1 Samuel 18

*“Choices”*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:1-30

**Memory Verse:** “*And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.”*

1 Samuel 18:14

**Lesson Focus:** Everyone has a choice to follow God or not!

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Page; Word Search

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: “I Chose to make Wise Choices”

**Introduction:** “Make a Choice Game”

 Tell the kids: everyone has choices that they make every day. I am going to give you a

 list to two things and all of you have to raise their hand for the choice that they make.

1. Choose to go to Church / or choose to stay home
2. Choose to do your homework / or choose to play video games
3. Choose to stand up for the child being bullied / or choose to join in on the bullying.
4. Choose to eat a apple / or choose to eat a bag of candy
5. Choose to obey your parents / or choose to not obey your parents
6. Choose to Worship / or choose not to worship
7. Choose to be thankful or choose to not be thankful

Ask the kids: Do you make many choices every day? Are all of them good choices? Should there be consequences for bad choices?

Today we are going to look at the life of Saul and see the bad choices he makes. And we are going to look at the life of David and see the good choices he makes.

**Bible Study:**

 **1 Samuel 18:1-4 “David and Jonathan”**

David has just killed Goliath the giant in the last chapter. Saul talks to David and asks him who he is.

 √ What is your soul?

 √ How does it describe Jonathan and David’s relationship?

 √ What does it mean that “their souls where knit together?”

The word for “soul” means to be “bound.” They became the best of friends and they cared deeply for one another. They were “bound” together as good friends. They were BFF’s.

√ What did Saul do with David that day? (Would not let him go home and took

 him to his house.)

 √ What is a covenant? (A promise)

 √ What “promise” did Jonathan and David make? (We are not told specifically

here but we know in later verses that they promised to take care of one another.) Jonathan gave David his royal clothes and sword because he knew that David was to be the next king. Jonathan was not jealous of the fact that he would not be the king – even though he was the son of Saul.

 **1 Samuel 18:5- “Wise Choices and Bad Choices”**

**David’s Wise Choices Saul’s’ Bad Choices**

David Obeyed Saul (18:5) Saul becomes jealous of David (18:8)

 **Result**: Accepted by all the men of war **Result**: Saul “eyed” David or

 Accepted by Saul’s servants became suspicious.

 Won the war with the Philistine’s Saul had a distressing spirit

 David escaped Saul’s sword 2x’s Saul threw a spear at David

David behaved wisely in all his ways (18:14) Saul was afraid of David because God was with him. 18:12

**Result:** David was made captain **Result:** Removes David from his

 Presence

 All Israel loved David Lies about giving his

 daughter to David

David does not think that he is worthy Hopes that the Philistines

 To be the Kings son-in-law will kill David

 Saul’s daughter “Michal”

 loves David and Saul hopes that she will cause David to falter.

David obeys Saul and kills 200 of the enemy Sends David on a deadly mission

David marries Saul’s daughter Saul became David’s enemy

David name is highly esteemed

 The story of David and Saul is the story of choices. This chapter tells us several times

that “David behaved wisely.” David made wise choices with his life and Saul made unwise choices in his life. Saul knew that God was no longer on his side. He saw that God was on David’s side. That God was blessing David. Saul became very jealous and fearful. He gave into his bad heart. He made the choice to not follow God and to try to get David killed. Saul tried to kill David by throwing his own spear two times. Then Saul changed gears and tried to scheme ways that the enemy the Philistines would kill David for him. Saul even lied about giving his own daughter to him as a bride. In every choice Saul chose wrongly and David chose God.

What choices will you make? Will you choose to God’s ways and live a wise life like David? Or will you choose unwisely. Will you give excuses for the bad choices that you make? If you follow Jesus and if you belong to Him then the Holy Spirit inside of you will help you make the wise choice. But you have to ask! The Bible says that God will not withhold anything if you ask Him according to His will. (1 John 5:14) That means if you ask God to help you to make the right choice – then He will do it. God’s will for us is to be like Jesus. Wise choices are the choices that Jesus would make.

Take time this next week to think about the choices that you make. Take time to ask God to help you. Take the time to ask forgiveness of the bad choices that you made. Every day is a new day for wise choices.