

Best Budds!

The Scene: a field outside, and an indoor banquet hall

The Simple Setup: Place a tablecloth or blanket on the floor, stage left, for the celebration scene. Props you'll need include a bow (no arrows!), bowls, cups, plates, and plastic fruit.

For Extra Impact: Consider bringing crackers, grapes, or other small snacks for the Celebration Crowd to actually eat.

Bible Story

David and Jonathan

Scripture

1 Samuel 20:1-13, 18-42

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly voice

David: a boy

Jonathan: a boy

Saul: a boy

Arrow-gatherer: a boy or girl

Celebration Crowd: children pretending to eat and socialize at the celebration

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of David, Jonathan, Saul, and Arrow-Gatherer, assign the remainder of your children as the Celebration Crowd.

As the skit begins, David and Jonathan sit cross-legged on the floor stage right. The Narrator is offstage. The Celebration Crowd is waiting, stage left.

Jonathan: So you think my dad is MAD at you, David?

David: Look, you're my BEST friend, Jonathan. You know me really well. What have I done to anger King Saul?

Jonathan: I can't believe my dad would want to hurt you, Buddy. OK, my Dad's the KING, so he's under lots of STRAIN. And sometimes he can go a little off the DEEP end. Kings have ISSUES, I KNOW that. But want you DEAD? I just don't think that's true, David.

David: So you think I'm just making this UP?

Jonathan: You've been a good servant of my father. And you're my good friend. What REASON would my father have to hate you?

David: Think about this: Maybe he's afraid I'm going to TAKE OVER. You know how people have always sung songs about your dad? Now they're singing songs about ME, too. Maybe your Dad is...jealous.

Jonathan: I'm STILL not convinced.

David: Look—tomorrow is the start of the NEW MOON CELEBRATION. I always sit next to your dad at those celebrations.

Jonathan: So what?

David: How about if THIS time I hide in the field and don't show up? I'll be SAFER out in the field anyway. Nobody can hurt me THERE.

Jonathan: How does THAT tell us if my dad's out to get you?

David: YOU tell the King I went to Bethlehem for a family reunion. If he says, "That's cool," we'll know everything is OK. But if he goes BALLISTIC and starts chucking SPEARS around, we'll know he was going to KILL me at the celebration.

Jonathan: You're my friend, so I'll do what you ask. But you're going to miss a great PARTY.

narrator: David and Jonathan came up with a plan. David stayed hidden behind a pile of stones in a field. (*David exits stage left.*) Jonathan went to the celebration and talked to King Saul. Jonathan said he'd signal David by shooting THREE arrows into the field. If the arrows landed off to one side of the stone pile, the King was happy. If the arrows landed PAST the stone pile, David would know King Saul wanted to kill David. David was trusting Jonathan with his LIFE.

(*Celebration crowd enters carrying bowls of food, laughing and talking among themselves. Jonathan and Saul sit together at the edge of the tablecloth or blanket.*)



Start the "David and Jonathan" track on The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD (track 17). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Saul: Fine night for a CELEBRATION, isn't it, Son? I think there are more people here this year than last.

Jonathan: I think you're right, Dad. And the food is GREAT! (*Pops something into his mouth.*) What a FEAST!

Saul: By the way, I haven't seen your friend, DAVID. It isn't like him to miss such a grand meal.

Jonathan: Oh, he had to go to Bethlehem for a family reunion. I told him to go ahead. I was sure you wouldn't mind.

Saul: (*Raises his voice.*) You IDIOT! You're just like all the OTHERS! You'd rather have David as king!

Jonathan: Dad, calm down. Everyone is looking!

Saul: Don't you UNDERSTAND? As long as David is alive, YOU'LL never be king! Go find him and bring him here. I'm going to KILL him!

Jonathan: What has he ever done to you? David is my FRIEND!

Saul: Go get him RIGHT NOW, or I'll kill YOU, too!

(*Jonathan runs to center stage. The Arrow-Gatherer joins him. The Celebration People quit eating and watch and listen.*)

narrator: Jonathan knew it was TRUE: His father wanted to KILL his best friend! The next morning, Jonathan told his Arrow-Gatherer to pick up the arrows he was about to shoot.

Jonathan: Start running so you can find the arrows as I shoot them.

Arrow-Gatherer: But if I'm out in the field when you're shooting, won't I get hit?

Jonathan: Don't worry—I'll miss you.

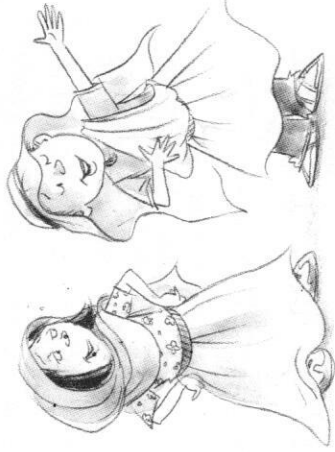
Arrow-Gatherer: Just the same, I'd feel better if I just watch where they go and get them LATER...when nobody is SHOOTING...

Jonathan: Just get OUT there!

Arrow-Gatherer: OK, OK...boy, what a TERRIBLE job...

(*Arrow-Gatherer disappears off stage left.*)

narrator: Jonathan pulled back on his bow and shot an arrow into the field.



Jonathan: (*Shouts.*) The arrows are still ahead of you! You have to GO FARTHER!

Narrator: The Arrow-Gatherer didn't know what was going on, but DAVID knew. He stayed hidden until JONATHAN handed his bow to the Arrow-Gatherer and sent him back to the palace. Then David came out of his hiding place.

David: (*Enters from stage left.*) You've been a good friend, Jonathan. You're LOYAL and TRUSTWORTHY.

Jonathan: And you've been a good friend, David. Now we must go our separate ways, but we're both in God's hands forever.



To Talk About

- ◆ David and Jonathan were best friends. Do you have a best friend? What do you like to do together?
- ◆ King Saul was very angry. How do you think God feels about people who let their anger get out of hand?
- ◆ David had to trust his best friend with his life. Who would you trust with your life?

Topical Tie-Ins: Anger, Friendship, Loyalty, Trust