

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 87: DAVID'S CENSUS, JUDGMENT AND PURCHASE OF THE
THRESHING FLOOR
2 SAMUEL 24:1-25

The LORD was angry at Israel again, and he made David think it would be a good idea to count the people in Israel and Judah, which was against the LORD's law (the people were supposed to just trust in the LORD without knowing how big their army was). And the king said to Joab and the captains of the army, who were with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan as far as Beer-sheba, and have all the people counted, so that I may be certain of the number of the people. And Joab said to the king, Whatever the number of the people, may the Lord make it a hundred times as much, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it: but why does my lord the king take pleasure in doing this thing? But the king's order was stronger than Joab and the captains of the army. And Joab and the captains of the army left the king, to take the number of the children of Israel. And they went over Jordan, and starting from Aroer, from the town which is in the middle of the valley, they went in the direction of the Gadites, and on to Jazer; Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of the Hittites under Hermon; and they came to Dan, and from Dan they came round to Zidon, And to the walled town of Tyre, and to all the towns of the Hivites and the Canaanites: and they went out to the South of Judah at Beer-sheba. So after going through all the land in every direction, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. And Joab gave the king the number of all the people: there were in Israel eight hundred thousand fighting men able to take up arms; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand. And after the people had been numbered, David's heart was troubled. And David said to the Lord, Great has been my sin in doing this; but now, O Lord, be pleased to take away the sin of your servant, for I have done very foolishly And David got up in the morning; now the word of the Lord had already come to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say to David, The Lord says, Three choices are offered to you: say which of them you will have, and I will do it to you. So Gad came to David, and gave him word of this and said to him, Are there to be three years when there is not enough food in your land? or will you go running from your enemies for three months, while they go after you? Or will you have three days of violent disease in your land? Take thought and say what answer I am to give to Him who sent me. And David said to Gad the prophet, "This is a hard

decision for me to make: Let us come into the hands of the Lord, for great are His mercies: Let me not come into the hands of men." So David made a choice of the disease; and the time was the days of the grain-cutting, when the disease came among the people, causing the death of seventy thousand men from Dan as far as Beer-sheba. And when the hand of the angel was stretched out in the direction of Jerusalem for its destruction, the Lord felt sorry for all the evil that was going on, and said to the angel who was sending destruction on the people, It is enough; do no more. And the angel of the Lord was by the grain-floor of Araunah (Ar-ah-oo'-nah) the Jebusite. And when David saw the angel who was causing the destruction of the people, he said to the Lord, Truly, the sin is mine; I have done wrong; but these are only sheep; what have they done? Let your hand be against me and against my father's house. And that day Gad the prophet came to David and said to him, Go up, and put up an altar to the Lord on the grain-floor of Araunah (Ar-ah-oo'-nah) the Jebusite. So David went up, as Gad had said and as the Lord had given orders. And Araunah, looking out, saw the king and his servants coming to him; and Araunah went out, and went and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To give you a price for your grain-floor, so that I may put up an altar to the Lord, and the disease may be stopped among the people. And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take for free whatever seems right to him, and make an offering of it: see, here are the oxen for the burned offering, and the grain-cleaning tools and the ox-yokes for wood: All this does your servant give to the king. And Araunah said, May the Lord your God be pleased with your offering! And king David said to Araunah, "No, but I will pay you for it; I will not give to the Lord my God burned offerings for which I have given nothing." So David got the grain-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And there David put up an altar to the Lord, making burned offerings and peace-offerings. So the Lord heard his prayer for the land, and the disease came to an end in Israel.

**87. DAVID'S CENSUS, JUDGMENT AND
PURCHASE OF THE THRESHING FLOOR
(2 SAMUEL 24:1-25)**



And when David saw the angel who was causing the destruction of the people, he said to the Lord, Truly, the sin is mine; I have done wrong: but these are only sheep; what have they done? Let your hand be against me and against my father's house. **2 SAMUEL 24:17**

87. DAVID'S CENSUS, JUDGMENT AND PURCHASE OF THE THRESHING FLOOR

2 SAMUEL 24:1-25

MEMORY VERSE:

"Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." **2 SAMUEL 24:14**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The LORD let David think it was a good idea to count all the people of Israel and Judah. TRUE or FALSE
2. And Joab said to the king, Whatever the number of the people, may the Lord make it a hundred times as much, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it: but why does my lord the king take pleasure in doing this thing? TRUE or FALSE
3. So Joab and the captains of the army did not leave the king to go and count the people because they knew it was a sin. TRUE or FALSE
4. Joab and all the captains of the army went all across Israel and Judah and counted all the people. TRUE or FALSE
5. There were eight hundred thousand fighting men in Israel and five hundred thousand brave men in Judah. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did King David feel bad after he had all the people counted?
2. What did David do? Did he admit to the LORD that he had sinned?
3. What did the LORD tell Dan the prophet to say to David? Did He tell him he had three choices? Do you remember what they were?
4. Which punishment did David choose? Was it a disease from the LORD?
5. When David saw the angel at the threshing-floor, did he tell him that the sin was his, and not the people's? Yes – he wanted the LORD to punish him and his own family, not the people of Israel.
6. What did Dan the prophet tell David that the LORD wanted him to do to stop the disease? Did he have to build an altar? Did the LORD stop the disease after David made all the offerings on the altar?



King David always prayed to the LORD.
Do you pray to the LORD too?

Lesson 87 -Optional role-playing game - ACT IT OUT!

Just for fun - Have the children take turns counting the children in the class. Choose one child to play Joab, and choose two more children to play captains of the army, and have one child play David, or the teacher can be David. Have the rest of the children scatter throughout the room, pretending to do daily chores, cooking, talking, etc.

Make Joab and the captains of the army go through the classroom and count the children, then have all three come back to David and tell him how many children there are in the classroom! After they tell David, let David pretend to be sorry and pray to the LORD saying,

"Lord, I have sinned against you and done a very foolish thing! Please take my sin away from me!"

You can choose different children to play all the roles!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in God and not in their own resources or strength. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.