

17.06 David Marries Michal (1 Samuel 18:14-30)

✓ “*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.

- *snare*: a trap

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 18:14 And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. 15 And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

17 Then Saul said to David, “Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” For Saul thought, “Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” 18 And David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?” 19 But at the time when Merab, Saul’s daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

20 Now Saul’s daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 Saul thought, “Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” Therefore Saul said to David a second time, “You shall now be my son-in-law.” 22 And Saul commanded his servants, “Speak to David in private and say, ‘Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king’s son-in-law.’” 23 And Saul’s servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, “Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king’s son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?” 24 And the servants of Saul told him, “Thus and so did David speak.” 25 Then Saul said, “Thus shall you say to David, ‘The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king’s enemies.’” Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king’s son-in-law. Before the time had expired, 27 David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. 28 But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him, 29 Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David’s enemy continually.

30 Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

Introduction/Review:

What did Saul say he would do for the man who killed Goliath? [Give riches; keep the father’s relatives from paying taxes; give his daughter to marry the man.] Do we read in the Bible that Saul kept those promises? Sort of—maybe some of them. In today’s story we’ll learn that Saul did at least offer David his daughter as a wife but with strings attached.

Story:

Promises, promises

Saul said, “Look at my older daughter, Merab. I will give her to you for a wife,” not “because you slew Goliath” but rather, “only if you are valiant for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” In other words, Saul wasn’t

giving Merab to David because of the promise regarding Goliath but only if David now fought the Philistines.

That's what Saul said, but this is what Saul thought: "David is acting very wisely among the people, and they love him. It is obvious God is with him and not with me. I've tried to kill him with a spear two times. I'll just let the Philistines get him. That's it! I'll take care of two birds with one stone: I'll get David away from the admiring people, and I'll let the Philistines finish him off for me."

How did David feel about the prospect of being son-in-law to King Saul? He was humble: "Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" It was one thing to be humble, but on the other hand, Saul had promised Merab to David if he went out to fight the Lord's battles.

However, when David came back from fighting the Lord's battles, Saul had already given Merab to someone else; she was already married.

Finagle, finagle

Nevertheless, Saul had another daughter named Michal [pronounced either Mī kal, like the boy's name, or Mī kal with a short *I*.] Michal loved David.

OOOooo! Saul heard that Michal loved David, and he thought, "Aha! I will give *her* to him in order that she may be a *snare* to him" *Snare* means a trap. What did Saul mean? Did he think Michal would betray David? Was Michal going to be a contentious woman, hard to live with? Maybe. The Bible doesn't say. But the Bible does say that Saul wanted David to fight the Philistines again. Only this time, instead of fighting a few battles, Saul required that David kill 100 Philistines in order to marry Michal.

Sure enough, David and his men went out and slew not just 100 but 200 Philistines. After his conquest David came back home to claim his bride.

Conclusion

Saul observed two things: (1) The Lord was with David, and (2) Michal loved David. Do you think that made Saul happy? No. The Bible states, "Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became his enemy continually" (1 Samuel 18:29).

On the other hand, David "behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul so that" he was very much respected (1 Samuel 18:30). What a great testimony to God's grace working in David.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

"[G]enerally speaking, those that behave wisely succeed well; in this [David] was a type of Christ, (Isaiah 52:13— 'Behold, my servant shall act wisely')" ([1 Samuel 18:14 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

David's humility at the prospect of marrying the king's daughter reminds one of Christ, who was lowly and humble (Matthew 11:29) ([1 Samuel 18:18 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Activities:

- Play dough: the letters *D, A, V, I, D* or *M, I, C, H, A, L*
- Snack: Sugar cookies made with the letters *D, A, V, I, D*; students may play with their food by putting the letters in order. (Be sure to make double the number of *Ds*.)
- Review questions: (Game: Print on card stock and cut out the letters of the names *Michal* and *David*. If a girl answers a question correctly, she may place a pink letter in a pocket chart. If a boy answers a

question correctly, he may place a blue letter in the pocket chart. If not enough questions are answered correctly to use all the letters, the side with the most letters wins. Students may unscramble the letters.)

1. Fill in the blank. "David had _____ in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him."
[Success.]
2. Fill in the blank. "All Israel and Judah _____ David, for he went out and came in before them."
[Loved.]
3. Saul said he would give David his elder daughter, Merab, if David did what? [If he would be valiant for him; if he would fight the Lord's battles.]
4. Why did Saul want David to "fight the Lord's battles"? [So that the Philistines instead of himself would put David to death.]
5. What was David's response when Saul offered his daughter? [He was very humble, as if he were undeserving.]
6. After David fought the Lord's battle, what had happened to his promised wife? [She became the wife of another man.]
7. What was the name of Saul's daughter who loved David? [Michal.]
8. Saul said David could have Michal if David did what? [Slay 100 Philistines.]
9. How many Philistines did David and his men slay? [Two hundred.]
10. Who had more success than all the other servants of Saul? [David.]
11. Fill in the blank. "Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's _____ continually."
[Enemy.]

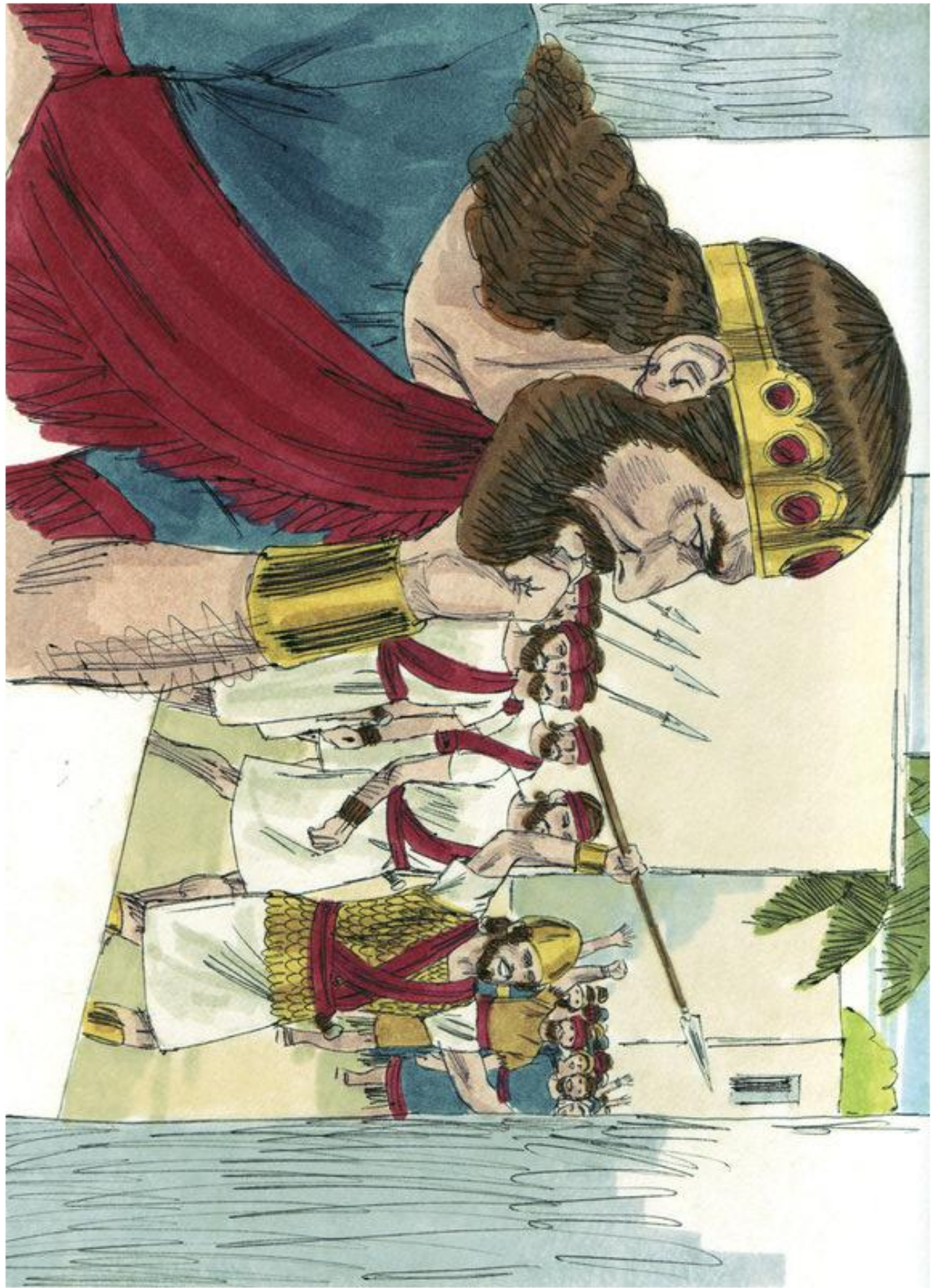
Memory Verse[s]:

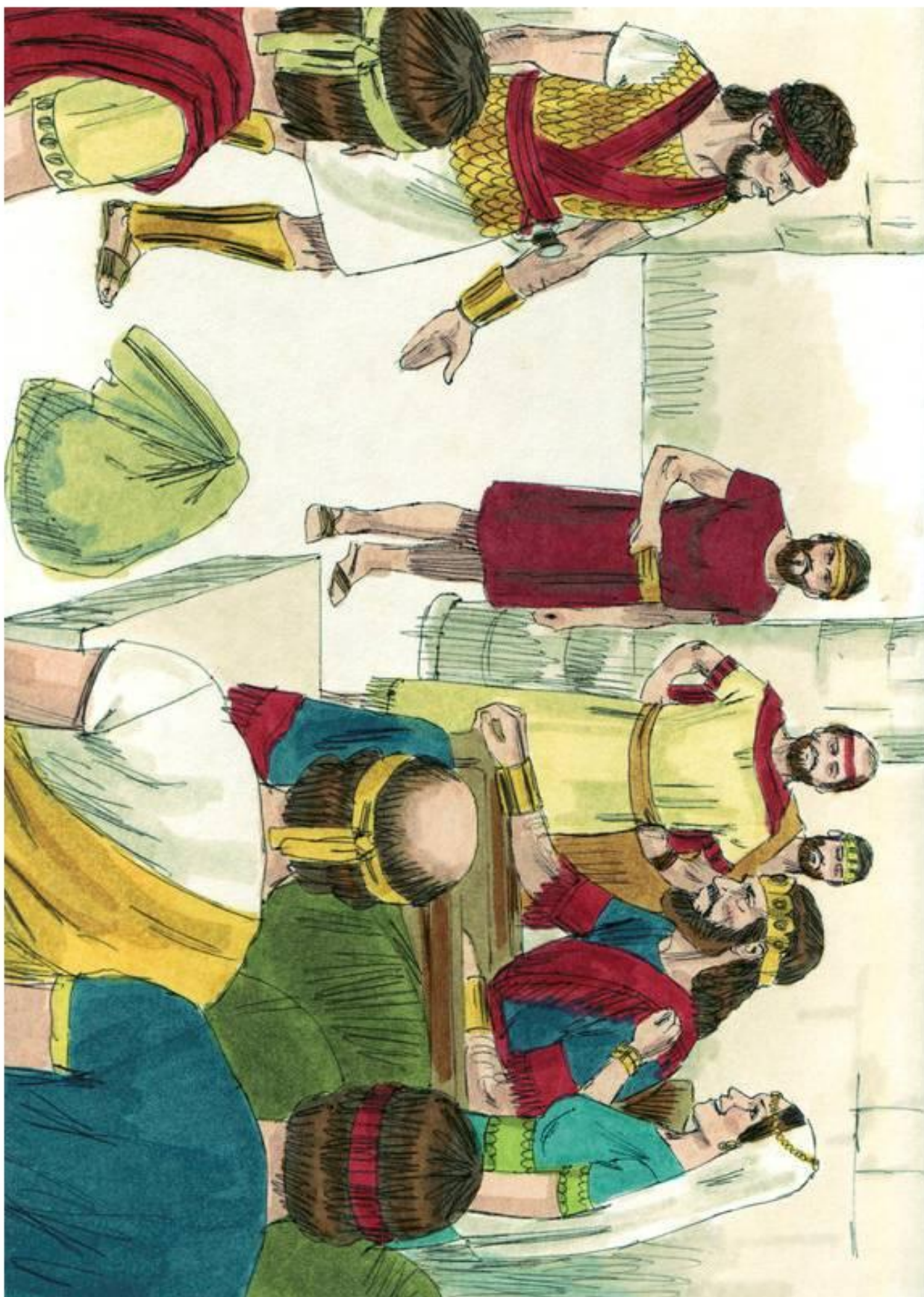
- Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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:

- Students scribble color or watercolor the heart below and then cut out.

snare

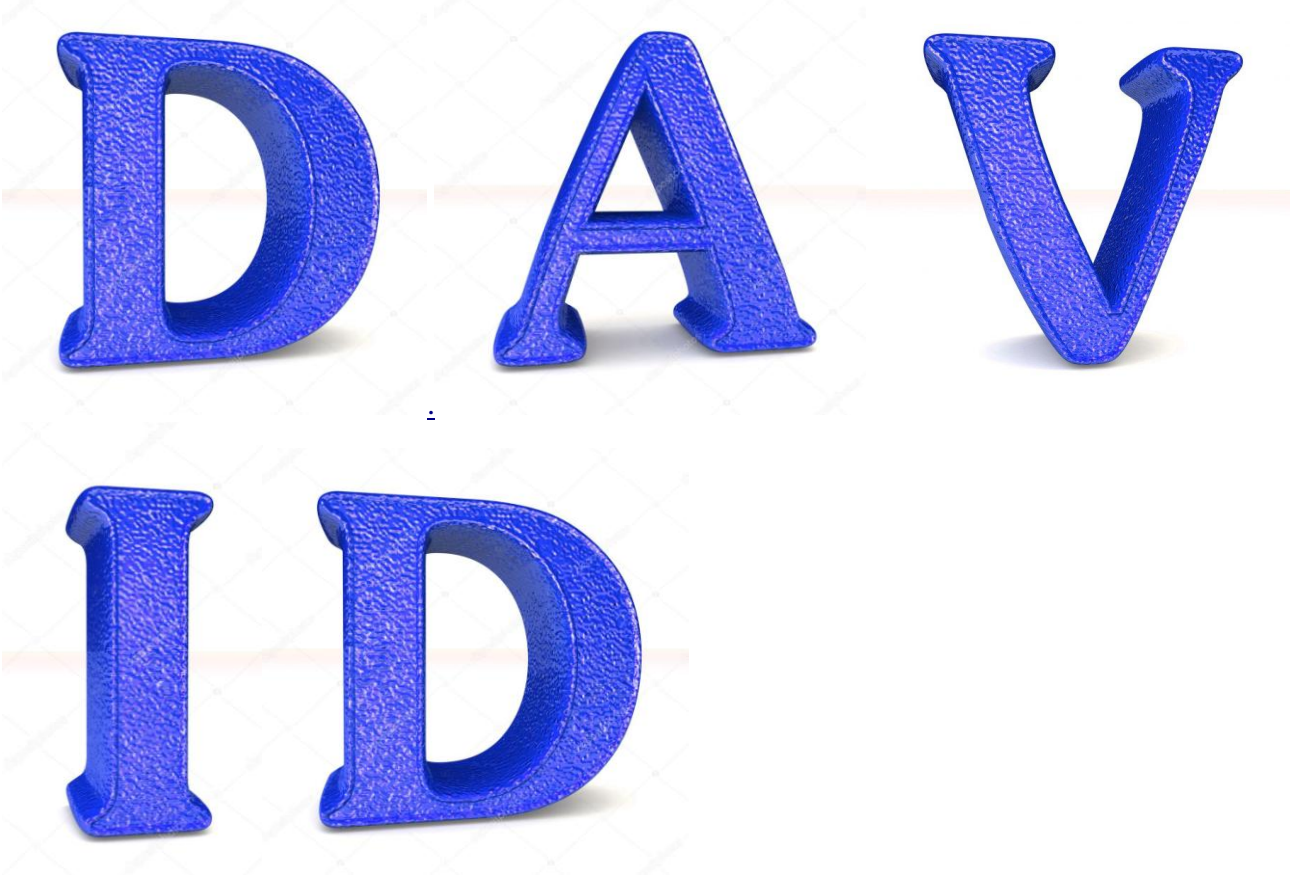








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