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## Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 6

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### The Case of the Escape that Waited 1 Samuel 17:19,23-24,27,31; 2 Samuel 5-6

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*(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)*

1. Everyone in Israel loved David. He sang and played the harp, making up beautiful songs for God. He was a brave fighter who fought off Israel's enemies. But most of all, David was a man after God's own heart: He loved the LORD and wanted to obey Him, no matter what.

2. The people could see that God was pleased with David, too. God helped David in many special ways. No wonder everyone in Israel loved David!

3. Well, that wasn't quite true. There was one man in Israel who certainly did NOT love David: King Saul. Saul was jealous of David. Before David, the people had praised HIM, King Saul! HE had been the special one sent by God, their bravest leader. But now, all that had changed.

4. Saul's jealousy turned to hate when the prophet Samuel brought him even worse news. "The LORD says, 'Because you have chosen to keep on disobeying Me, I'm going to make David and his sons the kings over Israel, instead of your family,'" Samuel told Saul.

5. Saul would NOT let David be king! HIS family should be the kings over Israel. Saul made plans to get rid of David. First, Saul threw a long spear at David, but God protected him. Then, Saul sent men to get rid of David one night as he slept, but David's wife, Michal, helped him escape.

6. Now David knew he must run away. He wasn't safe anywhere near Saul. So, David went out to the lonely wilderness where no one lived. Surely, Saul would give up and leave him alone out there. But the king didn't! He took his soldiers out into the wilderness and hunted for David.

7. "Run, David, run! Hide, David, hide!" Where would David make his home? Where would he sleep? David had no home. He slept on the ground, or sometimes in a cave. David couldn't stay anywhere long. Saul and his soldiers were never far behind. What a hard life David lived!

8. God once called David a man after His own heart, who loved Him and wanted to obey Him, no matter what. Was David STILL this kind of man? David knew God didn't want him to hate or hurt Saul. But if he DID get a chance to kill Saul, would it be too tempting? David would soon find out.

9. One night, David and his soldier friend, Abishai, found the place where Saul and his soldiers were sleeping. They snuck up to Saul. Next to Saul's head were a water jar and a big spear. David picked them up. "Let's kill King Saul with these," Abishai urged him. David would agree?

10. No, he would not. The LORD helped David say "no" to temptation. With jar and spear in hand, David and Abishai went away, then woke the king: "I could have killed you with your spear and jar, but I didn't. I've done nothing to you. Please stop trying to kill me." David pleaded.

11. At last, Saul died, and David's days of running were over. Would he celebrate that Saul was dead? It would be tempting to be happy about that. But David said "no" to that temptation, too. David was sad for Saul. He even taught the people a special song to honor him at his funeral.

12. The people of Israel made David their king after Saul died, just as the LORD promised. Everyone gathered for a big celebration, and King David led the people in praising the LORD. He was so thankful! The LORD had helped him love and obey Him, even when it was very hard.