



## Youth Bible Lesson – Lesson 14

### David Remembers

We reviewed in the last lesson, many of the events that led up to the time of David. Remember, God had told Samuel His prophet to anoint one of Jesse’s sons. David was selected by God because of his good attitude and his loyalty to God.

Like many men before him, David was picked by God to do a special job. The stories and adventures of these men were fresh in David’s mind: men like Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Samson.

When God selects someone to work for Him, He tests that person thoroughly to see if he will obey Him. Can you think of someone who must be tested before he can do a particular job?

An astronaut is a good example. He must pass a doctor’s exam to ensure that he is in good health. Then he must pass many written tests on his knowledge of how the spaceship works. High scores on eye tests, hearing tests and muscle tests are also required. An astronaut’s job is not an easy one!

But serving God is much more difficult than even an astronaut’s job. An astronaut goes to the moon, comes back and his job is finished. But when God gives a person a specific job to do, that job usually lasts for the rest of his life – not just a few days.

David was well prepared for the job he was given by God. His parents had taught him to “always do your best.” It is important to study hard and to work hard, even when you’re young.

David also learned to be loyal to God’s laws and to show honor and loyalty to his parents and family. Each time David heard the story of his great-grandmother, it made him realize the importance of loyalty. Her example of loyalty was so important that God caused a book in the Bible to be written about her. Ruth was her name and the book of Ruth tells her story.

Ruth and her sister-in-law Orpah, were Moabites. But they were married to two Israelite brothers. These brothers, with their widowed mother Naomi, lived in Moab (Ruth 1:3-4).

Then tragedy struck. Both of Naomi's sons died, leaving all three women alone. Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem in Israel where she had relatives.

Ruth and Orpha decided to accompany Naomi. But Naomi realized that her daughters-in-law would have to give up their own customs and adopt the ways of the Israelites.

"Ruth," Naomi said, "you and Orpah are free to go on back home to your family." But Ruth remained loyal to Naomi. Even though Orpah turned back, she stayed (Ruth 1:14).

"Go ahead, follow your sister-in-law," Naomi told Ruth. "Wouldn't you be happier with your own religion and your own people?"

Ruth's answer showed her loyalty, as well as her willingness to accept God's ways. Read Ruth 1:16 and complete the quote: "Thy \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ God."

Before long, the two widows arrived in Bethlehem.

Which commandment was Ruth obeying by being loyal to Naomi? Decode the sentence below to find the answer.

(Hint: X = A, A = r, B = O)

C B D B A

LBRA

MXKCGA

XDP

NBKCGA

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

(Answer is found in Exodus 20)

Naomi, who had lived in Bethlehem most of her life, had one relative there who was extremely wealthy. But Naomi didn't have much money, so Ruth volunteered to glean in the fields. In those days, when wheat or barely was harvested, some was always left purposely. The poor people in the city were allowed to "glean," or harvest the leftovers.

Ruth knew that gleaning was slow, hard work. But she also knew that Naomi was too old to be bending over so much, gathering food. So Ruth would begin working early in the morning and she would stay until late in the evening. She worked twice as hard, because she was providing for her mother-in-law, also.

By chance, Ruth happened to glean in the field of Boaz, Naomi's wealthy relative. Boaz saw how hard Ruth worked. When he found out who she was, he was pleased that she was helping his widowed relative.

“Ruth, you may stay and eat lunch with my servants,” he told her. When she wasn’t listening, he told the harvesters to look after her. They were to make sure that she had enough to eat and drink. They also left behind a little extra grain for her to gather (Ruth 2:14-16).

Ruth set a good example that we can all follow: work hard with all your might and you will be blessed. Ruth was given a raise by Boaz. She didn’t know it, but the extra grain or corn was a bonus for her hard work.

In fact, Boaz was so pleased he told Ruth: “Don’t go to any other fields to glean. You are always welcome here.”

Ruth rushed home. “Naomi!” Ruth said excitedly. “Boaz let me eat with his servants and told me not to glean anywhere else!”

Naomi thanked God for this blessing. She explained to Ruth that Boaz was her close relative.

“Go and glean in his fields,” Naomi said. “Do what Boaz says; he is a fine person. “So Ruth took care of Naomi and gleaned in the fields of Boaz.

But Naomi did not want Ruth to have to work in the fields all her life. She knew that Boaz thought highly of Ruth. She also knew that Boaz had a responsibility toward Ruth. In Israel, a childless widow’s dead husband’s nearest relative was to marry her.

What Naomi was about to tell Ruth was going to test her obedience.

“Ruth,” she called. Tonight, Boaz will be sleeping in the harvest house. I want you to sneak over there while Boaz is sleeping and lie down at his feet” (Ruth 3:3-4).

Naomi explained this is the customary way that a widow claims her right to be married.

Ruth dressed and walked briskly to the harvest house. The night air was cool but comfortable. When Ruth arrived, she quietly opened the door and crept in. Her heart raced; she was not used to creeping up on people. She saw Boaz and lay down at his feet.

Around midnight, Boaz rolled over and bumped into Ruth.

“What . . . who?” Boaz was startled. “You scared me. What are you doing here?”

“You’re my closest relative,” she said. “Can’t I stay here?”

Boaz smiled when he realized why she was there. “Go ahead and stay. But you know, I’m not the closest relative to you” (Ruth 3:12-13).

Boaz was not making excuses. He wanted to marry Ruth and he didn't mind taking care of Naomi either. But another man was a closer relative.

Boaz promised to settle the problem in the morning.

Boaz was extremely clever. He presented the situation in such a way that the other relative was glad to let Ruth marry Boaz.

A short time later Boaz and Ruth were married. They had a son, named Obed. David knew Obed quite well. You see, Obed was David's grandfather.

As David thought about these examples, he tried to imagine what it would be like being king. He had been selected by God for a special job, as had Samuel, who anointed him. In fact, Samuel was picked early in life.

Hannah, Samuel's mother, could not have children. But she prayed to God to give her a baby. She promised that she would give the baby to God for Him to use (I Sam. 1:10-11).

God heard her prayers. She became pregnant and had a fine son she named Samuel.

Samuel grew and grew. His mother loved him very much, but when he was old enough, she kept her promise. Hannah sent Samuel to be the servant of Eli, the high priest, and help him in the temple work. When Eli was old, God called Samuel to be His prophet to Israel.

Israel was not obeying God as they should. God decided to use the Philistines to teach the Israelites a lesson.

The Philistines came to fight against Israel, and God allowed them to win. The battle was fierce; Israel lost 30,000 men. The Philistines even captured the Ark of the Covenant (I Sam. 4:10-11)!

Do you know what three things the Ark of the Covenant contained? They are listed in Hebrew 9:4. Write them on the lines below

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Samuel knew that the Ark was special. But the Philistines took it to the port city of Ashdod and put it in the pagan temple of Dagon. Dagon was chief of the many pagan gods worshiped by the Philistines.

The next morning, they found the statue of the fish god lying on its face in front of the Ark. The Philistines couldn't figure it out. They put Dagon back in place (I Sam. 5:3).

But the next morning, to the amazement of the Philistines, Dagon had again fallen. This time, the arms, head and hands were cut off! It was God who caused this to happen (I Sam. 5:4).

God also struck the entire city with a terrible plague as punishment for taking the Ark. The rulers of Ashdod realized that they had to get rid of the Ark.

But the Philistines were too proud to return their capture to the Israelites. They decided to move the Ark to the city of Gath. Before long, the population of Gath suffered from the same disease as the people of Ashdod (I Sam. 5:6-9).

“Get the Ark out of here,” they said. “We’re dying of disease!”

So the Ark was moved to Ekron, another Philistine city. But the people of Ekron refused the Ark.

“We heard what happened to the people in Gath and Ashdod,” they protested.

Seven months had passed since the Ark was taken. Finally, the Philistines decided to give it back. To make sure the Israelites would take the Ark back, expensive gifts were sent along with it (I Sam. 6:4-8). The Philistines didn’t want to be stuck with the Ark.

The Israelites were glad to see the Ark again. The sight of it made them realize how far from God they had strayed.

Samuel knew the problems that the Israelites had. He told them to put away their false gods. Because the people listened and obeyed, God began to help them again. The Philistines were defeated, and the land that the Philistines had taken was won back. With Samuel to guide them, the people began to obey God’s laws once again.

#### How Well Do You Remember?

\_\_\_\_\_ helped Naomi move to Bethlehem. David’s great-grandfather was named \_\_\_\_\_. To pick up the leftover grain is called \_\_\_\_\_. The name of the Philistine fish god was \_\_\_\_\_.

One day Samuel was quite startled by a request brought to him by the elders of Israel.

“Samuel,” the elders of Israel said, “give us a king like all the other nations” (I Sam. 8:5).

Samuel was hurt deeply. Had the Israelites decided to get rid of him?

Whenever Samuel needed help, he prayed to God, and this time was no different. He prayed to God and asked Him what to do.

God's answer to Samuel is found in I Samuel 8:7. Turn there in your Bible and fill in the blanks. "And the Lord said to Samuel, hearken unto the voice of the \_\_\_\_\_ in all that they say to thee: for \_\_\_\_\_ have not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ should not \_\_\_\_\_ over them."

Have you ever told God you didn't want Him? Think about it, rejecting the person who is over you is the same as rejecting God, since God is the One who put that person in authority.

That is why it is so important for you to be obedient to your parents. They are your leaders. Sometimes, doing what they say may seem difficult, but you must obey them, just as they must follow those over them. If you reject God, you can expect nothing but trouble.

But the Israelites had to learn that lesson the hard way. God told Samuel: "Warn them. Tell them what to expect from a human king."

So, Samuel told them everything. He told them what a king would do: take their sons to fight in his army, their daughters to be his servants and cooks; take their fields and vineyards, their sheep and cattle. Whatever the king wanted, he would take from them (I Sam. 8:11-18).

"And when you regret having chosen a king," Samuel said, "don't cry to God, because He will not hear you."

But the elders of Israel would not listen. "Give us a king, anyway," they told Samuel.

Samuel told the people to be patient. God was going to show Samuel whom He had chosen to be king.

It was not long before God spoke to Samuel. "I will send you a man from the tribe of Benjamin," God said. "You shall anoint him to be king over my people Israel" (I Sam. 9:16).

The next day, Samuel saw several men approaching. One of them was a tall and impressive looking Benjamite named Saul.

"This is the man I told you about," God said to Samuel.

Saul could not understand why he was being treated as royalty. Samuel had prepared a huge meal and placed Saul at the head of the table. Then he anointed Saul, saying, "God has anointed you to be captain over His inheritance."

What was Saul's reaction to all this? Turn to I Samuel 9:21 and fill in the blanks. "And Saul answered and said, am not \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the tribes of Israel? And \_\_\_\_\_ family the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then \_\_\_\_\_ thou \_\_\_\_\_ to me?"

As you can see, Saul had a humble attitude. But as our story unfolds, you will see Saul's attitude change.

After Saul was anointed and had received God's Spirit, Samuel called all of the people together. When lots were cast for all the people, Saul's name was taken. This was God's way of showing Israel whom He had chosen as king.

When the people saw Saul standing head and shoulders above the crowd, they shouted with one voice, "God save the king" (I Sam. 10-24)!

One of Saul's first jobs as king was to defend the Israelite city of Jabesh against the hostile Ammonites.

Nahash, king of the Ammonites, was camped outside Jabesh with a huge army. Unless the men of Jabesh agreed to be his slaves and have their right eyes put out, Nahash was going to destroy the whole city.

Saul was very angry when he heard this. He sent messengers throughout Israel, demanding that the people come to the rescue of Jabesh.

Able-bodied men poured in from everywhere. Soon Saul had an army of 330,000 men. With God's help, they totally destroyed the Ammonites, chasing them until only a few scattered soldiers escaped (I Sam. 11:11).

For the next year or two, the Israelites enjoyed a time of peace. But the Philistines were still a thorn in the side of Israel. Not only were their pagan customs a bad influence, they began to intrude on the Israelites land, building forts and strengthening their army.

Finally, Saul decided to take the offensive. With an army of a thousand men, Jonathan, Saul's son, wiped out an entire Philistine garrison (I Sam. 13:2-3).

Immediately, the Philistines began preparing to strike back. They gathered a huge army to overrun the land of Israel.

What do you think the Israelites did when they saw the Philistine army? I Samuel 13:6 has the answer. "When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people

were distressed,) then the people did \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_.”

Saul tried to encourage the people. “Samuel will be here soon. He can offer sacrifices and ask God what we should do.”

But Samuel was late. The people were fast losing what little courage they had. Finally, Saul could wait no longer. He offered the sacrifices himself, even though he knew it was wrong (I Sam. 13:8). Only the priests were meant to offer sacrifices.

Just after the sacrifices were offered, Samuel arrived.

“What have you done?” he exclaimed. “Saul, because you have disobeyed God, your family will not rule over Israel. God will choose another man to rule after you” (I Sam. 13:13-14).

Saul counted the men that remained and found he had only about 600 soldiers. How many soldiers did the Philistines have? You can find the answer in I Samuel 13:5. “And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, \_\_\_\_\_ chariots, and \_\_\_\_\_ horsemen, and \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ which is on the sea shore in multitude.”

But Jonathan, Saul’s son, knew that God did not need a huge army to defeat the Philistines.

Let’s show ourselves to the Philistines,” Jonathan whispered to his armorbearer. “If they tell us to come up to them, let that be a sign that God is with us” (I Sam. 14:10)!

The two Israelites moved into an open area. The Philistine guards on the lookout point above spotted them immediately.

“Come on up,” they shouted. “We want to show you something.”

The Philistines soldiers laughed among themselves. Did these two Israelites think they were a match for more than 20 well-trained soldiers?

But Jonathan and his armorbearer had God on their side! They killed every soldier in that garrison (I Sam. 14:13-14).

Then God caused an earthquake to strike in the middle of the main Philistines camp. Saul’s watchmen heard the noise and looked.

What they saw was too much to believe. The Philistine soldiers were battling each other! To the amazement of the Israelites, the huge Philistine army began to melt away before their very eyes (I Sam. 14:15-16).



Because Jonathan trusted Him, God fought for Israel that day. Saul's men won a great victory and the Israelites were saved from their enemies.

Some time later, Samuel came to Saul with a message from God. "God has seen the wickedness of the Amalekites," Samuel said. "Go and destroy them entirely. Kill every living thing" (I Sam. 15:2-3).

So Saul prepared his army for war.

The battle was quick and decisive; the Amalekites were totally defeated. But Saul didn't follow God's instructions.

He did not kill every man, woman, child and animal as God had commanded. Agag, the Amalekite king, and the best of the sheep and cattle were saved (I Sam. 15:9).

Samuel was grieved when God told him that Saul had disobeyed. Samuel was told where Saul was camped and went to meet him.

"Welcome, Samuel," Saul cried enthusiastically. "I have won the battle and done what God said to do!"

"Why do I hear the noise of cattle and sheep?" asked Samuel.

But Samuel already knew the answer to the question.

"Let me tell you what God told me last night," Samuel said. "When you were humble and didn't think highly of yourself, God made you king. But now you will not even obey His instructions. Because you have rejected God, He has rejected you from being king," Samuel told Saul (I Sam. 15:16-29).

David knew the rest of the story quite well, God sent Samuel to the city of Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king. Samuel had to go secretly, for fear Saul would kill him (I Sam. 16:1-2).

David was not the biggest or strongest of Jesse's sons. In fact, he was the youngest. But these things were not important to God. He chose David for his willing and obedient attitude.

The story of David's kingdom and the trials he had to go through before he received the kingdom will begin in lesson 15.

#### How Well Do You Remember?

\_\_\_\_\_ was chosen king over Israel. His son was named \_\_\_\_\_. They were of the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_ David's father was named \_\_\_\_\_.

