Jealousy & Trust

Bible Readiness
To connect with King Saul's jealousy of David, children will share their experiences with jealousy.
- Bible Discoveries, p. 3, pencils, chart paper or newsprint, marker

Bible Study:
1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:18
Children will study how King Saul is jealous of David.
- Bible Story: Bible Discoveries, pp. 1-2, Bibles, Teaching Aid 2 (from Elementary Creative Teaching Aids), pencils
- Bible Review: Slips of paper, pen
- Memory Verse Practice: Construction paper, marker, PraisePac CD (from Elementary Creative Teaching Aids), CD player

Bible Activity Choices
Children will discover ways to trust God rather than being jealous.
- Marching Trust Game: Construction paper, marker, PraisePac CD (from Elementary Creative Teaching Aids), CD player, slips of paper, pencils, empty trash container
- FAN-tastic Posters: Discovery Pack, Project D, tape
- Name that Leader: Bible Discoveries, p. 4, Bibles, pencils

Bible Response
To apply the Bible story of David trusting God, children will write their own prayer for help in trusting God when jealous.
- Bible Discoveries, p. 3, pencils, index cards, Friends, Lesson 4

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:18
Lesson Focus: Don't be jealous—trust God instead.
Memory Verse: Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:26

Understanding the Bible
The Amalekites were a ruthless and cruel neighbor of Israel. They frequently raided Israel, beginning at the time of the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt. At the start of this week's Bible story, God intended to punish the Amalekites for their attacks (Exod. 17:8; 1 Sam. 15:2). Saul was to totally destroy the Amalekites. Nothing was to be spared.

Saul, however, kept alive the Amalekite king and the best of the livestock. When Samuel confronted him, Saul passed the blame on to his soldiers (1 Sam. 15:20-21). When Samuel announced God's punishment, Saul appeared to repent, but actually he feared what the people thought about him.

After Samuel anointed David as the next king, God's Spirit came on David. The Holy Spirit departed from Saul and was replaced by an evil spirit. Many Bible scholars believe this was a fallen angel (demon) who was permitted by the Lord to torment the king (1 Sam. 16:14-15; 18:10). Others believe it involved a psychological mood, a period of intense depression and paranoia. In any case, Saul became deeply troubled after David was anointed the next king of Israel. Saul feared David and began plotting ways to kill him.
When Teaching the Bible to Elementary Students . . .

This week’s Bible story shows what a real problem Saul had with jealousy. As second and third graders develop their self-image, they begin comparing themselves with others. This sometimes ends up causing jealousy. The jealousy kids this age experience is sometimes caused simply because they don’t really know one another. If they can learn to like each other, they will tend to be less jealous. Try these ideas to help:

• Allow time each week for the kids to have conversations and interact with each other so they can get to know each other better.
• Use each child’s name when you call on him or her. This affirms each child and helps others in your class learn names.
• Vary the seating arrangement and the division of small groups so children can get to know the kids they don’t usually choose to be with.

Jealousy is a common problem in our society, and often in ourselves as well. What do you think are some of the causes of jealousy?

Feelings of jealousy do not necessarily arise out of not having what we want. Saul was powerful, rich, handsome, popular, and successful. Yet he felt insecure and feared someone who had less than he.

David, however, was in a good position to feel jealous and resentful of Saul. After all, God had promised him years before that he would be king. Yet he still wasn’t the king, and he was forced to hide in the desert to save his life. David’s response was to cry out to God continually (as shown in the psalms) and humbly wait for God’s plan to unfold.

When you feel jealous this week, what could you do to follow David’s example of trust in God?

Early Bird Options

Try these suggestions to prepare early arrivers to hear the lesson about trusting God.

Memory Verses—For practice in using their Bibles, let the kids look up the unit memory verses. Print the references on the board: Psalm 32:8; Joshua 24:15; Ephesians 6:10; Galatians 5:26; Proverbs 18:24.

David’s Adventure Review—Let students make their own David poster to review last week’s lesson. A black and white version of this poster is included on your PraisePac CD. You could save these sheets throughout the quarter, then put the pages together to create a graphic novel.
LESSON FOCUS: Don’t be jealous—trust God instead.

Bible Readiness

To connect with King Saul’s jealousy of David, children will share their experiences with jealousy.

Materials:
- Bible Discoveries, p. 3
- Pencils
- Chart paper or newsprint
- Marker

Link to Last Week

Last week, based on the story of David and Goliath, the children prayed to God about giant problems. Share together how God helped with your problems. Remind them that they can always trust God with their problems.

Begin the lesson by helping the children understand the concept of jealousy and recognize possible areas of jealousy in their own lives. This will prepare them to hear the Bible story about Saul’s jealousy of David from 1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:18. Lead into the Bible Discoveries page by discussing this question:

Have you ever kept a “wish list”? What kinds of things go on a wish list? Some children will be familiar with making a written list of things they’ve wanted for Christmas or a birthday so that family members would know what kind of gift ideas the kids are interested in. Use a piece of chart paper or newsprint and a marker to make a wish list from your students’ responses.

A wish list usually has things on it that we want. There are other kinds of things we wish for too, like to have more friends or to be better at something. Let’s have a look at some of those. Hand out the Bible Discoveries leaflet for Lesson 4 and have the class open to page 3. Read the introductory paragraphs. Let a volunteer read the phrases under the Wish List. Be sure the kids understand the directions. Then allow several minutes for the kids to draw stars, arrows, and suns by the phrases of their choosing. The children’s choices will be as varied as their personalities, interests, and backgrounds.

When students have finished the page, discuss these questions:

Is it bad to wish for things? When is it right or wrong to wish for something that someone else has? Encourage the kids to talk through their ideas. They will have varied answers.

Summarize the answer to the above question with a statement like this: Wishing can be good if it helps you aim for something better. For example, if you wish you did better at school, that’s good, especially if you take steps to make it happen. But wishing can be bad if you start feeling bad about who you are or who you’re with.

What does it mean to be jealous? Encourage the kids to describe jealousy in their own words. Jealousy is wanting a thing, an opportunity, or an experience that someone else has or has had more than we should. Jealousy often causes us to look down on others or to say mean things about someone or do something wrong to get what we want; etc.

Tie to the Bible

In our Bible story today, two men had something that each other wanted. One man was jealous, but the other trusted God. Let’s see what problem jealousy caused.

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:18
Children will study how King Saul is jealous of David.

**Materials:**
- Bible Study
  - Bible Discoveries, pp. 1-2
  - Bibles
  - Teaching Aid 2
  - Pencils
- Bible Review Activity
  - Slips of paper
  - Pen
- Memory Verse Practice
  - Construction paper
  - Marker
  - PraisePac CD
  - CD player

Introduce today’s Bible study with a “Find” game. After giving a clue, have a student point to the part of the Bible Overview Chart (Teaching Aid 2) that answers it. Challenge children to find: The part of the Bible that tells about Samuel, Saul, and David (Old Testament); the book of the Bible that tells about Samuel, Saul, and David (1 Samuel); the part of the Bible that tells about Jesus on earth and the early church (New Testament); the letter Paul wrote that begins with the letter “G” (Galatians).

Let volunteers tell what has been happening in the Bible stories leading up to this one. Have the children find 1 Samuel 15 in their Bibles.

Have the kids turn to pages 1-2 in Bible Discoveries. Explain that Saul and David did not keep journals that we have record of but that the facts in these journal pages come from 1 Samuel.

Ask four children to read the four journal entries for King Saul on page 1. Pause for children to give their impressions and opinions about Saul.

Let four more children read the four journal entries for David on page 2. Let kids give their thoughts about David and compare the two men.

Then have the whole class find the memory verse, Galatians 5:26, in their Bibles and read it in unison.
LESSON FOCUS: Don't be jealous—trust God instead.

Bible Review Questions

 ordinance in the Bible story was jealous? Why? Saul was jealous of David because Saul wanted to be as popular and successful as David. He was afraid that the people loved David more than him.

 How much did Saul trust God? How do you know? Saul didn't trust God. Saul gave himself credit—instead of God—for winning battles. He didn't obey God as he should have. He planned to have David killed rather than trusting God’s plan.

 What reason did David have to be jealous? The prophet Samuel told David that God had chosen him to be the next king. But it had to be kept secret, and it didn't happen for many years. So David could have resented that.

 How did David show that he trusted God? David wasn’t jealous of Saul and didn't show bad feelings against Saul. David trusted that God would make him king when the time was right. David gave credit to God for the battles he won.

 What might have happened if Saul had trusted God instead of being jealous? Saul would have given God credit and helped the Israelites have more faith in Him; Saul wouldn't have wasted time trying to kill David; Saul could have helped David get prepared to become the next king; etc.

 How does trusting God keep us from feeling jealous? If we trust that God made us who we are and is doing what is best for His plan, then we don't need to be worried or selfish or jealous of what others have or who they are. Trusting in God gives us peace; etc.

 The memory verse, from Galatians 5:26, says not to become conceited and not to provoke or envy each other. What do those words mean? “Conceited” means stuck-up or thinking too much of oneself. To provoke is to try to make someone angry. To envy is to want what someone else has or to be jealous.

 Bible Review Activity

 On separate slips of paper, print these sentences without the answers in parenthesis:

 —I am a proud king. (Saul)
 —I don’t obey God very well. (Saul)
 —I get angry easily. (Saul)
 —I feel jealous of a young soldier. (Saul)
 —I love and obey God. (David)
 —God gives me success in battle. (David)
 —I play the harp for the king. (David)
 —The king is trying to kill me. (David)

 Mix up the papers and give them to eight kids to read aloud. Pause after each to let the rest of the class vote on whether the sentence sounds like Saul or David. After the kids vote, give the correct answer.

 Memory Verse Practice

 Print each word of the memory verse and the reference on a separate piece of paper. Place the papers in a large circle. Have the kids walk in a circle around the verse papers as you play the Unit 25 song from the PraisePac CD (in the teaching aids packet). Randomly stop the music. Whoever is standing next to the Scripture reference must close his or her eyes and say the verse by memory. Whoever says it wrong stands in the center of the circle for one turn. Continue to play and randomly stop the music so that several kids get a chance to say the verse.

 Memory Verse

 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

 Galatians 5:26

 Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:18
Children will discover ways to trust God rather than being jealous.

Use these activity choices to reinforce the teaching from the Bible story from 1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:10. Plan on spending several minutes visiting each activity to answer questions or help out if needed.

**Marching Trust Game**
- Construction paper
- Marker
- Slips of paper
- Pencils
- Empty trash container
- PraisePac CD
- CD player

This musical marching game will help students remember the memory verse. Print each word of the memory verse on a separate sheet of construction paper (or use the papers from Memory Verse Practice, p. 33). Place the papers in a large circle. Set a waste paper basket in the center. Set a CD player with the PraisePac CD nearby.

Have the kids spend a minute writing down on slips of paper things they tend to feel jealous about. The kids might write a word or name, such as sister, soccer, or toy.

Have one child play the Unit 25 song. The kids walk to the music around the outside of the memory verse circle with their jealousy papers in hand. The child working the CD player randomly stops the music. The kids stop, say the memory verse together, and crumple up one of their jealousy papers, and toss them into the waste paper basket. The kids may march and sing for as long as they like or until they run out of jealousy papers.

**FAN-tastic Posters**
- Discovery Pack, Project D
- Tape
- Pencils
- Scissors

To practice following David’s example of trusting God rather than being jealous, the kids may assemble the FAN-tastic Poster on pages 9 and 31 of Discovery Pack, Project D.

First the children do the word scramble on the fans on page 9. The correct answers are: thank, best, trust, fun, good.

Then the children follow the directions on page 9 to punch out and accordion-fold the fans. When the children choose which fans to attach to the poster on page 31, there are no right and wrong answers. The kids may choose whichever solution they think best fits the jealousy problem to show trust in God.

**Name that Leader**
- Bible Discoveries, p. 4
- Bibles
- Pencils

Use Bible Discoveries, page 4, to help the children review the three leaders of the Israelites who have been studied so far this quarter. This matching activity will help the kids recognize which leaders trusted God and reinforce this week’s lesson focus: Don’t be jealous—trust God instead.

The students can follow the directions on page 4 of Bible Discoveries and draw lines to match the sentences to the pictures of the three leaders. Let them work in pairs to find and discuss the answers found in the Bible verses. The correct answers are:

1—Samuel
2—Saul
3—David
4—David
5—Samuel
6—Saul
LESSON FOCUS: Don’t be jealous—trust God instead.

Bible Response

To apply the Bible story of David’s trusting God, children will write their own prayer for help in trusting God when jealous.

Materials:
- Bible Discoveries, p. 3
- Pencils
- Index cards
- Friends, Lesson 4

Spend this time helping the kids apply the Bible story as they plan to fight jealousy through trusting God.

We’ve been learning that jealousy isn’t good and that a good way to fight jealousy is to trust God. When we trust God, we don’t need to wish to be like someone else or wish to have what someone else has. We can trust that God made us who we are and that He gives us what is best for us.

The things that we might feel jealous about are different for everyone. Ask the children to turn again to page 3 in Bible Discoveries. Have the kids look over the phrases that they marked with an arrow or a sun. If there’s something they feel jealous about that’s not on the list, they may add it in the blank spaces at the bottom.

Who are you jealous of or what situation might make you jealous?

Kids might talk about feeling jealous of a sibling or friend because they get different things; feeling jealous of a classmate for getting to do a special task at school; feeling jealous of someone they don’t even know because they see that person on TV as having better skills or more toys. Accept the children’s answers without criticism.

How could trusting God help you?

Let the kids think and talk with one another. Trusting God always has a good result. It might be feeling better about who we are, what we have, or even becoming happy for others. We don’t know what God will do when we trust Him, but it will always be good.

Prayer Time

Give each child an index card. Let’s ask God to help us trust Him when we feel jealous. You can keep the card with you and pray your prayer when you feel jealous.

Encourage each child to write a simple, one-sentence prayer to ask God’s help with an area of jealousy they struggle with. For example: “Help me trust You when I’m jealous of ______________.”

Have a minute of prayer time for the kids to silently pray their written prayers to God. Then close by praising God for being trustworthy and for making each child just the way he or she is.

Extra-Time Activity

If you have extra time, have a Share & Prayer time. Take time to let the children share any prayer requests or praises they wish. Then have a time for the kids to pray freely for one another. Keep the prayer requests in a class notebook. Include the requests and answers in your weekly prayer time.

Materials:
- Bible Discoveries, p. 3
- Pencils
- Index cards
- Friends, Lesson 4

Take–homes

- Friends, Lesson 4
- Bible Discoveries, Lesson 4
- Discovery Pack, FAN-tastic Posters

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 15—16; 18:5—19:18