

[KING SAUL] Why hasn't David come to the meal? Bring him to me. He must die!

[JONATHAN] *[Jonathan sits and dines with King Saul.]*
Why do you want to put him to death? What has he done?

[NARRATOR] Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him. Then Jonathan knew his father wanted to kill David. He was very sad his father was treating David so badly. The next morning Jonathan went out to the field to meet David. He took a young boy with him.

[JONATHAN] *[To servant boy.]*Run and find the arrows I shoot. *[Jonathan pretends to shoot three arrows. The servant boy runs to retrieve them.]*The arrow went far beyond you, didn't it? Hurry up! Run fast! *[The servant boy picks up imaginary arrows, then gives the arrows and bow to Jonathan.]*Go back to town. Take the weapons with you.

[NARRATOR] After the boy left, David got up from the south side of the stone. Three times he bowed down in front of Jonathan with his face to the ground. Then, they kissed each other and cried. David cried more than Jonathan.

[JONATHAN] *[To David.]*Go in peace. In the name of the Lord we have taken an oath. We have promised to be friends. We have said, "The Lord is a witness between you and me. He's a witness between your children and my children forever."

[NARRATOR] David left and Jonathan went back to town.

[The End]



READERS' THEATRE
**DAVID, JONATHAN,
AND SAUL**
1 Samuel 17:50-20:42 (NIRV)

This Readers' Theatre Script is a compilation of various scripture quotes from 1 Samuel 17:50-20:42. The quotes are taken directly from the New International Readers' Version.

Teacher assigns roles and puts everyone in places for scene. Non-readers and younger students often prefer to dress up and act out each sentence as the teacher and assistant read. Older, more proficient readers, may want to read parts. Jonathan's role requires the most reading; choose a child who enjoys reading or choose an adult assistant to play that role.

1. NARRATOR: Teacher or assistant
2. DAVID: Holds harp
3. KING SAUL: Wears crown
4. JONATHAN: Wears robe, belt, sword, carries bow
5. SERVANT BOY: Carries bow and imaginary arrows for Jonathan
6. ISRAELITE WOMEN: Remaining girls
7. PILE OF STONES: Remaining boys

Props

- Bow: Bend a wire clothes hanger to make bow's arc. Tightly attach a string to each end of the arc.
 - Harp: Tightly attach 4 or more strings to any type clothes hanger.
- Optional: Use paper or imaginary props.

Scene

*Opens with King Saul seated on throne (stage left).
David and Jonathan standing together (center stage).
Israelite women and servant boy sit in semi-circle facing the action.
The stone pile sits together on the floor (stage right).*

[NARRATOR] David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone as Saul watched. After David killed Goliath, he returned to the camp. *[David bows to King Saul.]* Later, Jonathan and David became close friends. Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him just as he loved himself. *[Jonathan gives his royal robe, belt, sword, and bow to David.]* After David had killed Goliath, the women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They danced and sang joyful songs.

[ISRAELITE WOMEN]

[Sing to tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."]

Saul has killed thousands of men.

David has killed tens of thousands.

[NARRATOR] Saul became very jealous of David. David began to play the harp, just as he usually did. *[David plays the harp for King Saul.]*

[KING SAUL] *[Throws an imaginary spear at David.]* I'll pin David to the wall.

[NARRATOR] *[David hides behind a stone pile.]* But David got away. Saul told his son Jonathan and all of the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan and David were friends.

[JONATHAN] *[To David.]* My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Find a place to hide and stay there. I will speak to him about you and tell you what I find out. *[To King Saul.]* Please don't harm David. He hasn't done anything to harm you. What he has done has helped you. Why would you want to kill him without any reason?

[KING SAUL] *[To Jonathan.]* You can be sure the Lord lives and you can be just as sure David will not be put to death. **[NARRATOR]** David served Saul as he had done before. An evil spirit sent by the Lord came on Saul. While David was playing the harp, Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear. But David got away from him just as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night, David escaped. **[DAVID]** I'm very close to being killed.

[JONATHAN] I'll do anything you want me to do for you. **[DAVID]** Tomorrow, I am supposed to eat with the king. Instead, let me hide in the field; your father might miss me. He might become very angry. If he does, you can be sure he's made up his mind to harm me. **[JONATHAN]** I promise you that I will find out what my father is planning. I will send you a message. But always be kind to me, just as the Lord is...and never stop being kind to my family. **[NARRATOR]** Jonathan had David take an oath again because he loved him. In fact, Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.

[JONATHAN] I will shoot three arrows to one side of the stone. Then, I will send a boy and say, "Go and find the arrows." If I say to him, "The arrows are on this side of you. Bring them here," then come. You are safe. But, if I tell the boy, "The arrows are far beyond you," then go. That will mean the Lord is sending you away. *[David hides behind stone pile.]*