

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... AT SCHOOL

I SAMUEL 16-31
II SAMUEL 1-5
I CHRONICLES 1-11

3RD GRADE
BIBLE CURRICULUM
UNIT 1



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DEDICATED TO THE STUDENTS OF **CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL**

USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Investigating God's Word...At School is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the “big picture” of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

Introduction. Each “Day One” starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to “call” them to study.

Quiz Time. Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

W.O.W! The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

Historical Context. Each lesson, the Scripture text is placed in historical context by use of a timeline. It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

Bible Investigation. The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of discussion, questions, and application points. This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Scripture Memory. At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

Quiz Time. Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

Historical Context. As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God's Word.

Bible Investigation. Again, this is the heart and soul of each day's Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God's Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

Worldview Builder. This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a "pillar" of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

Defend the Faith. A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

Scripture Memory. The day's lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

AND FINALLY...

Teaching God's Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

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LESSON 1 // I SAMUEL 16

OVERVIEW

As we investigate the second half of the Book of I Samuel this quarter, we begin with the rejection of Saul as king of Israel. Samuel is commanded by the LORD to anoint a new king, one that He alone has selected for His people. Samuel, like most human beings, looks at the outward appearance of one of Jesse's sons and assumes that he would make a great king. In the key verse of this lesson, the LORD informs Samuel that He has a different standard—the heart is more important than external appearances.

After David the shepherd boy is anointed, we read of the remarkable shift of God's Spirit away from Saul to David. Saul becomes a tormented and crazy king who, ironically, can only be calmed (at this point) by David's harp. The contrast between God's anointed man and one rejected by God could not be more stark.

As always, this story is about God. It is about His election of David. It is about His judgment of Saul. It is about His will for His people, Israel.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on I Samuel 16 this week. It would also be worth your time to read I Samuel 15 to gain some context for this week's lesson.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Who is the main character of every story in Scripture? God! Our reading of the Bible changes dramatically when we remember this simple truth. While it is often helpful for our children to learn from the examples of the human characters of Scripture, we first and foremost want them to gain a greater understanding of who God is and what He has done in human history. So every lesson you teach must begin with questions about what the text tells us about God. The human characters are real people who either obeyed or disobeyed God, but were always (like us) subject to His sovereign will. Enjoy reading these lessons to your students as you help them learn more and more about the main character of the universe—our great Father God!

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 9:1-2
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

Days of Creation
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

Anoint
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 16:1-13
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

I Samuel 16:7b
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

Samuel anoints David
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 16:14-23
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Fear of God
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

The Holy Spirit
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

I Samuel 16:7b
3-5 mins.



INTRODUCTION

Start by reading Psalm 9:1-2.

¹ I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. ² I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Say: *As we gather to study God's Word today, remember that one reason we do this every week is so that we can tell others about God and all of His mighty wonders. Like the Psalmist, we should be so glad in the LORD that we share Him with others. **Read the verses again.***



QUIZ TIME

Now, let's move on to QUIZ TIME.

Today's question: *Name the Days of Creation in order—what God created each day.*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answer:

Day 1	Day and Night.
Day 2	Sky (Firmament).
Day 3	Land and Seas, Plants.
Day 4	Sun, Moon, Stars.
Day 5	Fish, Birds.
Day 6	Animals, Humans.
Day 7	God Rested!

Say: *God made the world in six days. Who remembers what He said about His creation? He said that it was good! God created all things—it did not all happen by chance, as some would want us to believe. It should make you give praise to God every time you remember that He created all things, out of nothing, by the Word of His Power; and all very good!*



W.O.W!

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **ANOINT**. Write the word on the board. Has anyone heard this word before? We first see this word in the Bible in Exodus 28, where the LORD instructs Moses to ANOINT Aaron and his sons as priests. Priests, prophets and kings were ANOINTED in Biblical times.

To ANOINT someone literally means “to rub or smear with oil.” We get our word ointment from the same root word. So to ANOINT someone, you often put oil on his head.

But what did it mean that someone was ANOINTED? Well, it meant that they were “set apart” for a special job for the LORD. A person who was ANOINTED had special authorization for a particular task. A priest was ANOINTED to minister before the LORD. A king was ANOINTED to rule over the people.

And, guess what? Jesus Christ is called “The ANOINTED One.” What special job was He set apart to do? [To die for our sins.]

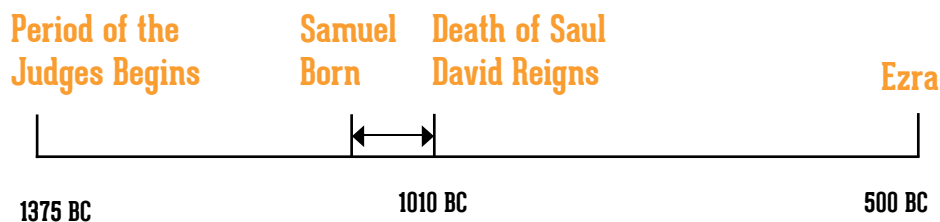
Listen for our W.O.W! in our lesson this week.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Introduction: *This quarter, we will begin by investigating the second half of the Book of I Samuel. I Samuel tells the story of Israel's transition from the judges to being ruled by kings. Samuel, Israel's last judge, is prominent in this Bible book, as we would guess. Who remembers the name of the first king of Israel that Samuel ANOINTED? [Saul.] We now pick up our story towards the end of King Saul's reign over Israel.*

Read I Samuel 16:1.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

Discussion: *Who remembers why Saul was rejected by God as king over Israel? [Because he turned from the LORD and disobeyed His commands (I Samuel 15:10).] Now Samuel is responsible to put the new king in place. Why do you think he had to fill his horn with oil? [To anoint a new king.]*

Let's read on. **Read verses 2-3.**

² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

Discussion: *Why was Samuel afraid? [He thought Saul would kill him.] Why would Saul want to kill Samuel? [Because Saul wasn't ready to give up the throne to another king!] The LORD found a way to protect Samuel. Did you hear our Word of the Week?*

Let's continue. **Read verses 4-5.**

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

Discussion: *It may seem sort of strange to you that the people were afraid when Samuel came to town. Just remember that Samuel was a judge and a prophet, so he often went to cities to tell people that they were in trouble with the LORD! Not this time though—Samuel was on a mission that involved Jesse and his sons.*



Let's keep investigating. **Read verses 6-7.**

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Discussion: *One of Jesse's sons, Eliab, jumped right out to Samuel because he was tall and good looking. Surely, this young man looked like the future king! What was the LORD's response? [This man might look good on the outside, but God looks on the heart.]*

Application: *This is such an important truth to learn, boys and girls. We most often judge people by the way they look. The good looking people are often thought of as leaders just because they look the part! But God has a much different standard for leadership: He looks at our hearts! He desires leaders who have pure hearts, hearts that desire to follow God's ways. Does that describe you? Are you a child after God's own heart? What's inside is much more important than what's on the outside.*

Let's see what happens next. **Read verses 8-11.**

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

Discussion: *Isn't that amazing? Seven sons of Jesse pass by Samuel, but the LORD had other plans. It seems as if Jesse didn't think his youngest son was worthy of inspection since he was still tending to the sheep. Who was this young son of Jesse?*

Let's see. **Read verses 12-13.**

¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.



Discussion: *So who is to be the new king of Israel? [David.] Yes, this young shepherd boy was not chosen because of his good looks, or his great authority, but because God had looked upon His heart! David must have had a heart for the LORD, right? After David was ANOINTED to be the next king, what happened? [The Holy Spirit came upon him with power.] God gave David His Spirit of power to enable him to be king.*

Conclusion: *We will learn much more about David over the next few months. He will do some great things for God, but also some not-so-great things! What I want you to remember is that David was a man “after God’s own heart.” God loved David and David loved God. David is a picture of God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect “man after God’s own heart!”*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Read the Scripture Memory verse (I Samuel 16:7b) together.

I Samuel 16:7b (ESV)

⁷ “For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Say: *This is the pivotal verse in all of I Samuel. Remember that what is most important to God is our hearts—not our outward appearances. We need God’s grace to change our hearts so that we will be people after God’s own heart.*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Close in prayer.

DAY TWO



QUIZ TIME

Let's begin today with QUIZ TIME. Are you ready?

Today's questions: What book of the Bible are we studying? Who is the prophet in Israel during this time? Why was Samuel instructed to anoint a new king over Israel? From whose sons does God direct Samuel to choose a king? Who did Samuel ANOINT?

Answers:

1. I Samuel.
2. Samuel.
3. Because God has rejected Saul as king.
4. The sons of Jesse.
5. David.

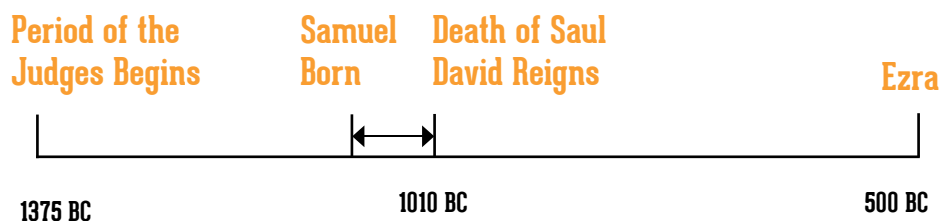
What made David different than all the rest of his brothers? [He was a man after God's own heart.] Remember, man looks on outward appearances, but God looks upon the heart!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Have your students open their Bibles to I Samuel 16.

Introduction: *We ended our reading last time with Samuel anointing David as the new king of Israel. But what about King Saul, the current reigning king of Israel? What's happening in his life? Remember, God has rejected Saul as king even though he is still on the throne.*

Let's start reading. Read I Samuel 16:14.

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.

Discussion: *What a contrast! The Spirit of the Lord came upon David in verse 13. The Spirit of the LORD left Saul. Wow! Now, all Saul was left with was an evil spirit tormenting him. His disobedience had cost him the throne, and the LORD left him too. How horrible!*

Let's continue reading. Read verses 15-16.

¹⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you." ¹⁶ Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."

Discussion: *Now that's sort of interesting, isn't it? Saul was becoming a very angry, violent and crazy man. His servants thought that the music of the harp might settle him down. Music does have that effect, doesn't it? The right kind of soothing music can be very calming to the soul.*

Now, watch for a surprise. Read verses 17-19.

¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." ¹⁸ One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him." ¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep."

Discussion: *What an amazing coincidence! David had just been ANOINTED king of Israel—without Saul knowing it, of course—and now this same shepherd boy was being recommended to serve as the king's musician. Sort of funny, isn't it?*



Application: *By the way, there are absolutely no coincidences with the LORD, since He is in control of all things. The LORD is doing something here, just as He is always working in your life. Things are about to change in both Saul's and David's life!*

*Let's read to the end of the chapter. **Read verses 20-23.***

²⁰ And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. ²¹ And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. ²² And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." ²³ And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

Discussion: *So we end our reading today with the new king-to-be in the service of the present king of Israel—and King Saul doesn't even know who David really is yet. Saul likes David; and David quickly shows that he can serve Saul when he gets into his really bad moods—caused by the evil spirit. David's music was very soothing, I'm sure.*

Application: *Don't miss that it was the LORD who was bringing this evil spirit upon Saul. God wasn't being mean to Saul. He was punishing Saul for leaving Him. You and I too put ourselves in a bad position with God when we move away from Him. He may bring tormenting things into our lives to drive us back to Himself! That's how much He loves His people.*

Conclusion: *So we begin this school year with King Saul moving away from the LORD and young shepherd boy David beginning his service to the LORD. We will read much more about the relationship of Saul and David, seeing how their lives become polar opposites of one another. One king will keep on rejecting God, while the other one will begin to remind you of our king, King Jesus! Jesus Christ was ANOINTED by the Father to be King of the universe and King of you!*

We will pick up our reading here next time!



WORLDVIEW BUILDER



Say: *It's time to use what we have learned in God's Word this week to build our Christian minds. God has given us minds to think rightly and to believe the TRUTH. So, each week we will connect what we learn from God's Word to HOW we are to think about all of life!*

Draw the "Fear of God" pillar on the board. *We will be building on our "Fear of God" pillar today. To fear God is to love Him, honor and worship Him, and obey Him. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom!*

*So, what things did we learn about the FEAR OF GOD in I Samuel 16? **Assist your students to think of the following truths (connect them to the pillar on the board):***

1. Saul no longer fears the LORD.
2. David has a heart for God.
3. The LORD looks at people's hearts.
4. The Spirit of God came upon David after he was anointed by Samuel.
5. Those who fear God see God's heart.

We have the choice to serve God and obey Him, or serve ourselves and reject the LORD!



DEFEND THE FAITH

Say: *Now, it's time to build our "defenses" up. You and I must always be prepared to defend and protect our faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember what the apostle Peter said:*

I Peter 3:15 (ESV)

- ¹⁵ ...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

Let's get more PREPARED to give answers about the hope we have in Jesus Christ! Let me ask you yet another question and see how you do...



Q: Why do I need the Holy Spirit?

Many people have heard that the only way to salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ. Yet some may ask you why it is essential to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What difference does it make to have the Holy Spirit working in my life? Think about the difference it made in David's life and Saul's life.

Allow answers.

Make sure the children have these elements in their answer:

A: The Holy Spirit has been sent by God to give Christians the power to follow Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot obey God! The Holy Spirit also convicts us of our sins and reminds us of all that Jesus taught while on earth. The Holy Spirit is not optional to the Christian. We must be filled with the Spirit of God!

Say: *The Spirit must also change our hearts before we can put our faith in Jesus Christ. The Spirit brings the transformation that we need to follow God. Always pray that the Spirit of the living God will work in your life!*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Review the Scripture Memory verse (I Samuel 16:7b) with the students.

I Samuel 16:7b (ESV)

⁷ "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Use any method to review the memory work with the students.

See if any student can say it from memory.

Close in prayer.

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 2:6-7
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

Joshua and Jericho
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

Defy
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 17:1-27
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Psalms 27:1
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

Goliath
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 17:28-58
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Fear of God
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

True courage
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Psalms 27:1
3-5 mins.

LESSON 2 // I SAMUEL 17

OVERVIEW

We come now to what is easily one of the most recognizable stories in the Old Testament—the story of David and Goliath. These marvelous fifty-eight verses of I Samuel 17 are often reduced to nothing more than the story of a courageous underdog shepherd boy overcoming all odds to defeat the giant Goliath, thereby becoming the champion of Israel. While all that is true, the point of this chapter is summed up by David himself in verses 26, 36 and 45-47: That the LORD Himself defeats and destroys all who defy Him. David was simply a faithful vessel used by God to bring about the salvation of His people. In many ways, he is a picture of Christ and His defeat of sin and death, bringing faith to those who live in fear.

Left to themselves, the people of God lived in fear of what seemed to be an undefeatable enemy. But when the faith of one young man was used to deliver them, fear was replaced by courage as the Israelites fought mightily and defeated the Philistines. We are those fearful people of God who need Christ's strength to overcome our adversaries.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on I Samuel 17 this week. You may want to obtain a map to show the children where Philistia was located in relationship to Israel.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Stories like David and Goliath are often minimized to the level of moralism: "Be courageous like David." or "Don't be fraidy-cats like the Israelites." While we want our children to be moral and learn Biblical character traits, always make sure the focus of your teaching is on their need for God and His strength. David was only courageous because of what God had done for him and in him. The Israelites ran in fear due to their lack of faith and belief in the living God. Bring your students back to the work of God's Spirit; then you will avoid simple moralism. Hopefully, they will become awestruck with the power of God in saving His people, rather than becoming engaged in hero worship of a young shepherd boy and his sling.