

LifeStone



CHRONICLES OF FAITH

ALL
AGES

DAVID®

— 5 STONES —
THE *Story* OF *Sheepe*
— Part 1 —

BIBLE STUDY

DAVID'S

FIVE STONES

INTRODUCTION

FIVE STEPS & FIVE STONES!

WELCOME TO DAVID'S FIVE STONES,
A COMICS-BASED BIBLE STUDY.

THIS STRAIGHTFORWARD REVIEW HELPS
PARENTS, GUARDIANS, SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHERS, AND YOUTH LEADERS LEVERAGE
THE EXCITEMENT INSPIRED BY THE
AWARD-WINNING COMIC SERIES AND HELPS
YOUNG READERS GROW IN THEIR DESIRE TO
KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD WHILE
ALSO REINFORCING TRUST AND DEPENDENCE
ON GOD AND THE BIBLE.



Using the David's Five Stones Bible study is simple:



- 1 - READ THE COMIC**
- 2 - STUDY THE SCRIPTURES**
- 3 - USE THE STONES**
- 4 - CHALLENGE THE CHILD**
- 5 - PRAY FOR CHANGE**

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS STUDY HAS ONLY FIVE SIMPLE STEPS AS A PART OF THIS STUDY, WITH THE BULK OF THE INTERACTION HAPPENING IN STEP 3: USE THE STONES.

EACH QUESTION IN THIS STUDY IS CALLED A STONE. THEY SYMBOLIZE THE SPIRITUAL TOOLS AND WEAPONS WE CAN CARRY WITH US EVERY DAY TO HELP US REMEMBER THESE STORIES FROM GOD'S WORD AND TO FOCUS ON USING THEM AS WE GROW AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

TO MAKE ALL OF THIS EVEN EASIER FOR THE PARENTS, GUARDIANS, OR LEADERS OUT THERE, WE HAVE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS TO GET STARTED.

1 - READ THE COMIC

Be sure you've read *The Story of Sheepe, Part 1*

because you can bet that the students will have done so. You'll need to be able to discuss specifics about the story, images, and moments in the narrative of the comic. You'll want the students to know that you've read the comic to build authenticity with them.

Besides, **READING COMICS IS FAST AND FUN!**

Bring your excitement and enthusiasm for the comic to your teaching time and let the kids see and feel it!

Comic Focus

David's Five Stones is a high-level Bible study designed to pair with the Chronicles of Faith: David comic series. Again, this Bible study should be used in conjunction with ***The Story of Sheepe, Part 1*** so be sure you've read this comic before continuing.

2 - STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Scripture Focus

The Story of Sheepe, Part 1 is an imaginative retelling of the parable of the lost sheep from the perspective of the shepherd, as told by Jesus in ***Luke 15:3-7*** and ***Matthew 18:12-14***.

THIS COMIC IS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SHEEPE, THE LOST SHEEP.

Being familiar with this parable is important, so be sure to read over these passages before this lesson. Be sure to review these parables with your children or students during your Five Stones session, and if possible, encourage the children to have their Bibles so they can follow along in Scripture.

3 - USE THE STONES

David's five stones are simply five themed questions that apply to each comic and guide the Bible study. Once you've gathered the students (whether in a classroom setting, your home, a library, or even a park), ask the following questions:

DAVID'S FIRST STONE (PRACTICAL)

Q: *Do you identify at all with Sheepe? Have you ever really wanted to do something, despite an authority figure telling you that you should not?*

A: There aren't many people who can answer that question in the negative. All of us want to do our own thing and all of us fight, to some degree, under authority. Some of God's law is written on our hearts (**Jeremiah 31:33**) and deep down, we all know that God is the supreme and sovereign King of all but we often refuse to obey Him.

"That people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things." - Isaiah 45:6-7

This undeniable fact is part of who we are in relationship to God, and it's part of why we feel bad when we do something that is against God's law, like lying, stealing, or hurting others.



DAVID'S SECOND STONE (WISDOM)

Q: Do you think it is a good thing to have authority figures in our lives? Why or why not?

A: Answers will vary. Guide the discussion in the direction of why authority is absolutely needed: without order and authority, nothing but chaos would exist, leading to pain and suffering. All things in an ordered universe are subject to some authority. Even birds, which can fly, are subject to the authority of gravity. And so it goes with all things, everyone is under some type of authority. Even adults, kings, and presidents are under God's authority, as Scripture informs us:

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all."

- 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

DAVID'S THIRD STONE (REFLECTION)

Q: Do you think Sheepe made the right decision by going into the dark forest? Why or why not?

A: Hopefully, the answer will be a resounding, **"NO!"** but just in case, you'll want to help the children understand that following the path of temptation never turns out well. Lay the groundwork using the Scripture and explain that the Bible says that believers should watch and pray to avoid temptation.

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire." **James 1:13-14**

It's important to remember that God does not abandon us in our temptation: *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."*

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

DAVID'S FOURTH STONE (NARRATIVE)

Q: *At the end of the comic, Hoop says, "All who get lost choose to step off from the right path." What do you think this means?*

A: Answers may vary, but the discussion should revolve around the fact that we choose poorly when we follow our own sinful desires. It is critical for the children or the students to understand that all people are born sinful. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* - **Romans 3:23**; *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* - **1 John 1:8**

However, it is also very important to understand that though we choose to disobey God, thankfully, God is an understanding and loving father who is without sin. He knew that we would rebel, and He made a way, through Jesus, His son, for our sins to be forgiven.



DAVID'S FIFTH STONE (GOSPEL)

Q: At the end of this parable, Jesus says, “So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” What does that mean?

A: Answers will vary, but generally, the conversation should settle around the fact that God loves everyone and does not desire that any should remain lost in their sin and separated from Him for eternity. It's critical that children or students understand that: God created us to be in fellowship with Him (**1 John 1:1-4**), God created us to praise Him (**Isaiah 43:21**), and God doesn't want any of us to be apart from Him. (**John 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:9**). Stress to them that this has always been God's intention. Show them, as well, that it was only Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that has created a way for us to be restored to Him.

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

- Ephesians 1:7-14



4 - CHALLENGE THE CHILD

Generally children will rise to the expectations of the adults in their lives. In fact, setting examples for the younger generation and encouraging them are some of the commands that God gives to us in **Titus 2**. Children look for examples in their lives to follow and this is one of the reasons why comics are so successful and so enduring: as children see their heroes come to life on the printed page, they desire to emulate them. And so, we look to leverage both of these truths in this study. Once the **USE THE STONES** section of the study is over, read the following or paraphrase into your own words:

- It appears that Sheepe, like us, made several mistakes here. She ignored the words of her shepherd (her authority) and ignored the words of friends that she met along the way. Sheepe kept giving into temptation., moving closer and closer to a very dark end. Sheepe is not the only one, either; we do the very same thing—all the time. However, as we've learned today, if we believe in Jesus, He will forgive us of our sins, and the closer we walk with Him, the less we want to sin. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* - **1 John 1:7-9**

LET'S NOT BE LIKE SHEEPE! Let's stay away from the dark forest and instead step into the light of life with Jesus!

5 - PRAY FOR CHANGE

Regardless of how well someone might be doing in their relationship with Christ, we are all sinners who fall short of the mark of God's holiness and perfection. The gradual and constant progression toward these goals is the ever-present work of the Holy Spirit, and this progression is known as *sanctification*. As such, praying for change in a child's life is not an admission of failure or that the child is not good enough, but merely recognition that the child, like all of us, is a work in progress that will continue until we are glorified with Christ in heaven. So praying for change in each of our lives is good, desirable, and necessary. As you conclude this lesson, pray the following prayer, or however the Holy Spirit leads you to pray:

- JESUS, WE THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SAVING US FROM OUR SINS, FOR TAKING THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINFUL CHOICES ONTO YOURSELF AND GIVING TO US THE FREE GIFT OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS, AND PERFECTION. WE THANK YOU THAT YOU DIED FOR US. GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS TO DO THIS, FOR LOOKING AT US THROUGH HIS HOLY COVERING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FOR NOT SEEING OUR SIN. THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING A WAY OUT OF TEMPTATION AND HELPING US THROUGH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO SEE THESE WAYS OUT CONSTANTLY. HELP US TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF LIFE WITH YOUR SON, IN WHOSE MOST HIGH NAME WE PRAY.

AMEN


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