

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 4: Second Chances

Lesson 5: The Love of a Friend

The Cave of Wisdom

Cave Opening: The Burning Bush

Welcome back to the cave of “Treachery”. Have you ever been betrayed by someone you thought you could trust? Or perhaps you have betrayed someone’s confidence by telling others a shared secret. Treachery is common in our society driven by gossip and a desire to be accepted by others. Even pastor’s and their wives have to be wary of this dark part of the cave. Problems shared in confidence once shared with another become a spreading disease of destruction.

But life doesn’t have to be filled with treachery. It can be filled with love, true friendship, and trust. In today’s lesson we see both the dark cave of treachery in King Saul against David and the light of the cave, love and trust, shown by King Saul’s son, Jonathan. God’s dream for each of us before we were born was for each of us to become like Him so we could be in relationship with Him. Even better, God wants us to be his children. But to accomplish the dream, you must become like Jesus, self-sacrificing. Who is the “Jonathan” in your life today?

Circle of Fire: Saved from the King of Israel - A Faithful Friend

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18: 1-4; 20:4; 14-15; 17 Jonathan and David, friends forever.

Key Passage Proverbs 18:24:

²⁴A man of many companions may come to ruin, but a true friend sticks closely in trouble.

Biblical Character: Jonathan

Jonathan was the king's son, the next in line for the throne. But God had chosen another person to replace King Saul, David a shepherd son of Jesse.

Play the role of Jonathan and tell the story of friendship with David. Focus on the part about King Saul, your father, trying to kill David to protect the throne. This is treachery for King Saul had taken David into his household and was to care for him the remainder of his life, like a son. Then act out the outcry of King Saul against Jonathan found in 1 Samuel 20:24-33. In verse 31, King Saul declares that as long as David is alive, he is a threat to Jonathan's succession to the throne. Saul's intent to kill David is confirmed and the treachery of Saul is magnified. But Jonathan still sides with his friend David even to his father who throws a spear at him.

Show the video: David and Jonathan, best friends.

Modern Character(s): Christian the Lion

Show the video of Christian the Lion. Friendship is forever to those who truly believe. But being a friend is hard work. You must give much of yourself to the relationship. But to those who give all, much is received in return.

Show the video: “This is real friendship” (titled: Love and Friendship). This video gives a very good overview of the character of a friend.

The Tribe: “Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friend.” These words of Jesus in John 15:13 describe the relationship of a true friend, like Jonathan. A true friend will sacrifice his/her own best interest for the good of the friend.

Craft: “Friend Arrow Pencil” See Appendix 8 Craft for material and instructions.

Recreation Activity: “Bible Trivia Parcheesi”

Divide the class into teams of two each. The team members are the pieces for the Parcheesi board game. Make the board by placing card stock sheets on the floor. Each sheet should be labeled with a category: Person, Place, Old

Testament, New Testament, and Thing. Use the Bible category trivia questions and play the game using Parcheesi rules until both team members of a team are in the “home” area. See Appendix 6 Recreation, “Bible Trivia” for resources.