

King George and the Ducky



What is the STORY about?

Once upon a time there lived a king who had a really neat castle and a lovely little kingdom. But unlike other kings, King George spent most of his time... in the bathtub! Why? Because that's where he'd play with his favorite toy: his rubber ducky. But one ducky wasn't enough for King George. He wanted all the duckies! Discover what happens when this cucumber king makes a huge mistake, deciding that the most important person in the world is himself! Can he learn to put others first before it's too late? King George and kids will learn that when we are selfish, we hurt the people around us.

- *A Lesson in Selfishness*
- *Key Passage: 2 Samuel 11-12*
- *Running time: 19 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill" (8 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

- *Who did King George think was the most important person in his kingdom? (Himself)*
- *How do you know that George is a greedy king? (He has many duckies, but he wants the ducky that belongs to Thomas)*
- *How does King George get the ducky that belongs to Thomas? (He sends Thomas to the Pie War and then steals the ducky)*
- *What changes King George's mind about taking someone else's ducky? (The flannel graph story that was told by Melvin—the slightly old wise man)*
- *Melvin tells King George that he should ask God to forgive him, ask Thomas to forgive him, and what else? (Make it right by giving the ducky back to Thomas)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The Bible story of David and Bathsheba is found in 2 Samuel 11 and 12. Read appropriate portions to your group OR tell the story in this modified version.

David was the king of Israel. His country was at war, so David sent his commander, Joab, and the whole Israelite army off to battle while he remained at home in Jerusalem. One evening David walked out onto the roof of his palace and saw a very beautiful woman. David discovered that her name was Bathsheba and was the wife of one of his soldiers, but still he ordered one of his messengers to bring Bathsheba to him. David wanted Bathsheba for his wife, so he ordered Joab to place her husband on the front lines of battle so that he would be killed. When that happened, David took Bathsheba as his wife.

The Lord sent Nathan, the prophet, to talk with David. Nathan told him the story of two men in a city—one was a rich man and the other was poor. The rich man had lots of cattle, but the poor man had only one little lamb that he and his family loved. When a traveler stopped to visit the rich man one day, he wanted to give him something to eat. He did not want to take his own cattle, so he took the poor man's lamb, killed it and cooked it for his visitor. When King David heard the story, he was furious with the rich man. He told Nathan that the rich man should die, and he should pay the poor man four times over for the terrible thing he had done. Then Nathan told David that he was the rich man—he had taken the wife of one of his soldiers and had the soldier killed. David realized what he had done and said, "I have sinned against the Lord." David discovered that being selfish can hurt the people around us.

The Story of King David



ACTIVITY

Talk about the meaning of the words “selfish” and “greedy.” King George was greedy because he wanted ALL of the duckies in his kingdom. Use

the following materials to illustrate what can happen when we become greedy:

- Thin napkin or tissue
- Key ring with keys or similarly-weighted objects
- Large glass or pitcher of water

Have children hold the corners of the tissue while you place the key ring in the center. Note that the key ring represents each one of us, and the water represents the “things” that we want. Begin by slowly pouring the water over the keys and continue until the key ring breaks through the tissue. Explain that a little of something is not bad, but when we are never satisfied and want more and more, our greed and selfishness can hurt us.



What can we DO?

Give each child a chance to answer the questions: “What would you like more of?” and “Why?”

Encourage discussion about when “enough is enough” and when we should be content with what we have—even sharing what we have with others.

Have fun with an exercise in conversation. Ask the children simple questions. (Examples: What do you like to do in the summer? What are your favorite subjects in school? What gift would you like for Christmas or your birthday?) Children must answer the questions without using the words: “I,” “Me,” or “My.” It is difficult to have a conversation without referring to ourselves!

3 Things to remember about David

1. David wanted **BATHSHEBA** for his wife
2. **GREED** caused David to have Bathsheba’s husband killed
3. God granted **FORGIVENESS** to David for the sin that he had committed

KEY VERSE

(Romans 12:10) “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

KEY NUGGET

We need to think about the people around us instead of just making ourselves happy.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PHILIPPIANS 2:3** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
- **PHILIPPIANS 4:11,12** “... I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...”

