

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
TRUSTING NO MATTER WHAT

In our Bible lesson this week we are going to discover how David faced many obstacles before he became King. To help you see how you can trust God even when things continue to go wrong read this Olympic athlete's story.

Olympic athletes train for years and are consumed by their sport, giving up a normal life so they can focus on training. If one thing goes wrong, hopes and dreams can be crushed, as was the case with Olympic hurdler, Liu Xiang. He won a gold medal in the 2004 Olympic games. He was a superstar in China, and he was one of China's hopes for a gold medal in the 2008 Olympic games. But he was pulled out of the 110m hurdles because of a foot injury. His withdrawal stunned the nation of China. Four years later in 2012, he tried to make a comeback, but he fell at the games injuring a tendon. Liu Xiang tried to come back, but instead he let down his country and many Chinese fans no longer saw him as a superstar.

While none of us have probably withdrawn from the Olympics, we can still understand pain and disappointment. We all face disappointment and hard times.

How do you think Liu Xiang and his coach felt to have all their effort and sacrifice shattered by disappointment?

What would your response be if this kind of disappointment happened to you?

How would you feel if you spent the first through fourth grades training for a competition and missed the event because of an injury? What would you do?

Can you think of a situation where you worked really hard for something and it didn't work out right in the end? How did you respond?

When Liu Xiang fell in the 2012 Olympics, he picked himself up and hopped the whole way to the finish line. He was determined to finish. His fellow competitors helped him get there.

Have you ever been involved in a sport or competition where another team member blew it and lost the competition for the team? How did you respond? What do you think would be the right response?

Have you ever supported a teammate or friend when they had to go through hard times?

How do you think God wants us to respond when things go wrong?

God allows us to have difficulties in our lives and He wants us to respond in a way that honors Him. Sometimes even when we do the right thing, everything seems to go wrong. Let's see how David responded to many difficult situations.

Following David's victory over Goliath, the giant, King Saul promoted David to a high rank in Israel's army. Turn in your Bible to 1 Samuel 18:6-11.

Why was Saul jealous of David?

Had David done anything wrong to deserve Saul's anger?

Saul feared David because he realized that God's Spirit was no longer with Saul, but with David. So Saul sent David away. David had already been anointed by Samuel as the next king. Saul began to think of ways he could have David killed. He thought that if David married King Saul's daughter this would help him in this plot. King Saul offered David his oldest daughter in marriage. But David refused. Saul also had another daughter, Michal. David earned the right to marry her by paying the bride price of killing many Philistines in battle. David's great success only made King Saul fear him more.

Read 1 Samuel 19:1-7.

How did Jonathan help David?

What made Jonathan try to help David?

What did King Saul promise Jonathan?

Read 1 Samuel 19:8-10.

David had already been anointed as the next king. What might have been going through David's mind after King Saul tried to kill him?

If you were in David's situation, how would you feel?

David's wife, Michal, told him about King Saul's plan to kill him. She lowered David out a window, and he escaped. Then Michal put an idol in David's bed and told Saul's soldiers David was sick in bed, which fooled the soldiers. When Saul confronted his daughter about her trick, she lied and said David threatened to kill her. King Saul continued to pursue David, who went to Ramah and reported to Samuel all that King Saul had done.

Read Psalm 59:1-4.

How was David trusting God to protect him and carry out God's plans?

David wrote this psalm while King Saul wanted to kill David. How can David's example of trusting God in hard times help you?

David kept trusting God even when things seemed to be going wrong. God had chosen David to be king and David knew that God would see him through.

We have read about how David trusted God even when everything seemed to be going wrong. We can do the same thing.

Attached to this lesson is a separate page entitled *its An Obstacle Course Out There!* At each obstacle look up the promise from God's word and then write a short message that will help the bike rider to trust God to help him go through the obstacles instead of giving up.

We all have obstacles in our lives that make it hard for us to trust God. David really had his hands full dealing with Saul! The obstacles that we face aren't always as big as the ones David faced, but they can sometimes make it hard for us to trust God.

There is one thing you can be sure of: no matter what happens, God can carry out his plans for you. Do you trust God even when things aren't going well? Look at the worries in the first column and draw a line to one of God's promises that will help you fight that worry. Then draw a line from the promise to a way that you can show your trust in God and his plan.

WORRIES

I don't have any friends

I'm ugly, no one likes me.

I'm going to flunk out of school.

Why can't I be better in sports?

GOD'S PROMISES

God gave me unique gifts and abilities. (1 Corinthians 12:4-5)

I am a special and valuable creation of God. (Psalm 139:13-14)

God will give me the things I need. (Matthew 6:25-26)

God will give wisdom to those who ask for it. (James 1:5)

I CAN SHOW I TRUST GOD BY

Thanking God for creating me the way I am.

Doing my best without comparing myself to others.

Being content with what I have.

Not worrying about the future.

Why can't I have nice things like my friends?

Jesus calls his followers friends.
(John 15:14-15)

Remembering that God is in charge of everything.

Let's close with prayer. Dear God, sometimes it's hard to trust you when things go wrong. But we know we can always trust you! Help us to trust you when we might worry about things. Thank you God that you care about these things. In Jesus name. Amen.