

*The*  
*Shepherd-King*  
*Sample Pages*  
*Lesson/Week 4*



[www.thedisciplecurriculum.com](http://www.thedisciplecurriculum.com)

If you have completed The Disciple Curriculum Year 1: The Creator, you are ready for Year 2: The Shepherd-King. Although the underlying principles and values of The Disciple Curriculum will carry over from year to year (for example, memorization, emphasis on redemptive history, and a Reformed doctrinal point of view), there are aspects of the story of the kingdom which demand a different teaching approach. The following pages will highlight the major differences between The Creator and The Shepherd-King.

*Note: You will notice that the final quarter of The Shepherd-King study contains memorization from Revelation. Our approach in teaching portions of Revelation is not to introduce controversial eschatological views, but to present the Christ of the present and coming kingdom in all his glory, as portrayed through John's visions. Likewise, the use of Acts along with Revelation in the final quarter of the study is not to establish doctrines on Church life (i.e., baptism, tongues, church leadership, etc), rather to illuminate the power of the gospel "seed" in the spreading of God's kingdom to the ends of the earth.*

Student Pages for Lesson 4 are not included in this packet. However, be aware that in Year 2 there are fewer student worksheet pages and more Bible reading assignments/writing assignments given for student work.

The Memory Passages and Storylines book follows the same format as in The Creator, so sample pages are not included.

Resources needed for Year 2:

The Shepherd-King Lesson Book  
The Shepherd-King Student Pages (download)  
A Rock's Story  
The Shepherd-King Memory Passages and Storylines  
The Shepherd-King Memory Passages for Singing

Additional outside materials:

*Reproducible Maps, Charts, and Timelines*  
*A House For My Name* by Peter J. Leithart (for Lessons 1-18)  
*The Victory According to Mark* by Mark Horne (for Lessons 19-28)  
*The Returning King* by Vern Poythress (for Lessons 29-36)

Hannah Ploegstra

## Overview of Lessons in Year 2: The Shepherd-King

Lesson/Week	Memory passage	Bible reading
1	Psalm 24	Genesis 1-9
2	Psalm 29	Genesis 11,12,15
3	Psalm 23	1 Samuel 8-10,12-13,15-16
4	Psalm 2	1 Samuel 17,18
5	Psalm 2	1 Samuel 19-23
6	Psalm 26	1 Samuel 24-30
7	2 Samuel 7:1-16	1 Samuel 31-2 Samuel 5
8	2 Samuel 7:1-16	2 Samuel 7,9,11-12
9	Psalm 72	1 Kings 1,3-6
10	Psalm 72	1 Kings 7-10
11	1 Kings 11:29-36	1 Kings 11,12,14
12	list of kings	1 Kings 16-19; 2 Kings 17
13	Jeremiah 23:1-6	2 Kings 18-23
14	Jeremiah 25:1-12	2 Kings 23-25
15	Daniel 2	Daniel 1-4
16	Daniel 2	Daniel 5-6; Ezra 1-3
17	Daniel 2	Daniel 7:1-18; Nehemiah 1-2,12-13
18	Daniel 2	Ezekiel 37; Isaiah 40,51,52

## Overview of Lessons in Year 2: The Shepherd-King

Lesson/Week	Memory passage	Bible reading
19	Micah 5:1-5	Matthew 1,2
20	Mark 1:9-15	Mark 1-2
21	Mark 4:2-9	Mark 3-4
22	Mark 4:13-20	Mark 5-6
23	Mark 6:34-44	Mark 7-8
24	John 10:11-18	John 10
25	Mark 11:1-11	Mark 9-10
26	Mark 15	Mark 11-12
27	Mark 15	Mark 13-14
28	Mark 15	Mark 15-16
29	Acts 1:3,6-11	Acts 1,2
30	Revelation 1	Acts 3,5
31	Revelation 1	Acts 6-8
32	Revelation 1	Acts 9
33	Revelation 4	Acts 13
34	Revelation 4	Acts 15
35	Revelation 19:11-16	Revelation 19-20
36	Revelation 22:12-21	Revelation 21-22

## 4. Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire  
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth take their stand  
and the rulers gather together  
against the Lord  
and against his Anointed One.

3 “Let us break their chains,” they say,  
“and throw off their fetters.”

4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;  
the Lord scoffs at them.

5 Then he rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

6 “I have installed my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”

*(continued in Lesson 5)*

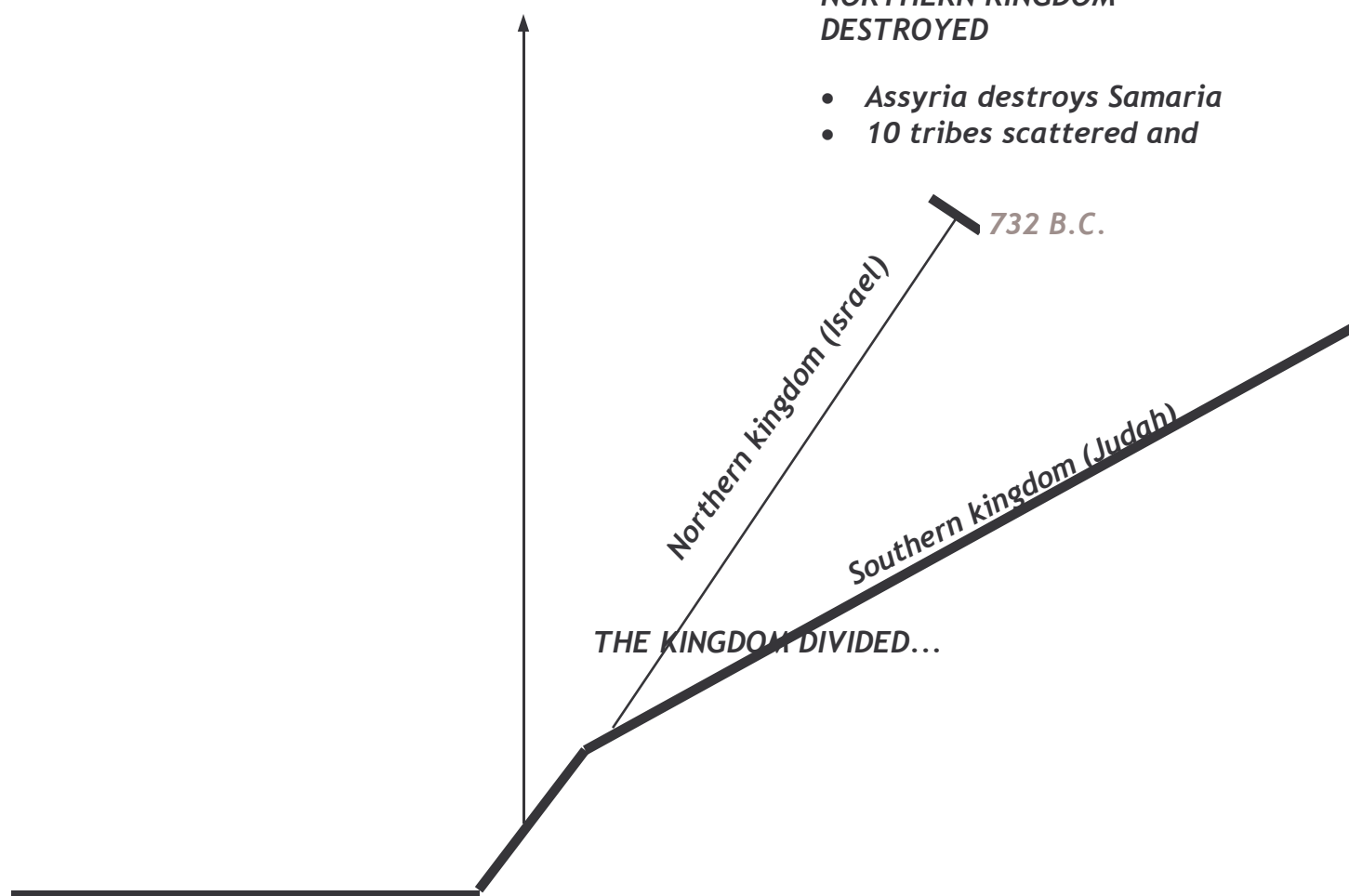
## Storyline 3

### **IDOLATRY IN GOD'S KINGDOM**

- *Solomon becomes king*
- *Solomon builds temple*
- *Solomon commits idolatry*

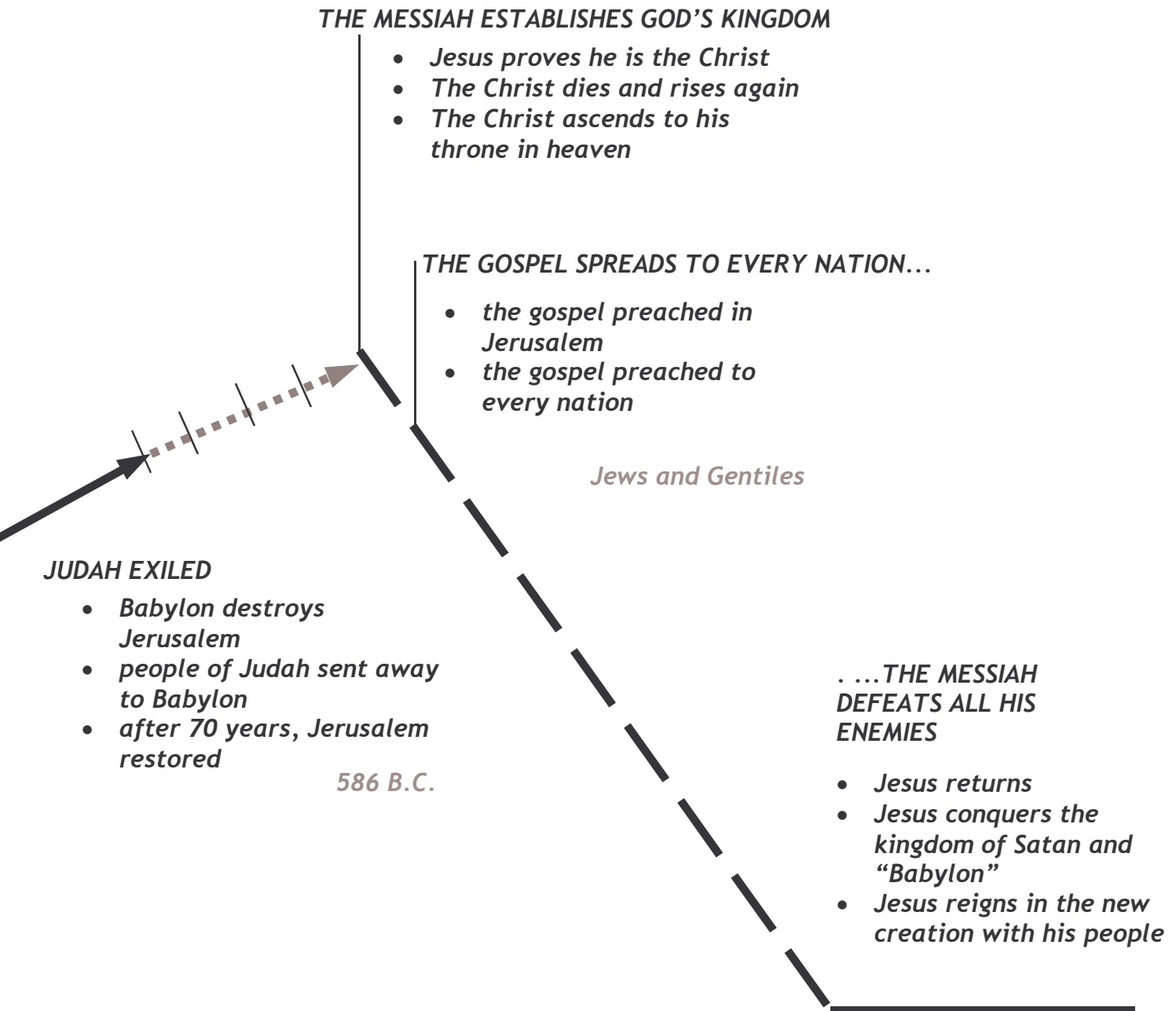
### **NORTHERN KINGDOM DESTROYED**

- *Assyria destroys Samaria*
- *10 tribes scattered and*



### **DAVID IN ISRAEL**

- *David is anointed*
- *David kills Goliath*
- *David flees from Saul*
- *David becomes king*
- *God makes a covenant*



## The Kingdom Story

LESSON 4

Storyline 3 “The Kingdom Story”

Memory Passage: Psalm 2

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 17,18

Map: page 59

Teacher Prep:

- Copy maps for each child.
- Copy student pages for each child.

*Maps are copied from Reproducible Maps, Timelines, and Charts which you'll want to purchase before starting Year 2.*

4.1

*(Practice memory passage)*

1. Review Storyline 3 “The Kingdom Story”

Review the setting and main character in Part 1 of the Kingdom story:

*The land of Israel is the setting for our Kingdom story. (Setting is the place where the story happens, or begins.)*

*You can see on Storyline 3 (Part 1) that David is the main character in the Kingdom story. David was chosen by God to be the king over God's people.*

Review what we know about the setting, the land of Israel:

- The land was promised to the descendants of Abraham (Israel.)
- God gave them this land after he saved and led them out of Egypt.
- The land was known before as “Canaan.” There were many other nations living in this land around Israel. The people in those nations did not know who God was, and worshipped false gods (idols.) One of the main idols they worshipped was Baal. He was thought to be the god of thunder and rain.

Also review what we know about David, the main character so far. The students can tell what they remember from the Bible's first description of David in 1 Samuel 16:

*In Year 2 you will increase your students' understanding of story through the use of storylines.*

- He is the youngest in his family.
- He is a shepherd.
- He has a heart that pleases God.
- He is handsome and strong.

## 2. Review 1 Samuel 16

Have the students briefly retell (orally) the story of David's anointing. Here's how:

First discuss the storyline in 1 Samuel 16 (use the guide in Lesson 3.3 if you need to.) Then ask one or more of the students to tell the story in their own words. If you go first, you can demonstrate. Be sure to add in the suspense of the Part 2 question, and the gradual unveiling of the answer as each of Jesse's sons steps forward.

*NOTE: One of the unique and most important goals in the Disciple Curriculum is to make our children more conversant in "story." We believe that the ability to think, reason, and communicate in story is one of the most powerful tools in understanding and sharing the gospel. The prophets, apostles, and Christ himself were all master storytellers, and because they knew how to communicate what God had done in story, their message cut to the heart. Children are born understanding story! Nurture the storyteller in your child! And don't be afraid to nurture it in yourself, too!*

*Year 2 contains occasional fictional stories to illustrate concepts, similar to the theology lessons stories in Year 1.*

## 3. Read "Aaron and the Bear"

This story is a fictional story about a shepherd boy who defends his sheep against a bear. When David fought Goliath, he knew God would help him because God had helped him kill a lion and a bear with his own hands (1 Samuel 17:36,37). But the Bible doesn't give us this account (David and the bear.)

The image of a shepherd has become very romanticized to us. But a shepherd had to be brave in order to defend his sheep. He had to love them if he was a good shepherd. "Aaron and the Bear" will help your students visualize what David must have gone through to defend his sheep. In the next session (4.2) you can help them make the connection that just as God helped David defend David's sheep against a bear, so he helped him defend God's sheep (Israel) against Goliath.

## 4. Student writing

Students should copy the memory passage.

### 4.2

---

#### *(Practice memory passage)*

### 1. Review Storyline 3

David has been anointed king over Israel. But Saul is already the king. For a while, God will teach David what it means to depend on God for his strength and to trust God to lead him as he shepherds God's kingdom. Remember, David said "The Lord is MY shepherd" (Psalm 23:1).

The next story will teach us more about our main character, David. He is bold and brave. This story will show us that, but it will also show us WHY he is so bold and so brave.

### 2. Read 1 Samuel 17.

This story helps us to understand why God was so pleased about David, and why he was fit to be God's vassal king. Focus on what we learn about David from this story:

- He is defensive about God's glory (1 Samuel 17:26).
- He cares more about what God's reputation than he does about his own (1 Samuel 17:28).
- He is bold and brave (1 Samuel 17:32—compare with 17:24).
- He trusts in God's power (1 Samuel 17:36,37,45).
- He is humble about his own strength, and boastful about God's (1 Samuel 17:39,40,47).
- God is clearly on David's side and will give him success and victory (1 Samuel 17:50).

***Year 2 contains much more reading of the Biblical text than you did in Year 1.***

### 3. Highlight Storyline 3

## from *The Shepherd-King Lesson Book*

On Storyline 3, have the students highlight the following points in Part 1:  
***David kills Goliath***

Remind them that this story shows us more about our main character, David. As we learn the story of the Kingdom, we will see that David is regarded as the greatest king Israel had ever known, and as the standard for the one who would come as the Messiah. Stories like David's battle with Goliath help us to understand why David was so highly regarded, and how Israel knew that God was on his side.

### 4. Student writing

*Students' ability to summarize will be developed in Year 2.*

Students should write the story of David and Goliath. It may help to discuss the parts of the story first. *Younger students should discuss the story with you, and then dictate one sentence telling what David did when Goliath challenged the armies of God:*

- What is the setting of the story (1 Samuel 17:2)? ***Valley of Elah***
- Who is the main character in the story—the students might want to identify two (1 Samuel 17:4,12)? ***Goliath, David***
- What is the problem in the story? (1 Samuel 17:8-11.) ***Goliath has insulted the army of God and God himself, and challenged the Israelites to an impossible duel.***
- What steps are given in the story to fix the problem of Goliath's challenge (1 Samuel 17:17,20,32)? ***David is sent to bring bread; he hears Goliath shouting insults; he volunteers to fight Goliath*** [Not all of these details need be mentioned; the number of details chosen depends on the length of the story you want to tell. On the other hand, you could add more than these, too.]
- What is the solution to Goliath's challenge (1 Samuel 17:40,45,50)? ***David gathers 5 stones; he defends God's glory; he kills Goliath.***
- How does the story end (1 Samuel 17:58)? ***David introduces himself to the king.***

## 4.3

---

*(Practice memory passage)*

### 1. Review Storyline 3

Review the setting and main character of the Kingdom story. What have we learned about David in 1 Samuel 17 (David and Goliath)? ***review points from 4.2 step #2.***

## 2. Read 1 Samuel 18

Focus on David's relationship with Saul:

- God's anointed king is loved by those who love God, and hated by those who are driven by love of themselves. This was no different for David than it was for Jesus Christ. Those who fancy themselves to be in power forget that God is in power, and that only those who serve him will maintain power.
- Jonathan's love for David shows that when two people are joined in their love for God, that friendship overshadows even blood relationships. Jesus said about those who do his Father's will, "These are my mother and brothers" (Mark 3:32-35).
- In verse 10, God has command over the evil spirit that torments Saul. It seems that those who are against God's anointed king are against God himself. Compare this concept to the memory passage (Psalm 2).
- After Saul sees God's favor upon David, he becomes David's enemy for the rest of his days (1 Samuel 18:29).
- Notice that God is providentially moving David closer into the king's inner circle, even as the king's distaste for David increases. First David was a harpist for Saul; next he was Saul's greatest soldier; and now, he is Saul's own son-in-law!
- David's success in killing Goliath was only the first of many victories against the enemies of God. These victories formed the foundation of Israel's faith in David as God's anointed king. In their theology, victory in battle was the work of the Lord, "mighty in battle" (Psalm 24:8) and those who were victorious were certainly on the Lord's side. In the same way, the ministry of Jesus proved his victory over Satan and over sin and sickness, and his resurrection proved his victory over the most undefeated giant of all: death. Like David, Jesus clearly had the Lord on his side.

These attributes should remind you of Jesus Christ. He also did not fulfill the expected form of God's Messiah, yet he showed the worthiness and power to rule over and provide for God's people.

## 3. Map

On the lower left-hand map, highlight or circle the Valley of Elah where David killed Goliath. This map shows a close-up; have the students also draw a map of the whole land of Israel and mark the place of David's battle with Goliath on that map. It should be directly west of the Salt Sea, halfway to the Great

## from *The Shepherd-King Lesson Book*

Sea.

They can also put Bethlehem on their map, as well as Jebus. Tell them that Jebus would later become Jerusalem, when David conquered it as the King.

### 4. Student writing

Students should write a summary of one of the two parts of 1 Samuel 18:

- The Parade (1 Samuel 18:1-11) OR
- Son-In-Law of the King (1 Samuel 18:12-30)

#### 4.4

#### *(Practice memory passage)*

##### 1. Bible facts

*In Year 2, students will memorize the books of the Bible in order and in their respective genres.*

*Student Page 4.2*

##### 2. A Rock's Story

Read chapter 4 of *A Rock's Story* by Hannah Ploegstra.

##### 3. Focus study—Psalm 2:1-6

This Psalm is a prophecy of Christ, God's Anointed One (:2) and his own Son (:7). But, as a "type" of Christ (one who comes before Christ as a picture of Christ), David is also called God's "anointed one," and his "son."

*The emphasis in Year 2 is history, rather than systematic theology. Although there are not weekly stories to illustrate theological concepts, you will read one chapter a week from "A Rock's Story" by Hannah Ploegstra. This story traces the adventures of a humble rock who finds himself in key places at key times to witness the hand of God in the story of God's kingdom. (Samples of Chapters 1 and 4 are included in this packet.)*

*In Year 2 the memory passages will highlight aspects of the character of God's Anointed King as well as the nature of his Kingdom. The story of the Kingdom is presented through Bible readings rather than memory passages.*

This week you read two stories about the nations (Goliath) and the kings of the earth (Saul) rising up against the Lord's anointed one. Discuss the following questions about these stories and how they relate to Psalm 2:

- a. How did Goliath rise up against the Lord? ***He insulted the Lord. He also despised David (the Lord's anointed).*** [1 Samuel 17:10,42]
- b. How did Saul do the same, even though he was the king of Israel?

## from *The Shepherd-King Lesson Book*

*He was jealous of David and tried to kill David because God was with David. [1 Samuel 18:9,11,29]*

- c. How did God rebuke Goliath in his anger? *He helped David to kill him with one small stone, and then the army of Israel won a great victory over the Philistines. [1 Samuel 17:51-54]*
- d. How did God terrify Saul in his wrath? *He “left him.” He also sent an evil spirit to torment him. And he made Saul afraid of David. [1 Samuel 18:10,12,28-29]*
- e. In Psalm 2:6, God says, “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.” There is nothing God’s enemies can do against God’s anointed king, no matter how hard they try, because God is on his side and will fight for him. This truth was fully proven in Christ, when his enemies killed him and he rose up from the dead. Even death couldn’t hold him down.

### 4.5

---

*(Practice memory passage)*

#### 1. Test

*Student Page 4.3*

Chapter 4  
**FROM THE SLING**  
THE VALLEY OF ELAH

I left our story by telling you that David had gone to the palace of King Saul, and that he had been chosen to be the king himself, and that the reason I knew all of this was that David had come back to pick me up out of the stream and take me there.

Maybe you're wondering, why would David think of me, and how did he know I was there? Well, of course, he didn't know *I* was there. I was nothing more than one rock out of a million rocks he could have picked up out of the stream. And he had no idea that I had been with him in the fields, listening to him sing to his sheep. But there is a reason David needed a rock. And I just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

But first, let me tell you more about David. After the soldiers came, and dropped me in the stream, David began in the service of the king, playing his harp whenever the King grew restless or irritated. King Saul, you must know, was a very moody king. He was known to fly into fits and throw things at people. He had a terrible, sullen temper. David's harp, it seemed, calmed him. So David went back and forth between his sheep and the king, calming and soothing in the field and in the palace. I might not have ever known this, except that on sunny days when the wind was soft and the whisper of the voice of thunder was particularly clear, David would take the long way down from Gibeah, where King Saul lived, to his sheep in Bethlehem, carrying his harp. He'd come down the valley, to the stream where I happened to be, and wander slowly back home, humming, sometimes dancing, and looking up to the sky. And sometimes he would pray. I heard these prayers, and I knew of his experience with Saul, and of his treasured moments with the sheep, of his hopes and dreams of greatness in service to the Creator. I could see very well that he prayed to the Creator because his voice seemed to point always in the very same direction from which I could hear the thunder whispering. I never saw that David could hear the thunder, but then, maybe he did, too.

Anyhow, he seemed to like the little stream in the valley and went there often.

Then, one day, there were soldiers on both sides of the valley—an army camped to the west and one to the east. And I was in the middle, resting in the stream in the valley.

The soldiers to the west were shouting and beating their armor. It seemed they were taunting the other army. And the other army—Saul's army, I guessed—were hunched over, sharpening their swords, muttering to one another, throwing hateful glances at the army to the west.

One soldier in particular, who was frightfully tall, and whose muscles and veins bulged from his skin like whole beasts inside of him, rose up from the army to the west and took his stand, and began wailing at the other army. He shouted offenses at them, and dared them to come and fight him, shaking his fists. This went on for a very long time while I sat there in the stream.

And then I saw David in the distance, coming from the direction of Bethlehem

## *from A Rock's Story*

with a basket of bread. He set down the bread and spoke with some of the soldiers, glancing over his shoulder at the giant. Then he ran off, to the tent where Saul was, and disappeared. He emerged again with a ridiculously large suit of armor, then stooped again to enter the tent, and came out again with his regular clothes on. Then he ran down the hill toward the giant.

The other soldiers shouted at him—I could tell by now that they were his older brothers. They were angry and desperate, shouting, “David! You fool kid! Come back here! Who do you think you are?”

But David had set his eyes on the giant and was charging down the hill with no intention of stopping. Then, when his bare feet splashed into the stream, directly above me, he stopped and looked down. Right at me. The look on his face was exactly the same look he had had that day in the field when he bent over me with the fist full of bloody lion’s mane. Then he bent over and picked me—and four other stones—up and slipped us into the pouch around his waist.

He stepped out of the stream onto the other side. Silence was all around me, on both sides, as if the very wind were holding its breath. I could not see from inside that pouch, but I could hear. You may not know that rocks have a very acute sense of hearing.

And then, we inside the pouch began to knock against one another and against David’s hip as he ran up the western hill. He was shouting in his boyish voice, and I made out the words “I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...” He shouted and shouted in a steady roar of anger and passion, and then his hand came into the bag and pulled out the stone that had been bumping up against me. I heard a whirring, and David stopped, planted his feet, and then a sharp jerk, and then the silence that had given way to David’s shouting fell upon us all again.

And there was a giant thud.

Then, the roar from the east came up behind me like a wave, and David moved again, steadily towards the giant, and bent over, and I slipped to the opening of the pouch, only a fraction of an inch from falling out. From the opening I saw the giant’s mangled, greasy hair and felt the steam of his nostrils as they flared with his last breath. The rock that David had struck him with was lodged in his forehead, all bloody and hot.

David stood up again and I heard a shout, and the ring of a sword, and then another ring, and then silence again. And then the army from the east let up another victorious shout, and the thunder of their feet moved toward us, and then passed us as David watched them chase the army of the giant back up over the hill. It was a great victory for Saul’s army that day.

David washed his hands in the stream. He wiped water over his head and drank. Then a voice from behind said, “David, come. The king wants a word with you.”