

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 13

I Chronicles

Objects to have:

The sign reading: I CHRONICLES

King David Again

Bulletin board and thumbtacks

Cards with one of these names on each: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel,  
King Saul

Chalk and chalkboard

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review with the children the names of the books of the Bible which have been studied thus far. Tell the children the name of the new book, I CHRONICLES, KING DAVID AGAIN.)

I Chronicles starts out by naming lots of people. We have already heard some things that the Bible tells about them. First Chronicles tells us more about them. (Put up on the board your cards with the names of the major characters whom we have studied so far, and say the names while doing so. If time permits at the end of the lesson, review some of the things which the children have learned about these people.)

Telling the story:

God told the preacher Samuel to choose Saul to be the first king over Israel. God wanted Saul to be a good king. King Saul started out to be a good king; then King Saul got proud. He wanted the people to praise him. He did not want people to praise God nor to praise other people.

God saw what King Saul was doing. God also knew what King Saul was thinking. God knew how King Saul felt about God. God saw that King Saul did not love God, that King Saul loved King Saul. God knew about King Saul's pride. God decided something. God decided that King Saul could not be king any longer.

You will remember this part of the story: God told Samuel (draw a stick figure to represent Samuel) to go choose a new king. He told him to go to the city of Bethlehem. He told him to find a man there by the name of Jesse. "Samuel," said God, "I will tell you which one of Jesse's sons should be the king." (Draw a stick figure for Jesse.) Seven of Jesse's sons stood in front of Samuel. Samuel looked at each son—one-by-one. God let Samuel know that He—God—did not choose any of the sons that were with Jesse.

Samuel turned to Jesse, "Are these all your sons? Do you not have one more son?"

Jesse said, "Oh, yes, I have one more son, but he is just a shepherd. He is out in the fields now taking care of the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for that son." Someone went to get David from the field. David came and stood in front of Samuel. (Draw a stick figure for David.) God told Samuel, "This young shepherd boy will be the next king of Israel. Tell him so."

David did not become king right away, and this part of our story is a favorite of ours. One day after Samuel had come to see Jesse and his sons, David was left at home with his father. His brothers went to war. They went to help fight the Philistines. David had to stay home to do jobs at home and to take care of the sheep. One day David's father said, "Take some food to your brothers. Find out how the war is going."

David went to where his brothers were fighting in the war. He expected to hear the sound of battle, of swords clashing together and of spears flying through the air and of horses running and of men charging each other. As David got closer to where the battle should have been taking place, he did not hear these things. When David got to the hill where the Israelite army was, he heard someone calling in a loud voice from the hill where the Philistine army was, "Who will come to fight me?" David was hearing the voice of the giant Philistine called Goliath. No Israelite soldier wanted to go fight Goliath.

David said, "I will fight him. God, Whom I love, will take care of me." David's brothers laughed at David. King Saul was afraid for David. David's brothers and King Saul thought that David could not fight Goliath, but David did fight Goliath. With one stone he killed Goliath. God helped David; David had known that He would.

This is a new part of our story: The battle with the Philistines ended. The soldiers could go home. When the people back home heard what David had done, they praised David. That made King Saul very angry. King Saul wanted to kill David! From then on every chance King Saul got, he did something to try to kill David, but God took care of David.

One day one of the Israelite men who loved God went to David. (Draw a stick figure next to David.) "David, I am on your side," he said. "I love God and I want to do right. I believe that you love God too, and that you want to do right. I will be your friend." It wasn't long until another man came to David (draw another stick figure near David), and said the same thing. (Draw several stick figures around David while saying the following.) And another. And another. And another. Seventy men came to David and said that they wanted to be his friend. These men were strong men. When they walked, they walked with big men's steps. They took care of their bodies: they were clean, they ate their meat and vegetables and fruit and drank their milk, they went to bed on time each night, they did not smoke or take drugs or drink liquor. They were young men who took care of themselves as God wanted them to do. They were mighty men. They decided to be David's mighty men.

Then other men joined David; he had an army. David and his army were in war against the Philistine army again.

David and three of his mighty men were in a cave high on a hill. Down in the valley was the Philistine army who had come to fight the Israelites again. At the other end of that valley was the city of Bethlehem. David from his cave looked down across the valley and saw Bethlehem. He began to think of home; he got homesick.

David realized that he was thirsty. He thought about the well that was in the middle of the town of Bethlehem. As a boy he had gone often to that well and pulled up a bucket filled with water, poured the water into a jar, and carried it home. David thought, "That is good water in that well. I have never tasted water anywhere as good as that water. Out loud David said, "Boy, would I love to have a drink of the water from the well in Bethlehem." Of course, David knew that he could not get a drink of that water. The enemy army was between him and that well of water.

Three of his mighty men, however, heard him say this. They thought, "Our friend, David, would like a drink of that water. We are going to get it for him." David did not know that his three friends left the cave. They sneaked down the hillside so that the enemy would not see them. One of the men carried a bottle with him. The three mighty men got to the edge of the enemy camp. So far they were safe. Very quietly they crept past the guard post. So far, so good. The enemy had not seen them. They went through the enemy camp. The enemy was all around them, but no one noticed them. Finally, they safely reached the city of Bethlehem. They walked to the well. They let down the bottle into the well. They pulled up the bottle that was filled with water.

Then they had to think about how they were going to get through the enemy camp once more so that they could get back to David. Once again they sneaked through the enemy camp. They climbed the hill, and walked into the cave.

“David,” these three mighty men said, “we got for you the drink of water that you wanted.” When David saw the jar with the water in it, he felt happy and sad all at the same time. He looked at these three mighty men and realized how much they loved him. They had gone through great danger to get something that their friend David wanted. I think that tears came down David’s face when he saw how much they loved him.

David took the bottle which they gave him. He looked at the water inside the jar. Then David said, “I cannot drink this water. I am grateful to God for your love for me. Because He has given me such good friends as you are, I am going to pour this water out as an offering to God.” David poured the water which he had wanted so badly onto the ground, as an offering to God.

Sometime after that David really became the king, and God always took care of him, even when one time David sinned a bad sin.

David was sorry for his sin and God forgave him. After many years David got old; he knew that he would soon die. Somebody else should become the new king. David chose Solomon his son to become the new king.

David talked to Solomon. David said, “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.” (After quoting this verse to the children, show them that it is found in I Chronicles 28:9.)

God sees what is in our hearts, too. He looks into our hearts to see whether there is good or whether there is bad in them. If we will always follow Him, God will take care of us, too.

LET’S LEARN THIS PART OF OUR BIBLE VERSE: I Chronicles 28:9, “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind....”