

PARENT PAGE CHARACTER LESSON 30		SEEKING GOD'S HEART (KING DAVID)
1 Samuel 17:17–22, 32–37, 45–47, 50; 2 Samuel 7:8–29		Acts 13:22
BIBLICAL PASSAGE		MEMORY VERSE

After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." **Acts 13:22**

Peer pressure in the lives of teenagers is incredible. Think back to when you were in high school. How difficult was it for you to take a stand—on anything? The risks were probably pretty high. Most teens want to just blend in and not draw any undue attention to themselves. To take a stand on anything means you move against the flow. Ridicule can be devastating in the life of a developing teenager just wanting to find his or her place and identity among peers.

Read the verses from 1 and 2 Samuel. God chose a young man who didn't impress many with his overall appearance and stature.

Against the odds, David stood face to face with the giant, Goliath, and took his defiant stand against the oppression of

the Philistines. He proclaimed victory ahead of time because his faith told him that God had already won the battle—all of this coming from a young man!

Do we at times project upon our children something that we are unwilling to do ourselves? Do we desire for them to take faith stands when they do not see us doing the same? David was known as a "man after God's own heart." This doesn't mean that he was without failures or that he was never ridiculed. It does mean that no matter what, he knew he could trust God for the outcome. So can we.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family discusses: **What are your favorite epic movies? *Braveheart*? *Lord of the Rings*? *Troy*? *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*? Who are the heroes, and who are the villains? Why are the heroes, heroes? What stands do they take for what is right? What are the odds against them?**

Explore . . .

First, family members share in reading 1 Samuel 17:17–22, 32–37, 45–47, 50; 2 Samuel 7:8–29. Then, the family discusses: **How does David live up to your expectations of a hero? What is it about his character that seems to go beyond the character of those heroes we see in movies? Why do you think David was known to be "a man after God's own heart?"**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **What godly characteristics do you possess?** (Don't be shy. Remember these are of God, not you.) **If a strong faith is one of your characteristics, how do you use it against difficult odds? What would it take to develop the godly characteristics of David? What would it take to use the godly characteristics God has given you?**

Pray that your family members will grow in godly characteristics and use them in expressing and living out their faith, pointing people to God.

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