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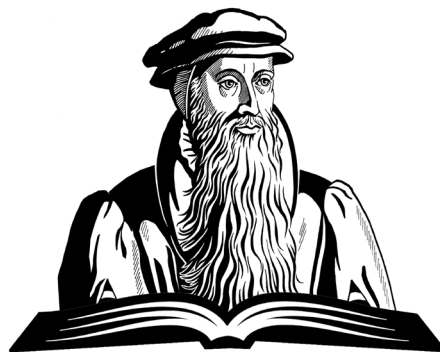
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 57:

The Last Days of Saul

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Mr. Daniel Van Brugge is a teacher at Timothy Christian School in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

www.timothychristian.ca

Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

77 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit / Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of the Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
- 57. The Last Days of Saul**
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah

Lesson 57

The Last Days of Saul

The First Book of Samuel, chapters 26 thru 31

Memory Verse

“Destroy him not, for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?”

1 Samuel 26:9

Historical Summary

Once before, David could easily have killed Saul while he was in the cave. Now he receives another opportunity when Saul lay sleeping in his trench. Instead, he snuck into the camp and took Saul’s spear, then called to him from the top of the hill to wake him. Once again, Saul realized David could have killed him, and he was ashamed of his conduct. This time he stopped pursuing David, and returned to his place.

Saul’s repeated attempts to kill David made David very discouraged. He sought a safe place amid the Philistines with Achish in Gath. There he actually became a friend of Achish, and Achish gave him a place called Ziklag, where he could live with all his household. From there, he secretly attacked the enemies of Israel, and Achish did not know he was doing that.

So there was going to be a war between the Philistines and the Israelites while David and his men were living in Ziklag. Achish gathered his army, and David and his men were included. But the princes of Achish did not trust David to fight against Israel, and they wanted Achish to send David away. At first, Achish refused, but eventually he sent David back to Ziklag.

When David and his men returned to Ziklag, they found that the city had been burned, and their wives and children had been captured, and all their goods were stolen. David and his men were greatly distressed. But David asked counsel from God, and the Lord told him to pursue and to recover that which was lost. They found an Egyptian who told him where the army was. They conducted a surprise attack, and retrieved everyone and everything that had been taken.

Meanwhile, the Philistines gathered to make war against Saul in Israel. Saul inquired of the Lord about whether he should fight against them. But the Lord did not answer Saul. Saul then went to a witch in Endor to ask her advice. Her answer made Saul very afraid. He was told the Lord would deliver Israel into the hand of the Philistines. But when he was given some food, he seemed comforted and went on his way.

So the Philistine army went out to meet the army of Israel in Jezreel. In this war, Jonathan was killed, and Saul was badly wounded. To avoid being brutally killed by the Philistines, Saul committed suicide by falling on his own sword. When his body was found, it was abused and hung up to display before the Philistines. Thus ended the wicked life of the first king of Israel.

The Gospel in the Old Testament

The conflict between the lives of Saul and David contains some rich spiritual lessons. It pictures the contrast between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. Ever since the fall in paradise, man, by nature, lives out his enmity against God. He lives selfishly, for this world, for pleasure, for honor, for wealth. There is no fear of God in his life. That is what is pictured in the life of Saul. But in Genesis 3:15, God said that he would put enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. By grace, there will be a people who fear the Lord, and who have a desire to walk in his ways, and to obey his commandments. The deepest desire of their heart is to live without sin, and one day they will receive the fulfillment of that desire in eternal glory. That is pictured in the life of David.

Grace to live and grace to die is made possible only through the work, the suffering, and the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith, David obtained righteousness and peace with God. His life reflected a desire for God's glory, and the advancement of God's kingdom. He also desired fellowship and communion with God. Read the Psalms—many of them are written by David. They reflect the heart of David, and the heart of all God's children, even today.

Questions

1. How did David show the second time that he could easily have killed Saul?
 - a. He took Saul's spear while he was sleeping
 - b. David's army was much larger than Saul's army.
 - c. He had control of Saul's food supply
 - d. He had taken several of Saul's men captive.
2. What was the name of the place given for David and his men to live?
 - a. Gath
 - b. Ziklag
 - c. Endor
 - d. Gibeah
3. Why did Saul seek advice from the witch of Endor.
 - a. Because Samuel was visiting another country.
 - b. Because God would not answer him anymore.
 - c. He wanted to know where David was hiding.
 - d. Because he knew she would tell him the truth.

4. Why did the princes of the Philistines distrust David?
 - a. Because they were afraid he would take their food.
 - b. Because David's men were mighty men of valor.
 - c. Because they feared David would turn against them in battle.
 - d. Because he had betrayed them once before.
5. Why did David want to share the spoils of war with all his men, not just with those who had actually engaged in a battle?
 - a. Because the battle had been won by the Lord, not by men.
 - b. Because they were all hungry regardless of what they did or did not do.
 - c. Some of his own family were those who had not gone into battle.
 - d. It was always the custom for them to do it in this way
6. How did Saul die?
 - a. He was killed by his armor bearer.
 - b. He fell on his own sword.
 - c. He was hung on cross.
 - d. He was hit with a large tree.

Discussions

1. How is David's conduct in 1 Samuel 26 a picture of the long-suffering mercy of God towards sinners?

2. What happened while David was in Ziklag that caused Achish to trust David?

3. Why do you think the Lord would no longer answer Saul?

4. How can you tell that Achish trusted David completely?

5. What spiritual truth is pictured in the family of David being taken captive and then recovered again?

6. Prove from this chapter that Satan will finally be defeated.

7. Show that the life of Saul and of David reflects the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God in this world.
