

Let's talk about grief and loss

King Saul continued to be in charge of the army, even though Samuel had already anointed David to be the next king. Saul was often very jealous of David, because he knew that God supported David and gave him success. Saul had a son called Jonathan. Even though King Saul didn't like David, Jonathan and David were best friends ✨. When Saul got very angry, Jonathan helped David escape from the palace to safety ✨.

The Israelites were at war with the Amalekites and the Philistines ✨. Saul and Jonathan went out to fight the Philistines and David attacked the Amalekites ✨.

When David returned, he heard that both Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle. David had great respect for Saul as the first king and he had deep love for his friend. He cried over both their deaths and wrote a poem about his grief called a lamentation, that went like this:

How the mighty have fallen! Don't tell the news where the Philistine women can hear it, or they will be glad that such powerful warriors are dead. Jonathan had his bow and arrows and Saul had his sword and they were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions. Daughters of Israel, weep over Saul because he made sure that you had beautiful clothes and jewellery of gold. How the mighty have fallen! And I am so sad for you, Jonathan. I loved you very much. You were a wonderful friend and you were my best friend. How the mighty have fallen!

See session outline on p.58.

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the ✨ to share these points with the children.

- ✨ David and Jonathan were friends and Jonathan tried to make peace between his father and David.
- ✨ Saul was jealous of David and threw a spear to try to kill him, so David had to escape.
- ✨ Amalekites and Philistines were old enemies of the Israelites.
- ✨ David tried to remain loyal to Saul as he knew that Saul was God's anointed king.

