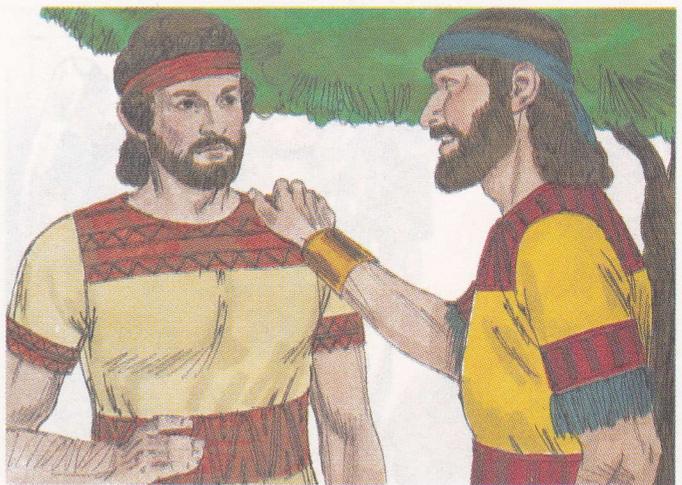


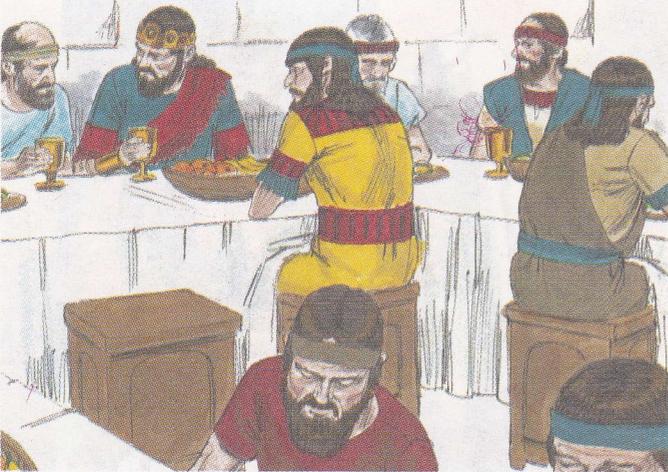
# David and Jonathan



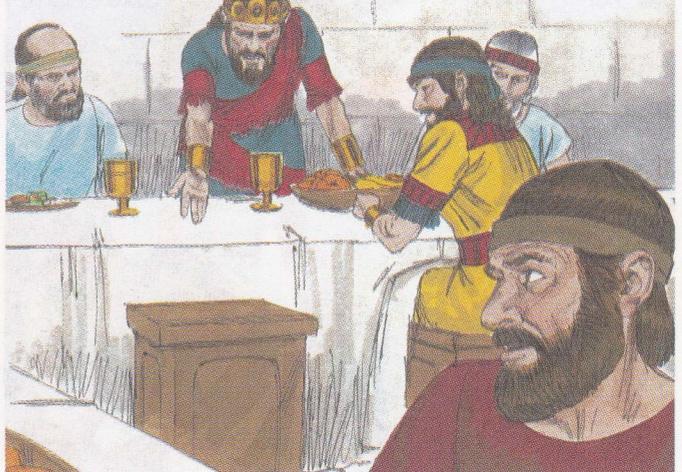
**1** Fearing for his life, David escaped from King Saul's men and fled to Ramah, where the prophet Samuel lived. But Saul soon learned where he was, so David went to Jonathan to ask for help.



**2** At first Jonathan couldn't believe his father would break his promise not to hurt David. Finally David convinced him. Then they made a plan, for David was to eat with Saul the next day.



**3** At the feast, Saul sat in his usual place, with Jonathan opposite him. David's place was empty. (He was hiding in a field waiting for Jonathan.) Saul said nothing about David that night.



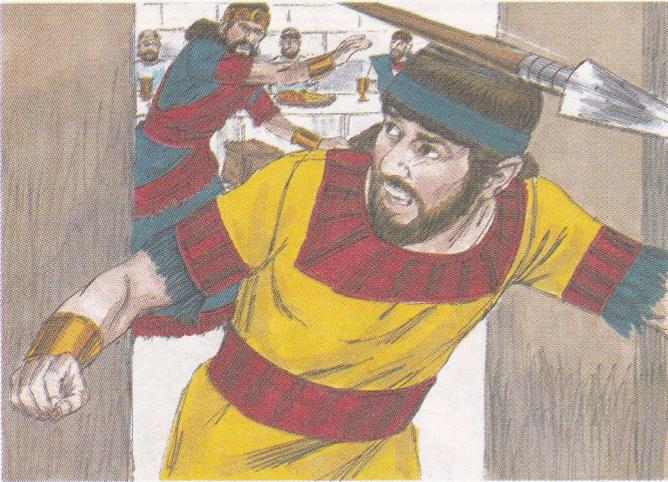
**4** Again the next night, David did not come to the feast. So Saul said to Jonathan, "Why did David not eat with us yesterday and today?"



**5** Jonathan replied, "David asked permission to go to Bethlehem. His family is offering a sacrifice, and his brother wanted him to come home for it. So I said he could go."



**6** Saul was furious. "Your friendship with David is a disgrace!" he shouted. "Don't you know that as long as David is alive, you can never become king yourself? David must die!"



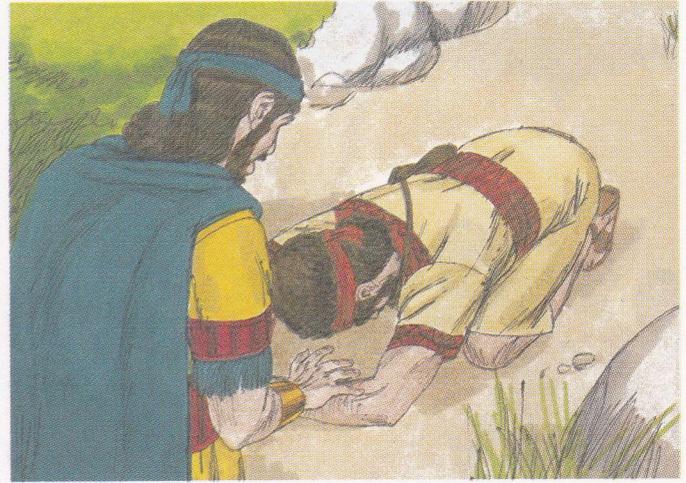
**7** "But why should David die?" Jonathan asked. "What has he done?" In anger Saul threw his spear at his own son. Now Jonathan knew that his father did indeed intend to kill David.



**8** The next day Jonathan went to the field where David was hiding. He shot some arrows beyond where his servant was standing and yelled, "They're past you. Hurry and bring them here."



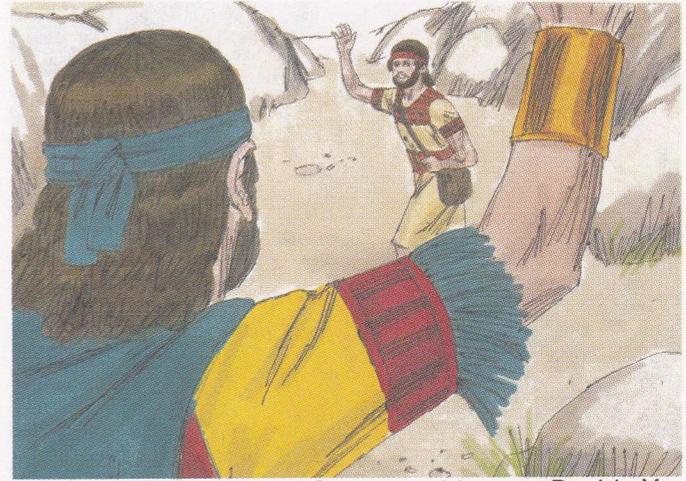
**9** The boy did not know, of course, that this was Jonathan's signal to David that he must go away. Jonathan then gave his bow and arrows to the boy and told him to take them back to town.



**10** When the boy had gone, David came out of hiding and fell on his knees before Jonathan, bowing with his face to the ground three times.



**11** Jonathan and David were very sad. They cried as they kissed each other goodbye. David cried even harder than Jonathan.



**12** Jonathan said, "God be with you, David. You and I, and our children, too, will always keep the promise of friendship we have made." So David left Jonathan and went away to hide from Saul.