

# SAUL ORDERS THE PRIESTS' DEATH

## *1 Samuel 22:6-23*

### **1 Samuel 22:6-23**

<sup>6</sup>Now Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered. And Saul, spear in hand, was seated under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, with all his officials standing around him. <sup>7</sup>Saul said to them, "Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds? <sup>8</sup>Is that why you have all conspired against me? No one tells me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is concerned about me or tells me that my son has incited my servant to lie in wait for me, as he does today."

<sup>9</sup>But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob. <sup>10</sup>Ahimelech inquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

<sup>11</sup>Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and his father's whole family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king. <sup>12</sup>Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub."

"Yes, my lord," he answered.

<sup>13</sup>Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?"

<sup>14</sup>Ahimelech answered the king, "Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household?"

<sup>15</sup>Was that day the first time I inquired of God

for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father's family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair."

<sup>16</sup>But the king said, "You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family."

<sup>17</sup>Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me."

But the king's officials were not willing to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

<sup>20</sup>But Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech son of Ahitub, escaped and fled to join David. <sup>21</sup>He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD. <sup>22</sup>Then David said to Abiathar: "That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family. <sup>23</sup>Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also. You will be safe with me."

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Why was Saul upset with Ahimelech?
5		2.) What did Saul order his guards to do?
5		3.) What happened to Ahimelech's son?
5		4.) Why do you think Saul wanted to kill David?

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 103:8</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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Picture from *Egermeier's Bible Story Book* by Elsie E. Egermeier. The Warner Press: Copyright © 1969.

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*Saul tells his guards to kill the priests*

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## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: NECKLACES

Students will make necklaces to remind them that, unlike King Saul, “the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”

### MATERIALS

1. 67 lb. White Cardstock
2. Necklace Pattern
3. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
4. Scissors
5. Yarn
6. Hole Punch
7. Fruit Ring Cereal
8. Tape



### DIRECTIONS

1. Make a copy of the necklace pattern for each student onto 67 lb. white cardstock.
2. Have students color the pieces of the necklace pattern.
3. Instruct students to cut out the necklace pieces.
4. Help them punch holes in each piece.
5. Cut pieces of yarn into 24 inch pieces.
6. Wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make it stiff. This will help students when they string the pieces of the necklace onto the yarn.
7. Let students string the pieces of the necklaces (the words to the memory verse) onto the yarn with two pieces of the fruit ring cereal in between each piece.
8. Help students tie the ends together.

### FOR DISCUSSION

While the students are making their necklaces, remind them that Saul was jealous of David’s successes and did not want him to live any longer. Though Saul was unable to get at David, because he was in hiding, he was able to kill the priests. Saul’s anger abounded. The Lord, by contrast, is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounds in love. Help students realize that they can be like Saul or like the Lord.

**TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:** Approximately 20 minutes

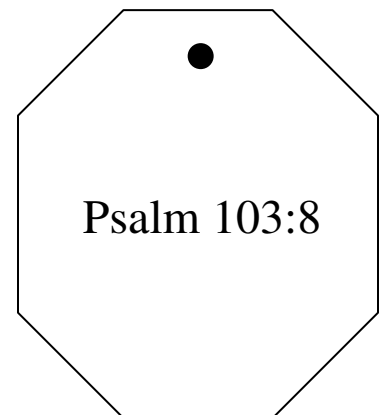
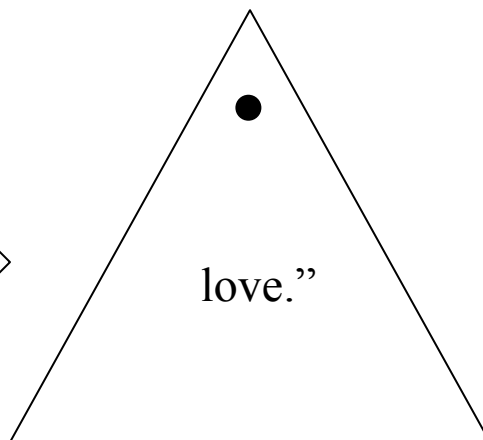
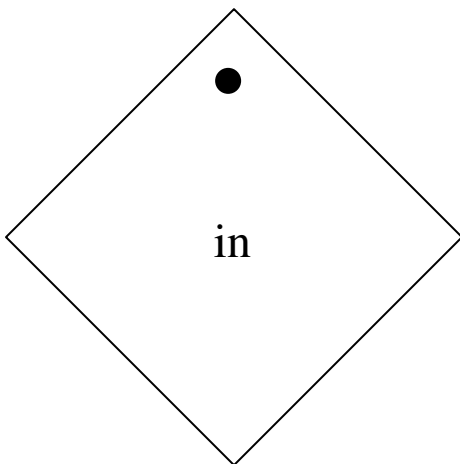
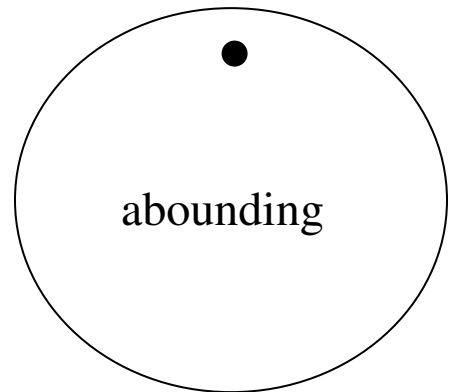
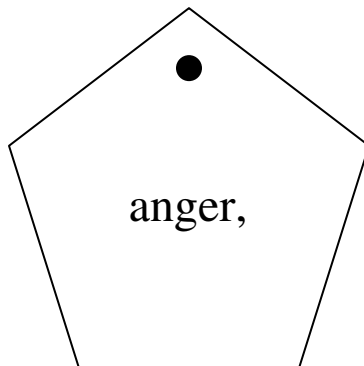
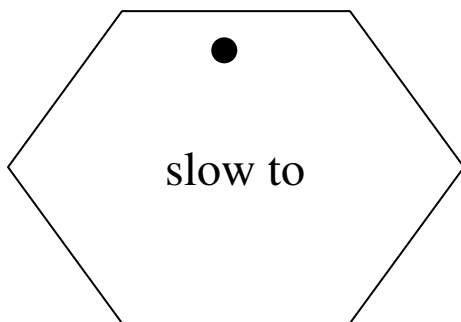
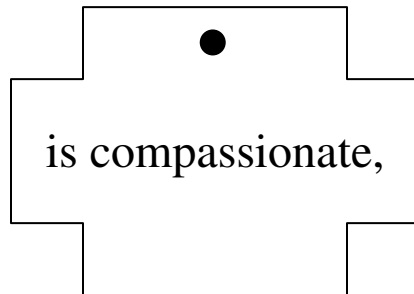
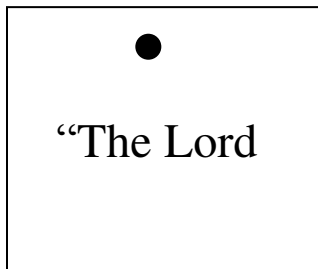
### MEMORY VERSE

*“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”  
Psalm 103:8*

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## NECKLACE PATTERN





# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON 1 SAMUEL 22:6-23

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Saul knew that David had been discovered. He asked his officials why they were working against him. None of Saul's officials told him that Jonathan had helped David.

One of the officials spoke up and said that he saw David asking the priest for bread and a sword or spear.

Saul sent for the priest at Nob.

"Why have you conspired against me," Saul asked the priest.

Ahimelech, the priest, reminded Saul that David was loyal and well respected.

Saul was not happy. He told Ahimelech that he and his family would surely die. So Saul ordered that the priests be killed because they helped David.

Saul's officials would not kill the priests. Saul then ordered Doeg, the Edomite, to kill the 85 priests. He also killed other men, women, children, and animals.

Ahimelech's son escaped and joined David where he was safe.

To find out more, read 1 Samuel 22:6-23 in your Bible.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did Saul want his officials to do?
2. Did Saul's officials obey him?
3. What did Doeg do?
4. Why do you think Ahimelech's son went to stay with David?

## MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." Psalm 103:8

## BREAK THE CODE

3 1 4 13

12 1 5 7 2 6

7 8 2

9 11 10 2 3 7 3

6 2 1 6

1=A	2=E	3=S	4=U
5=N	6=D	7=T	8=H
9=P	10=I	11=R	12=W
13=L			