

From Defeat to Victory

Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been afraid? Sometimes fear can cause us to do strange and even dangerous things. Grownups can become fearful too—even kings and soldiers!

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

- A. David and his men fled from Saul to the land of the Philistines, where he pretended to serve the enemy king by attacking other enemies. (27:1-12)
- B. King Achish told David he was to help the Philistines fight against Israel. (28:1-2)
- C. Saul viewed the enemy and, filled with fear, he sought God's direction but received no response. (28:3-6)
- D. As Saul consulted a fortune-teller, God allowed Samuel to appear. (28:7-14)
- E. Samuel reminded Saul that the kingdom would be given to David and said that he and his sons would die in battle the next day. (28:15-19)
- F. David was rejected from the battle when his loyalty was questioned. (29:1-11)
- G. Returning to Ziklag, David and his men were grieved to find the city burned by the Amalekites, and their families missing. (30:1-5)
- H. David encouraged himself in the Lord and sought the Lord's guidance. (30:6-8)
- I. With the promise of victory from God, David's army pursued the Amalekites. (30:8-16)

III. CLIMAX

David and his men defeated the enemy and rescued their families as they looked to God for victory! (30:17-18)

IV. CONCLUSION

Everything the Amalekites had stolen was recovered. (30:19)  
**Challenge (saved child):** Look to God for victory over problems. [2 Tim. 1:7]  
**Invitation (unsaved child):** Believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved. [Acts 16:31]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.

Lesson Overview	
<b>Scripture</b>	1 Samuel 28:1-19; 29:1—30:19
<b>Memory Verse</b>	2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
<b>Teaching Objective</b>	The saved child will trust God to bring victory, knowing that fear and unbelief bring defeat.
<b>Main Teaching</b>	Look to God for victory over problems.
<b>Teaching Statement</b>	Look to God for victory!
<b>Emphasis for Unsaved</b>	Believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved.
<b>Visual Aids</b>	Flashcards 1-1—6, map

Schedule		60-min	75-min
Before Club	Complete attendance record as children arrive	—	—
Opening	Welcome "Good News to All the World" (visualized song) Establish rules, "David's Crown" attendance incentive, prayer	7	7
Gospel Activity	"Nothing But the Blood" (visualized song), p. 51	2	2
Missions	Song: "Children All Around the World" (visualized song) Story: <i>Mountain Pathways</i> , part 1 "Flight to the Field" missions chart, emphasis, prayer	10	10
Song	"Nothing But the Blood"	2	2
Memory Verse	2 Timothy 1:7 Repetition: Frozen Actions	8	8
Bible Lesson/ Invitation	<b>From Defeat to Victory</b>	20	20
Review	Review game and/or growth activity	0	6
Song	"I Want to Know Christ" (visualized song)	2	2
<i>Wonder Time</i> ™	"God Wants to Spend Time with Just You" (visualized song) or "Get It Read" p. 52, quiet time teaching and <i>Wonder Devotional Book</i> review, awards	6	15
Closing	Announcements, prayer, verse/teaching tokens, <i>Wonderzone</i> bookmarks, <i>Truth Chasers Club</i> starter lessons	1	1

Extended Class Time: Use additional sidebar activities.

## Teaching the Memory Verse

### Preschool Memory Verse

Teach John 3:16 throughout the series. See p. 7 for teaching instructions.

The memory verses in this series are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. If you are using another version, you may need to adapt the explanations slightly.

Use the IPEAR (Introduction, Presentation, Explanation, Application, Repetition) method each time you introduce a memory verse. Always allow enough time in your schedule to effectively teach God's Word.

Read the verse directly from your Bible to establish that it's God's Word.

### Preschool Repetition

"Choir Director"

As preschoolers say the verse, hold hands low for soft then at waist height for medium then high for loud voices. Repeat several times.

### Background

Several years had passed since David was anointed by the prophet Samuel to be king over Israel. Because King Saul was jealous of David and had tried to kill him, David had gone into hiding. In the final lesson of the series *David: A Man after God's Heart*, David had spared King Saul's life though he'd had opportunities to harm him. David now continues to wait for God's right time for him to be made king over all Israel.

**Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

**Introduction:** What words do you think of when you think of God? (*Write words on sketch pad below the word God—great, Creator, holy, Father, etc.*) What do you think about when you think of the word *fear*? (*Write words on sketch pad below the word Fear—storms, flood, death, sickness, being alone, not being accepted, etc.*) Which is greater: God or the things we fear?

**Presentation:** (*Read the verse from your Bible—or have an older child do so—then have the children read with you from the verse visual.*)

**Explanation:** "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear*"—God, the Creator, does not give a person fear (a feeling of worry because of what might happen). If someone has that kind of fear, it is not from God. God does not want us to fear—He wants us to trust Him.  
"*but of power*"—Instead, God gives strength and ability.  
"*and of love*"—God gives His care and affection.  
"*and of a sound mind*"—God gives calmness and quietness in your mind.

**Application:** *Saved:* If you have believed on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God does not want you to be afraid or worry about what might happen. Instead of being fearful you can trust God for a calm mind and peaceful heart. He can do this because He lives inside you and He's all-powerful.  
*Unsaved:* You cannot trust God with your fears until you've believed on Jesus to save you from sin. You will be given an opportunity later in class today to believe on Jesus.

**Repetition:** Frozen Actions  
(*Lead the group in pretending to play basketball, be a muscle man/woman, swim from a shark, walk through the jungle, play a musical instrument, etc. When you yell "FREEZE" everyone "freezes" and says the verse. Repeat the verse as time and interest allow.*)

## Gospel Activity

### Nothing But the Blood (Song)

(*Present the Gospel as you teach this song. See p. 51 for teaching instructions.*)

## Lesson

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been afraid? What makes you afraid? (*Let children respond.*) What do you do when you are afraid? (*Let children respond.*) Sometimes fear can cause us to do strange and even dangerous things. Grownups can become fearful too. Let's see what happened to a king and a soldier who let fear guide their actions.

### PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

*One day I will perish by the hand of Saul. I must escape to the land of the Philistines. Saul will never look for me there—I'll be safe at last!* These thoughts must have raced through David's mind as he continued to hide from King Saul in Israel. David's fear of Saul had taken away his hope. It seems he had forgotten God's promise that he'd one day be king. He'd forgotten that God cared for him. Without asking God what he should do, David decided on his own plan.

### Slide 1-1

He took his 600 men and their families and traveled to the land of the Philistines—the enemies of God’s people. He went to the city of Gath, Goliath’s hometown, and spoke with King Achish. David pretended that he’d turned against Saul and now wanted to help the Philistines. King Achish believed David, thinking how valuable he would be to the Philistine army. King Achish gave David and his men the city of Ziklag for their homes.

As David and the families settled in their city, David must have felt a sense of relief. He was finally safe. Everything was working out very well. But he was not following God’s will for his life and soon trouble began.

In order to keep King Achish believing David really was on the side of the Philistines, David had to prove his loyalty to King Achish. To do this, David and his men attacked several smaller enemies. David, who was to be the next king of Israel, added to his lie by telling King Achish that he had attacked Israel. King Achish believed the lies and grew to trust David more and more.

One day the king called David before him. He seemed especially excited. He told David that the Philistine army was planning an attack on Israel. Then King Achish said eagerly to David, “Of course, you and your men will march with us into battle.”

David’s heart sank. What had he done? His fear and his lies had gotten him into a very difficult situation. He was expected to go and fight against his own people! David must have felt sick inside as he thought of taking a weapon against King Saul—and his best friend, Jonathan! Instead of trusting God, David had ignored God’s will, letting fear control and defeat him. Now he was more fearful than ever.

### Slide 1-2

Do you sometimes let fear control you? If you have believed on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to look to Him for victory over problems. All of us are afraid at times. (*Review examples given by children in introduction.*) It’s not a sin to have a fearful thought. There are things you should be afraid of—like traffic on a busy street! This kind of fear reminds you to be careful and keeps you safe. But when fear controls you, making you worry about what might happen and keeping you from making good decisions, things often go from bad to worse! Do these kinds of fearful thoughts come from God? No! These thoughts come from your enemy, Satan. Satan knows that if you let fear control you, you may lie or do some other sinful thing to solve your problems. For example, you may lie and tell your mother you’re sick because you’re afraid of failing a test at school. It is never God’s will for you to be controlled by fear. What does our memory verse say? (*Repeat 2 Timothy 1:7 together.*) God can give you victory over problems as you look to Him. Don’t be defeated by letting fear control you.

### Slide 1-3

David’s decisions were controlled by fear, and now he was more fearful than ever! How could he possibly go to war against his own people? But how could he refuse to go after working so hard to earn King Achish’s trust? David was defeated. He could see no other way than to agree to go. How difficult it must have been for him to pretend to be excited about the coming battle as they marched north, about 55 miles to where the fighting would take place.

### Slide 1-4

The Philistine army finally arrived and set up camp at the city of Shunem. King Saul also gathered the Israelite army and set up camp nearby at Gilboa. But as Saul looked at the Philistine army preparing for battle, his heart filled with fear. Why do you think he was afraid? (*Let children respond.*) He had been disobeying God for a long time. He had not cared to know or follow God’s will for him and his people. But now that he faced this enemy across the valley, he knew he needed God’s help. King Saul asked the Lord what he should do, but God did not answer him. Saul’s sin stood between him and God.

Philistines (fih-LIS-teens)

Show a map, pointing out where Gath was located. This will help your visual learners.

Achish (A-kish)

Ziklag (ZIKK-lag)

Commentators disagree, but given the other circumstances of David’s life, it would appear that David was responding out of fear.



#### Teaching Card and Statement

Show card and have children shout “Look to God for victory!” (See GNC resource pack.) This teaching statement—a shortened version of the teaching emphasis for the saved child—will be easy for kids to repeat. Tell the kids that anytime you call out “Word Up!” they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when kids are restless or anytime!

#### Preschool Song

Sing “Have You Any Fear?”

Shunem (SHOO-nam)

Gilboa (Gill-BOW-ah)

Preschoolers will enjoy “setting up camp” by putting a blanket over a large table and crawling underneath. They might also pretend to have a quick lunch and offer a prayer for help.



Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you.”

Although this is a growth lesson, the unsaved children in your class need to hear the Gospel. Reinforce this teaching in at least one other place during the class hour. (See schedule, p. 8.)

#### Preschool Song

Sing “Good News.”

Fortune-teller—one who professes to tell what will happen in the future.

Portray fortune-teller’s response—show deep concentration, widen eyes, “scream,” speak with a shaky voice.

Preschoolers can pretend to be marching soldiers.

Did you know that your sins stand between you and God, too? Sin is anything you think, say or do that goes against God’s laws. You and I are born wanting to do sinful things. The Bible says, “All have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). But God is holy—perfect in every way. No sin can be where He is, so sin’s punishment is to be separated from God forever. The Lord Jesus, God’s perfect Son, said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus left all of Heaven’s glory to come to Earth. He grew up and lived a perfect sinless life. He willingly took your punishment for sin when He died on the cross. The Bible says, “But God commendeth [demonstrates] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). Because God loves you, He sent Jesus to the cross where He bled and died so you would not have to be separated from God. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, given on the cross, was the perfect payment for sin that God required (Heb. 9:22). He was buried, then rose again, and He is alive in Heaven today. You can turn from your sin and be saved by believing in what Jesus did for you. Then your sin will no longer stand between you and God.

King Saul’s sin stood between him and God so God would not answer when Saul asked what he should do about the enemy.

Saul then thought of his old friend Samuel. Though Saul had never been very careful to follow Samuel’s advice, he remembered that God did speak through the prophet. But Samuel was dead. Saul was desperate to know what to do.

#### Slide 1-5

With his fear fully controlling him, Saul did a very sinful thing. He asked his servants where he could find a fortune-teller. Saul knew that God had said His people were not to be involved with fortune-tellers. In fact, Saul carefully enforced this law. But now Saul chose to disobey God. His servants told him where such a woman lived on the other side of the mountain from where they were encamped. Disguising himself, Saul took two of his servants and went at night to find the woman who practiced witchcraft and fortune-telling.

Sitting in the shadows of her home, Saul asked her, “Will you perform your witchcraft and call the spirit of someone with whom I wish to speak?”

“Whose spirit do you want?” she asked.

“Samuel’s,” Saul answered. He waited and watched the strange woman carefully as she seemed to be in deep concentration. Suddenly the woman’s eyes grew large and she screamed!

“What do you see?” Saul asked anxiously.

“I see an old man wrapped in a robe!” she replied with a shaky voice. Somehow Saul knew the spirit she saw was Samuel—God had allowed him to appear. The woman suddenly realized that the man in disguise was really King Saul.

Saul bowed low in the presence of Samuel. The prophet spoke to Saul. “Why have you disturbed me?” he asked.

“I am in great trouble,” Saul replied. “The Philistines are fighting me, and God has left me. He does not answer me anymore. What should I do?”

Samuel answered Saul, “Why do you ask my advice? I told you the Lord would take the kingdom from you and give it to David. Because of your disobedience, the Philistines will defeat Israel.” His next words brought terrible fear to Saul’s heart. “Tomorrow you and your sons will die, and the Lord will give Israel over to the Philistines.”

King Saul crumpled to the ground in dread as Samuel’s presence went away.

#### Slide 1-6

While Saul was receiving this terrible news, David was preparing for an inspection by the Philistine commanders. Each regiment of soldiers marched past for review, then it was David’s turn. As he and his men passed by, they were ordered to stop.

“What are these Israelites doing here?” the commanders demanded to know.

King Achish quickly answered, “Don’t you know that this is David? It’s true that he comes from Israel, but he has been with us for over a year. I have found nothing wrong with him since he has joined our side.”

The commanders were not convinced. They didn't trust David. "We know who David is," they angrily replied, "He is the one all Israel has praised. Send him away. If you let him fight with us, he might turn against us and place us in Saul's hands."

There was nothing King Achish could do. He reluctantly told David, "I want you to march with my soldiers, but these Philistine commanders do not want you. Get up early in the morning, you and all your men, and return to your city."

David and his men must have sighed with relief! They were saved from going into battle against their own people. How good God was to David, even though he had been ignoring God all this time.

The trip back to Ziklag took three days. The men were tired and eager to return to their homes and families. But as they drew near the city, the air smelled of smoke and burnt wood. Then they saw a horrible sight—their city was gone!

### Slide 1-7

Just a pile of smoldering ruins lay before them. Their wives and children were gone, too. Were they dead—or captured? It must have been their old enemies the Amalekites who had invaded their city, knowing David's army was up north with the Philistines.

David and his men were overcome with grief. They cried aloud. But soon the sorrow of the men turned to anger. They blamed David. "This is David's fault!" they cried. "He should not have allowed all the men to leave Ziklag. There was no one here to defend the city and protect our families." The men were so angry they even talked about killing David by throwing stones at him!

David was deeply distressed. He feared for the safety of his family and the families of his men. He also feared the great anger of his men toward him. But this time he did not let fear control his actions and defeat him. The Bible says, "David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." Instead of giving in to fear, David looked to God for victory.

### Slide 1-8

If you have believed on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you don't have to give in to fear. God wants you to look to Him for victory over problems. Sometimes the problems you face can overwhelm you with fear and cause you to make wrong decisions. When fearful thoughts come (use situations children mentioned earlier as examples), **tell** God about them. **Thank** Him for His love, and **ask** God to help you trust Him to give you victory. Thank God that He has not given you "the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). He can give you a calm mind and a peaceful heart in the most fearful situation as you trust Him. He may not solve your problem the way you think He should, but He will always do what's best for you. What a great example it would be for others to see you looking to God for victory over problems instead of giving in to fear!

David remembered to look to God for victory instead of giving in to his fearful situation. He asked God what he should do. "Should I go after this enemy?" he asked.

"Go," God replied. "You will surely overtake them and free the captives."

That was all the assurance David needed! He and his men caught up with the Amalekites, who were celebrating with food and drink. They didn't expect David to return for months. David's army rushed in to attack.

## CLIMAX

David and his men defeated the enemy and rescued their families as they looked to God for victory!

## CONCLUSION

### Slide 1-9

The families returned together to Ziklag with much rejoicing. The Bible says that David's army recovered everything (every person and item) the Amalekites had stolen.

Let all "soldiers" give sigh of relief.

Count the days, holding up three fingers.

Pretend to sniff air.

Amalekites (AM-uh-leck-ites)

Kinesthetic learners will feel the action as they role-play David's men (crying, accusing David, threatening to stone him) and David responding by praying to God.

Read this quote found in 1 Samuel 30:6b directly from your Bible.



### Teaching Card and Statement

Show card and have children shout "Look to God for victory!"

Write the three steps on a poster: (1) Tell God about your fears, (2) Thank God for His love, (3) Ask God to help you trust Him to give you victory.

Repeat 2 Timothy 1:7 together.

### Preschool Song

Sing "I Have a Friend."

State climax victoriously!

David had learned how important it is to look to God for victory over problems instead of trying to handle things his own way.

## CHALLENGE

### Slide 1-10



**Teaching Card and Statement**  
Show card and have children shout  
“Look to God for victory!”

Show poster (see sidebar on p. 12).



Invite children to come to Christ by using the method given here or one you have found effective. Be sure to advise them where to meet you for further counsel and speak individually with each child who responds. (See “How to Lead a Child to Christ,” inside front cover.) If your teaching situation won’t allow for individual counseling, you may instead address the group. See invitation on p. 20.

#### Preschool Invitation

Sing “Nothing But the Blood” and present the invitation using John 3:16 and “believe in” terminology. Ask those who would like to believe in Jesus to stay with you at the story rug.

#### Review Game

“Rally the Troops”  
Provide two sets of “soldiers” (slips of two colors of card stock or soldiers from the GNC resource pack photocopied on two colors of card stock), a pocket chart and a die. Divide the group into two teams and ask questions, alternating between the teams. When a child answers correctly, he may roll the die and place that many of his team’s soldiers in the pocket chart. The team with the most soldiers in the pocket chart wins.

That is a lesson God wants each of His children to learn. If you have believed on the Lord as your Savior, will you look to God for victory over problems? Even this week there will be problems to face. When those problems come, **tell** God about your fears. **Thank** God for His love and **ask** Him to help you trust Him to give you victory. Remember our memory verse. (*Repeat 2 Timothy 1:7 together.*)

Here are some words you can say to God when you’re afraid: “Dear God, I am feeling afraid because (*blank—fill in the problem you face*). Thank You for loving me. Please help me trust You instead of being afraid. I know You can take care of this problem in the way that is best for me. Thank You that You have not given me the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” When God gives you victory over your problem, you can share that with us and we’ll rejoice together.

## INVITATION

You can’t have victory in your life until you first believe on the Lord Jesus as your Savior and ask Him to change your sinful life. If you know you have sinned, and you believe the Lord Jesus died and rose again for you, you can be saved. The Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). That means if you will trust in what Jesus did on the cross to forgive your sin, realizing you can’t save yourself, you can be saved from sin’s punishment. Will you believe on Him today? Please bow your heads and close your eyes. If you would like to believe on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, please show me by looking up at me. (*Pause and acknowledge responses.*) If you looked up at me, please meet me (*designate time and location*) so I can show you from God’s Word how you can be saved.

## Review Questions

1. Where did David go because of his fear of Saul? (*To the city of Gath in the land of the Philistines.*)
2. How did David try to prove to King Achish that he would loyally serve him? (*By attacking other enemies but saying that he had attacked Israel.*)
3. Why was David distressed when King Achish said he wanted David and his men to help in the Philistine battle with Israel? (*He didn’t want to fight his own people, especially Saul and Jonathan.*)
4. When do fearful thoughts become sin in your life as God’s child? What should you do instead of fear? (*When you let fear take control of your actions; look to God for victory over problems.*)
5. What sinful thing did Saul do because he feared the Philistines? (*He went to a fortune-teller to contact Samuel for advice.*)
6. What terrible news did Samuel tell Saul? (*That Saul and his sons would die in battle.*)
7. How did God graciously free David from fighting in the battle? (*He caused the commanders of the Philistines to distrust David and ask him to leave.*)
8. How did David get victory over the Amalekites who’d burned his city and captured his families? (*He looked to God for victory and followed His directions.*)
9. What should you do as God’s child when fearful thoughts come to your mind? (*Tell God about your fears; thank Him that He loves you; ask Him to help you trust Him for victory; remember 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*)
10. What must each of us do before we can have victory in life? (*Believe on the Lord Jesus as Savior from sin.*)

## Preschool Review Questions

1. When David was afraid of Saul, where did he go? (*To a city belonging to the Philistines, Israel's enemies.*)
2. When Saul was afraid of the Philistines, where did he go? (*To a fortune teller.*)
3. What should you do when you are afraid? (*Tell God what you are afraid of and ask Him to help you trust Him.*)
4. What is the first step to victory over fear? (*Believe on the Lord Jesus as Savior from sin.*)

## Growth Activities

### Discussion: Victory over Fear

Ask the children to list activities or events that are scary to them. Write them on a chalkboard or large sheet of paper. Talk about each one, discussing why it is scary. Ask who gives us a spirit of fear (*Satan*) and who gives us the spirit of “power, and love, and of a sound mind” (*God—2 Timothy 1:7.*) Ask how they can have God’s power next time they’re afraid. Remind them to tell God about their fears, thank Him for His love and trust Him for victory.

### Preschool Review Game

#### “Rally the Troops”

When a child answers a question, he may place a “soldier” (slip of paper) in the pocket chart.