

Lesson 1: Comfort

Today's Bible Story

King Saul refused to listen and obey the LORD. He did things his own way instead of doing things God's way. So God sent a spirit to make Saul feel upset and guilty for the bad things he had done. Perhaps if the King felt sorry for what he had done, Saul would turn back and trust in the LORD.

But things only got worse. Saul became sad. Then he became angry. Then he became afraid. Everyone around him could see how upset he was.

"It's a harmful spirit from God that's frightening you," Saul's officials told him. "You need something to cheer you up!" So they made the king a suggestion. "Your Majesty, let us go and look for someone who is good at playing the harp. He can play music for you when you are down. The music will make you feel better."

"All right," Saul answered. "Find me someone who is good at playing the harp and bring him here."

"Jesse of Bethlehem has a son who can play the harp," one official said. "He's a brave warrior. He's talented and has a good voice. The LORD is with him."

So King Saul sent a message to Jesse: "Tell your son David to leave your sheep and come here to me."

Jesse was happy to send his son to the king. He loaded a donkey with bread and a goatskin full of wine, then he told David to take the donkey and a young goat as a gift to Saul. So David went to Saul and started working for the king as a musician. Saul liked David so much that he put David in charge of carrying his weapons. Not long after this, Saul sent another message to Jesse: "I really like David. Please let him stay with me."

Whenever the harmful spirit from God bothered Saul and he started to feel upset, David would play his harp. Saul would relax and feel better, and the harmful spirit would go away.



From 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Bible Rhyme

Saul the King was feeling down.

His servants saw he had a frown.

"We see that something bothers you.

Is there something we can do?

"Would you like to hear some songs?

Wait right here — it won't take long.

"In Jesse's house there is a boy

who will sing and bring you joy!"

David brought his harp along;

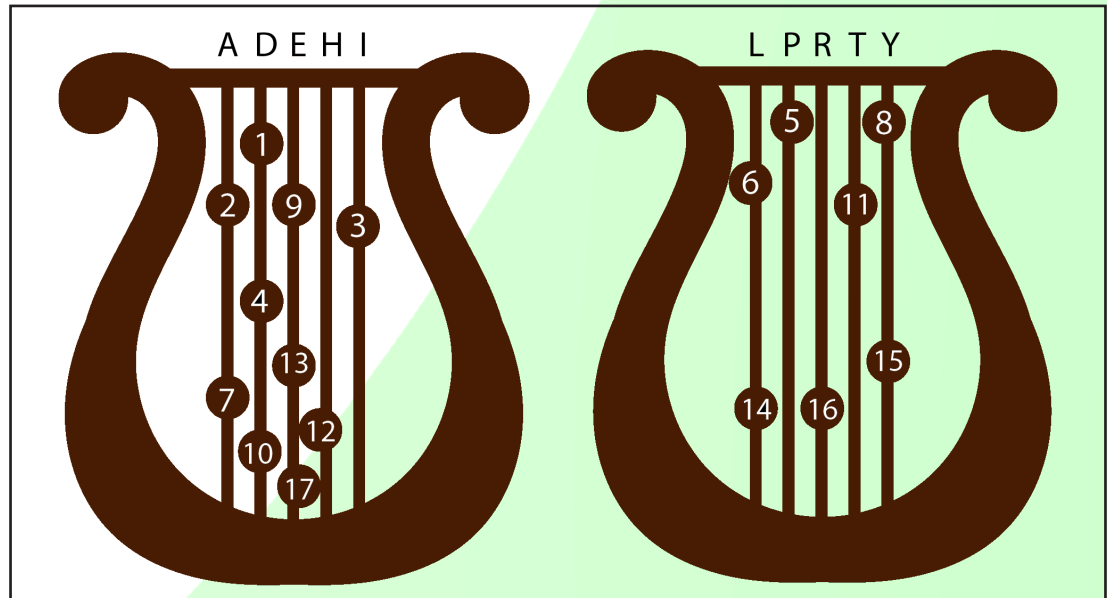
for the king he sang some songs.

Every time the young man played,

Saul's bad mood would go away.

David played the lyre. The lyre is a string instrument similar in appearance to a small harp. It was used in ancient times as a musical instrument to accompany singers.

Pluck the strings of the instruments in numerical order. Use the corresponding letter to fill in the blank space in the words below to find the secret phrase.



V

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

David wrote many of the prayer-songs that appear in the Bible in the Book of Psalms.
(in your Bible, the header above the psalm will say, "A Psalm of David")

*Look up some of the Psalms of David
and write a short description of what each psalm is about.*

PSALM 23: _____

PSALM 31: _____

PSALM 40: _____

PSALM 51: _____

PSALM 63: _____

PSALM 65: _____

Do you have a favorite hymn or church song? What is the title?