1 Samuel 23

*“Hide and Seek”*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 23:1-29

**Memory Verse:** *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God.”* Philippians 4:6

**Lesson Focus:** David turns to God for guidance.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring picture; Activity page

Craft: Stained glass Prayer reminder picture. Tell the kids to fill in the back of the window by

Gluing pieces of tissue paper to the back of their window.

**Introduction:** Hide and seek. Take one object and hide it in the room. Then pick one child

to find the object. Tell them when they are hot or cold. When they find the object you may hide it again and play with several different children. Tell them that today in our Bible story we will see David hiding from Saul. This hide and seek is different – because David is hiding for his life.

**Bible Study:**

 Review:

 √ Where is David? (running and hiding from King Saul)

 √ Why is David hiding? (because Saul wants to kill him)

 √ Who is with David? (400 men – 1 Samuel 22:2)

 **1 Samuel 23:1-4 – “***David and His men Save the Day”*

 √ What problem are David and his men told about? (That the Philistines were fighting

 against Kerilah and robbing them.)

 √ What did David do? (He prayed and asked God if he should go and fight the

 Philistines.)

√ Do you think that prayer is important? Why?

 David’s first reaction when he was presented with a problem was to pray and

 ask for God’s direction. He did not gather his men together and have a war counsel. He just went to God in prayer.

√ Did David get an answer from God? (yes)

√ What did God tell David to do? (fight the Philistines and save Keilah)

 √ Did David’s men agree on attaching the Philistines? (no – they were afraid and they

 felt vulnerable.)

 √ What did David do? (He prayed once again.)

 √ Did God answer? (yes, he told him again to go and fight.) Who would win the battle

 for David? (God)

David understood the power of prayer. David understood that God was the one who won his battles. David was not about to go ahead with a plan or listen to his men without asking for God’s direction.

What can we learn about prayer from these verses?

1. Go to God first in prayer.
2. God will help us know the direction we should go.
3. Prayer does not need to be long but quick “missile” prayers keep our communication with God open at all times.
4. God does not care if we ask him once or twice about the same thing – He just wants us to come to him with the right heart that is trusting in God for direction.
5. God reminds David that it is He who wins the battles in our lives. God is very patient with us. He reminds us many times in our lives to follow what He says. He reminds us through prayer, through reading the word or through people that speak for Him.

√ Did David and his men fight the Philistines? (Yes and they won and saved the people

 of Keilah.)

 **1 Samuel 23:6-13 *“Saul’s Plan”***

1. Saul hears that David and his men are at Keilah
2. Saul believes that God has delivered David into his hands
3. Saul called his army to go down against David

1 Samuel 23:9-12 – *“David’s Prayers”*

1. David heard that Saul was plotting to kill him
2. David prays and asks God two things.
	1. Will Saul come down to kill me – God says yes, he will come down
	2. Will the people of Keilah deliver me into Saul’s hands – God says that they will deliver you.

√ What is the difference between David and Saul when they make plans?

1. Saul claims that God has given David into his hands
2. David seeks God to know what to do.

The difference between these two men is very clear. People claim to be doing things for God without ever seeking God and asking God for guidance. Words are cheap. God knows our heart. Don’t claim to be doing something for God – when you have not sought God in prayer and asked Him for clear direction and guidance. (Proverbs 3:5-6) David clearly sought God’s guidance. God was his source of strength.

 √ How do you think that David felt when God said that the town that he just

 fought the Philistines to save would betray him to King Saul?

 √ How many men does David have now? (600)

 √ What did David and his men do? (They escaped and went wherever they

 could.)

 **1 Samuel 23:14-18 –** *“Saul’s Search”*

 √ Where did David stay? (in strongholds and in the wilderness in the mountains)

 √ How often did Saul look for David? (every day)

 √ Who was on David’s side? (God did not deliver him to Saul)

 **David and Jonathan:**

√ What did Jonathan do for David? (he found him and “strengthened his hand

 in God.”)

Jonathan knew that his father was out to kill his best friend David. Jonathan took his life in his hands to go against his father and to find David to encourage him in the Lord. This is the kind of friend I would want.

 √ What did Jonathan say to David?

1. Don’t fear – my father will not find you
2. You will be king over Israel – and I will be next to you

Jonathan knew that David was going to be the next King and that God was with David. Jonathan was not jealous that he was not going to be king. So Jonathan and David renewed their promise to each other that they would take care of each other’s households.

**1 Samuel 23:19-23 – “***Saul’s Plan”*

 √ Who came to tell Saul where David was? (the Ziphites)

 √ How does Saul describe David’s character? (crafty)

 √ What does Saul want to know from these people? (He wants to know exactly

where David is. He does not want to waste time looking. He asks them to do the work for him.)

 **1 Samuel 23:24-29 –** *“The Chase!”*

 Saul is seeking to find David to kill him and David is running from Saul. They both

go from one place to another. They even end up on the same mountain – but they were on opposite sides.

As we read this story in the Bible it almost seems comical. It is like the hide and seek game we play.

√ Do you get afraid some times when you play “hide & seek?” Why? We get afraid because we do not want to get caught. David and his men are running for their lives. They don’t want to get caught and we will know from the next chapter that David does not want to fight Saul.

But in the middle of all of this “hide & seek” Saul gets a message.

√ What is the message Saul gets? (The Philistines have invaded their land.)

Saul is still king of Israel. He still has a job to do. You can bet that the Philistines knew of Saul’s hatred for David and they knew that Saul is away chasing David. The enemy always attacks when we are distracted by things that take us away from what we are supposed to be doing.

**Conclusion:**

1. How many times do you pray first when something goes wrong in your life?
2. Why don’t we pray first?
3. What can you do to remember to go to God in prayer as your first action when things go wrong?