**The Journey to the Valley of Elah**

**Key Verse**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

**Lesson Overview**

David was a young lad who obeyed God completely. He was a man after God's own heart, and God chose him to be the next king of Israel. God took David on a journey that caused his confidence in Him to grow. His most well-known battle was with Goliath, the giant Philistine in the Valley of Elah. Young David was the instrument God used to defeat the giant and give glory to God.

**Lesson Aim**

Battles in the Christian life are inevitable, but as we cultivate hearts for God, we are given a purpose. We are able to live for a holy cause. Along the course of our journeys, God will

prepare us for these battles. Then, he will give us the power to prevail for His glory!

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

* Desire to have a heart for God.
* Determine to fulfill God's calling no matter the cost.
* Know their God-given cause and understand that some will challenge it.
* Accept times of preparation for greater battles and victories.
* Seek to honor God in the victories given along the journey.

**Teaching Outline**

I. David's Calling

A. The purpose of David's calling

1. Because Saul was the king chosen of the people

2. Because God was looking for a man after His own heart

B. The process of David's calling

1. The selection of David

2. The sanctification of David

II. David's Cause

A. His cause was for the faith.

B. His cause was challenged.

1. David was criticized by his brother.

2. David was challenged by Saul.

III. David's Conflict

A. David's preparation for battle

1. By previous battles

2. With proven methods

B. David's power in battle

1. David's trust was in the Lord.

2. David's desire was to glorify God.

C. David's prevailing in battle

**Study Questions**

1. According to Acts 13:22, how was David's heart described?

2. As Samuel looked at Jesse's sons, which one did he think would be the next king?

3. According to 1 Samuel 16:7, when God looks at us, what does He see?

4. In the Old Testament, what did the anointing of oil symbolize?

5. Read 2 Timothy 1:11-12. Here, Paul states his call and his cause. Briefly explain how these verses can also describe the calling and cause of David.

**2 Timothy 1:11-12 -** *11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

6. Name two people who challenged David's cause.

7. What experiences prepared David for battle against Goliath?

**Memory Verse**

**Hebrews 4:16** *16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*