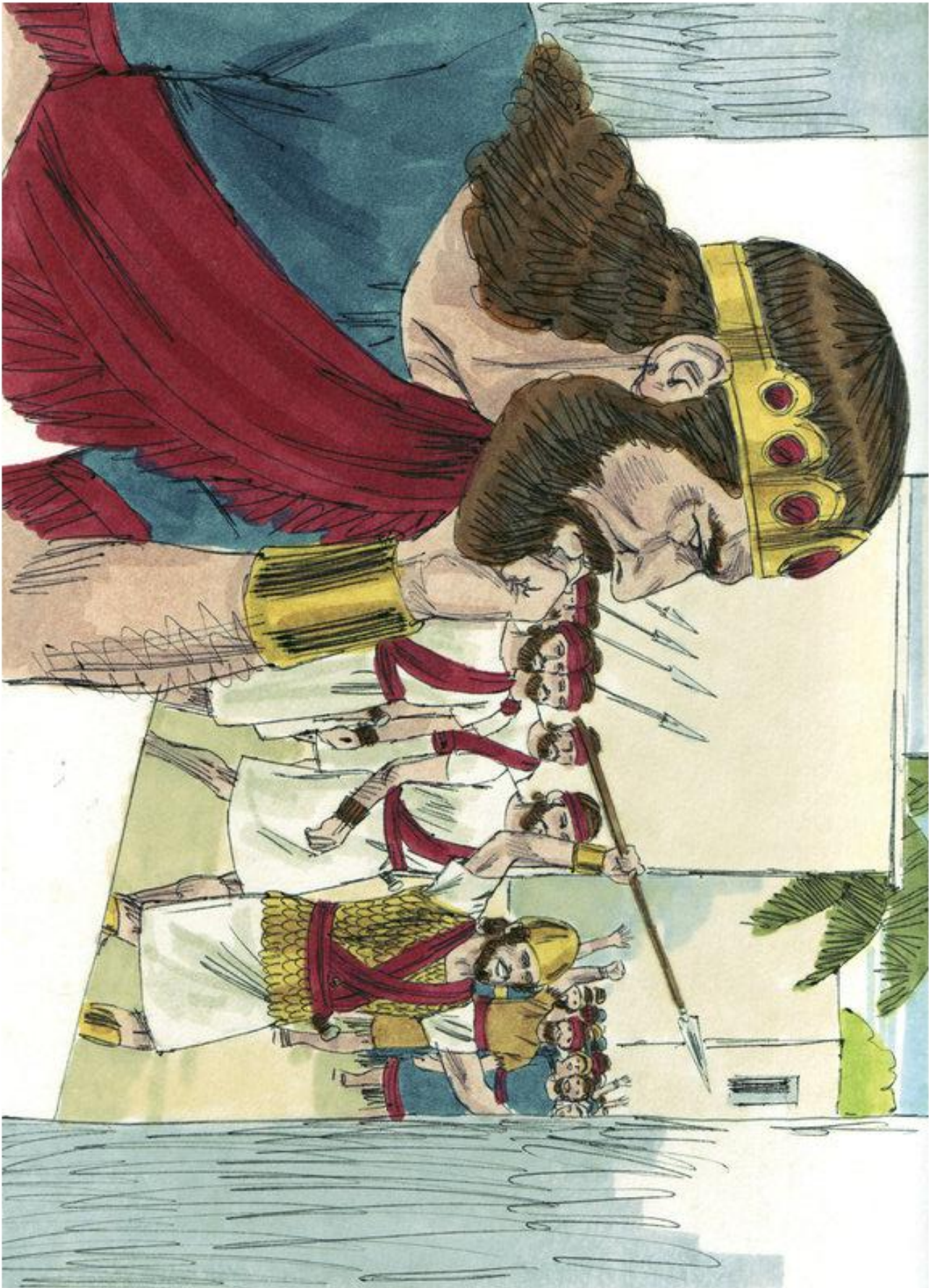
to plunder



David and Goliath.JPG (991x622) (google.com)











tabret ([Tabrets – Foot of the Cross Ministries](#))