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Participant Handout

2026 Annual Theme: Hope in Motion

BIBLE STUDY
September 23,2026

September 2026 Theme: The Big Three Forgiveness, Grace and Mercy

Lesson Subject : “**Conflict Resolution**” Unit Two
David and Saul The Damaging
effects of Envy and Jealousy
Samuel 18:1-16

Topics

- Scripture Reference
- Reflection Questions
- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and context
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Scripture Reference: 18 ¹Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that ²Jonathan committed himself to David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. ³And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father’s house. ⁴Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁵Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his military gear, including his sword, his bow, and his belt. ⁶And David went *into battle* wherever Saul sent him, *and always* ⁷achieved success; so, Saul put him in charge of the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.

⁶ Now it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with *other* musical instruments. ⁷ The women sang as they played, and said,

"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

⁸ Then Saul became very angry, for this lyric displeased him; and he said, "They have given David *credit for* ten thousands, but to me they have given *credit for only* thousands! Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ And Saul eyed David with suspicion from that day on.

Saul Turns against David

¹⁰ Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as usual; and a spear was in Saul's hand. ¹¹ Then Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David escaped from his presence, twice.

¹² Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had left Saul. ¹³ So Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴ David was successful in all his ways, for the Lord was with him. ¹⁵ When Saul saw that he was very successful, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he would go out to battle and return before them.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is your initial reaction when you discover someone is envious of you?
2. Describe what you think are some of the characteristics of an envious person?
3. What are some of the crippling effects that envy or jealousy can have on a family, a church and or a ministry?

Outline of the Text :

Samuel's Birth and Dedication to Yahweh's Service (Sam. 1:1-2:11)

The Ark Narrative (1 Sam. 4:1-7:1)

Samuel Judges Israel (1 Sam. 7:2-17)

The Rise and Fall of Saul (1 Sam. 8-15)

Saul's Failings (1 Sam. 13-15)

David Comes to Saul's attention (1 Sam. 16-17)

David in Saul's Court (1 Sam. 18-20)

Introduction:

Jewish readers divide the Hebrew Scriptures into three parts, collectively referred to by the acronym TNK. the Torah (Law), The Nevi'im (prophets), and the Ketuvim (Writings). The Nevi'im are further subdivided into the Former Prophets historical books with continuing impact and the latter Prophets (mostly first-person accounts of the literary prophets) The books of Samuel fall into the category of Former Prophets.

During these series of Lessons on conflict, we initially studied the triangular conflict in the relationship of Abram, Sarai, and Hagar. The damaging effects of conflict were very evident, yet the grace of God overpowered the conflict and allowed the blessing of God to bleed through the burdensome wounds of each one of these individuals; Abram, Sarai and especially Hagar who stated that God is the "God that sees" .

Our next unit on conflict resolution deals with the musician, the warrior, the shepherd David and his challenging circumstances that he had to endure under the haunting envy of Saul whose dwindling popularity in Israel was evident and inevitable.

What is the issue?

The Elephant in the room in the interactions within the relationship of David and Saul is the twin head monster Envy and Jealousy. There are times that these two vices (Envy and Jealousy) are two sides of the same coin because they are so close in their definition. *What is the issue?* Saul after the successes that David has acquired because of the hand of God being with David, Saul has the inclination that David is the successor to the throne. As David's popularity is increasing Saul's control of the kingdom and even himself is diminishing.

Envy defined: Envy is qin' ah in Hebrew and phthonos NT phthonos is often used to describe an intense emotional desire for ill will or harm to someone (**Titus 3:3**)

The word Envy is found in the lists defining vices to be avoided by believers **Rom 1:29; Gal. 5:21, 1 Tim 6:4**, and Envy is divisive in the church **Gal. 5:26**

The Nature of Envy: For envy is a fearful, a fearful thing, and pervade people to despise their own salvation. In this way did both Cain destroy himself.

The clarity of Saul's thinking was dulled with envy as though by a kind of drunkenness and he regarded his benefactor as his enemy.

John Chrysostom

Envious of one's Own Good: Why do you grieve, my friend, when you yourself have suffered no misfortune? Why are you hostile to someone who is enjoying prosperity, when he has in no way caused your own possessions when he has in no way caused your own possessions to decrease? If you are vexed even upon receiving kindness, are you quite clearly envious of your own good

Basil The Great

Jealousy defined: Jealousy is *qin 'ah* in Hebrew and *zelos* in the Greek it has several nuances in biblical texts: zeal, passion, and envy. Envy usually connotes a desire from an object belonging to someone else. Expression of zeal can be a good thing when zeal is directed appropriately. as a disposition suspicious rivalry or unfaithfulness.

Background and Context

Originally one work, 1 and 2 Samuel were first distinguished in the LXX. Though they bear the name of Samuel, he is the focal character only in the first eight chapters of 1 Samuel. Dies before 1 Samuel ends and is not mentioned in 2 Samuel.

The religious and literary heritage of both Christians and Jews is greatly indebted to the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, for they describe events that are central to both faiths, preserving traditions that influence the remainder of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles.

Here we find Saul, the tall lad who took the crown reluctantly but then found himself consumed by the desire to retain it.

Explore the Text

Now that we have laid the foundation of the biblical definition for Envy and Jealousy. We have also gained a footing of the importance and the functionality of 1 and 2 Samuel in biblical history. Let's direct our attention to 1 Samuel 18:1-16, in this life changing text there are three significant areas I believe can assist us to identify healthy relationships and alert us to other relationships that have become eroded by envy and jealousy.

The Three areas of focus:

- **You have a Friend in Me (1 Sam. 18:1-4)**
- **When things Turn Bad (1 Sam. 18:7-9)**
- **The Spear tells the Story (1 Sam. 18 11:16)**

You have a friend in me

The friendship of Jonathan and David is unraveled. Those who seek friendship or have current friends should desire the warm sincere love of a friend liken unto the love expressed to David by Jonathan. One of the greatest friendships of all time is described as growing up between David and Saul's son Jonathan.

Jonathan was loyal to David
Johnathan loved David
Jonathan lending to David

Jonathan was loyal to David – Jonathan was knitted to the soul of David. This was a loyalty that goes beyond the flesh, as a matter of fact it went beyond biological ties. Knitted means to bind to together or to be tied up!

Jonathan loved David- Jonathan was the epitome of agape love. The unconditional love. This love transcended position, power and progressive opportunities. Jonathan was positioned to become the rightful heir to the throne following his father, Saul. Jonathan was not infatuated with this ideal of becoming king he was a servant of the Lord, and he served righteously for the kingdom of God. Jonathan refused to succumb or endorse evil behaviors that even came from his own biological father **Mark 3:31-35**

Jonathan Lending to David – Jonathan stripped himself of his robe that was rightfully his and he gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt. Jonathan's act in presenting his garments and weapons to **David WAS A PUBLIC MARK OF GREAT AFFECTION AND RESPECT**. What is interesting here is that it does not say that David rejected Jonathans armor like David rejected Saul's in **1 Samuel 17:38-39**

When Things turned Bad

The Leadership of Saul

David was given an assignment from Saul
David advantage in the assignment provided by Saul
David ascension given by Saul

The Heart of the People begin to move toward David. Remember this is not just because of the charisma that David possessed as a leader. This favor among the people received by David was because of the Oil that was placed on David in **1 Samuel 16:13**. Eventually it will become visible to everyone that Yahweh is with David even Saul.

The turning point in the relationship with David and Saul took place when there were women who engaged in praise, prancing, and a prelude of victory. **1 Samuel 18:7**
The issue began when there was attention brought to **numbers**. Conflict in our culture can be quickly escalated when we give too much attention to the numbers (ascribed to our name) more than we concentrate on the agenda and assignment of God! The victories that they won in this text was not to give glory to David or Saul. The victory was won so that we can give glory to God.

The strength or vitality of your ministry should not be measured by numbers or to receive good will or the words of men and women, your ministry should be measured by your obedience unto God!

The Spears tell the Story

Emotionally controlled leaders create instability in families, churches, communities and organizations.

- Saul was in his feelings. There was a festering of his feelings because it said he had a spirit come on him the next day. **1 Samuel 18:10**
- Saul mind was on David's praises more than on the death of his own soldiers or the victory that the Lord allowed them to win.
- Saul took everything personal especially the song that these women sung about David.
- Saul desired David to do well in battle but Saul didn't desire him to do too well!
- Saul's paranoid fear of David erupted in periods of madness.

Walter Brueggemann points to the keen irony of the situation. The reader knows that though David is destined for the throne, his anointing remains a secret. Saul remains ignorant of Yahweh's resolve that David should be king, but looking through the prism of his own deep suspicions, Saul sees David's future. "Saul has it right, but from all the wrong reasons. Saul knows than he understands because he sees David only as ambitious, not as desired.

The author suggests that when one's heart is turned away from God, even the visitation of God's spirit can be turned into something negative. The author also underscores David's

growing fame- and Saul's growing paranoia- with songs from the mouths of Israel's common people. The common people were affecting a king!

Saul became more and more convinced that Yahweh had deserted him in favor of David, but his every attempt to reverse the process backfired. Transferring David from his post as court musician and perhaps hoping that David might be killed in battle, Saul appointed him as commander of a thousand! (The number the women ascribed to Saul in the song (1 **Sam. 18:7**) (2 **Samuel 11:15**)

David however was not killed in action but led his battalion in a series of victorious forays (2 **Samuel 11:15**). Saul's small kingdom was centered in the northern part of Canaan among the tribes who one day would form Israel. David later would become the first leader to bring real unity to the northern and southern tribes as a single kingdom.

Despite the actions and attitudes of Saul the Bible says David behaved himself wisely.

Check for understanding

1. What is the biblical definition of envy and how can it be closely related to jealousy?
2. What was the Turning point in the relationship between Saul and David's relationship
3. How did Saul try to resolve the Conflict that he had with David?

Life application: We have learned in this lesson how easy it is for envy to seep into your life no matter what position of prominence you hold. We must be prayed up in order to make sure that we don't have any under girding or underlining envy or jealousy toward someone that is attempting to give God glory through their God given gift and purpose.