

1 Samuel 18:1-5 & 19:1-7

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why do you think King Saul wanted David in his army? See 1 Samuel 17.

David had killed Goliath, which enabled King Saul to gain a victory over the Philistines. He wanted valiant soldiers.

2. Why do you think Jonathan and David were kindred spirits?

The LORD was with both. The LORD drew them together. They were courageous and victorious soldiers who loved the LORD. They trusted in the LORD to give them victory over their enemies. The LORD bonded their souls together in love; therefore, Jonathan sacrificially gave up his desire to become king and did not fight David for the throne. David became his brother-in-law when he married Michal, Jonathan’s sister, so David became a part of the family. Probably they were both about the same age. They were both about the same size, for Jonathan’s armor fit David while King Saul’s did not.

3. Do you think Jonathan came to understand that David should become king instead of him?

Yes. I think he knew that because of his father's sin he would not succeed his father as king, and he knew what the prophet Samuel foretold his father. Furthermore, he probably saw that David was more suited to be king than he was, for all the people loved David and said he was greater than King Saul. They both loved the LORD and would have different destinies according to the will of God, and I believe Jonathan understood that fact and accepted that fact and retained his friendship with David.

4. Why do you think Jonathan gave David his battle dress?

He knew that it would help David in his battles and perhaps save his life. Jonathan and the army could get other armor and swords as the Philistines were defeated. By doing this, he showed David and the LORD that he had accepted the fact that David would become king instead of him, and as king David would need royal armor. The people would see David in Jonathan's armor and learn that Jonathan had given his claim to be king to David.

5. Why do you think King Saul wanted to kill David?

He was fearful and jealous of David, who showed that he was a better person and soldier than Saul. He may have wanted his dynasty to continue even though the LORD had told him it would not. Because of his rebellion, the LORD had left him, and the LORD sent an evil spirit to enter him and influence him to do try to kill David whom the LORD would always save. In David, Saul saw what he could have been if he had not rebelled against the LORD, and he became angry.