

Life Lesson 65  
*David and Saul*  
Text: I Samuel 18 and 19.

Introduction

David was a hero! He trusted God and did what no one else in the whole kingdom dared to do. He had killed the giant Goliath. Because of David the Israelites won an important battle against the Philistines.

The Story

King Saul was grateful to David and made him a captain of his army. David's sheep tending days were over for good.

David loved God and lived to please Him. As a result David also pleased the people with his wise and kind actions. Everybody loved David. He made many friends among Saul's assistants and advisors. His very best friend was Saul's son, Jonathon.

God blessed David as he went to war, too. He led his troops to victory after victory because God was with him. After one great battle the women came out to meet King Saul, David, and the other soldiers. They were singing and playing musical instruments and rejoicing in the victory over their enemies.

"Saul has slain thousands and David has slain ten thousands," they sang.

"What!" King Saul roared in anger. "They give David credit for killing ten thousands and only give me credit for thousands. Everyone thinks he is the head of this army. Next they will think he's running the kingdom."

From that day on King Saul watched David jealously. Could this be the man of whom Samuel foretold? Would God tear the kingdom away from him and give it to David?

The very next day the evil spirit came upon Saul and he fell into a fit.

"I will kill David," Saul said. "I'll pin him to the wall with this javelin."

He threw his javelin straight at David! David saw it coming and dodged out of the way.

King Saul knew then that the Lord was with David. He knew that David was behaving wisely and that the people loved him. That made him angry, and it made him afraid. He planned another strategy to get rid of David.

“You go out and fight those Philistines,” Saul told David. “If you are very courageous I’ll give you my daughter Merab to be your wife.”

“Now the Philistines can kill David for me,” Saul thought.

God protected David, though. He fought valiantly and earned the hand of Saul’s daughter in marriage. King Saul went back on his promise and gave Merab to another man to marry.

Saul tried again to get rid of David.

“I have another daughter named Michal,” Saul told David. “I will let you marry her if you kill one thousand Philistines.”

Saul felt sure that David would never be able to do that. Surely one of those Philistines would kill David first.

David did it, though. This time Saul had to let David marry his daughter. That was fine with Michal, because she already loved David.

Saul was more and more afraid of David and hated him more and more. He even commanded Jonathon and his servants to kill David. Jonathon refused and talked his father out of killing him.

It was only a temporary truce, though. Saul fell into another fit and tried again to kill David with his javelin. David ran away from him and escaped. Saul sent messengers to David’s house to watch for him. They had orders to kill David when he left the house in the morning.

Michal helped David escape by letting him down through a window. He escaped from there to safety. Michal put a statue in his bed and covered it up. When the messengers came in the morning she pretended that the statue was David.

“Poor David is sick,” she said. “He can’t get up to talk to you right now.”

They went back to King Saul with the news.

“Bring him here, bed and all, so that I can kill him,” Saul cried.

Then, of course, they found a statue propped up on the pillow instead of David. David was far away by then.

From then on Saul was out to kill David. He thought he could get rid of God’s judgment on him if only he could get rid of David.

### The Life Lesson

How foolish! What God says will happen, will happen. Nothing man can do can change what God decrees. God protected David and kept him safe from King Saul.

I hope you will never be so foolish as to fight against God’s will. He already has His plans made, and He will carry them out. Our part is to submit to Him and to trust Him to work all things out the best way for us.

## Review Questions

Why was David a hero?

*Because he killed Goliath and then became a captain in Saul's army.*

Why did Saul begin to hate and fear David?

*The women said, "Saul has killed thousands, but David ten thousands." Saul was jealous and worried.*

How did Saul try to kill David the first time?

*He threw a javelin (spear) at him.*

What was Saul's second plan to get rid of David?

*He promised he would give David his daughter Merab to marry if he killed lots of Philistines. He figured the Philistines would kill David for him.*

Did Saul follow through with his promise?

*No, he gave Merab to someone else to marry.*

Who did David marry?

*Saul's second daughter, Michal.*

How did Michal help David escape from Saul?

*When he climbed out the window, she put a statue in his bed and said, "David is too sick to go see my father."*

Can anyone change what God has decided will happen?

*No. God has all power and will do what He wills.*