**Lesson 4 Michal - Proud and Petulant**

**1 Samuel 18:17-30, 2 Sam 6:16-23**

*1 Samuel 18:17-30*

***17****Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord.” For Saul said to himself, “I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!”*

***18****But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Israel, that I should become the king’s son-in-law?”****19****So[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+18%3A17-30%2C+2+Sam+6%3A16-23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7696a)*] when the time came for Merab, Saul’s daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.*

***20****Now Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased.****21****“I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” So Saul said to David, “Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law.”*

***22****Then Saul ordered his attendants: “Speak to David privately and say, ‘Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.’”*

***23****They repeated these words to David. But David said, “Do you think it is a small matter to become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.”*

***24****When Saul’s servants told him what David had said,****25****Saul replied, “Say to David, ‘The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.’” Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.*

***26****When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed,****27****David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.*

***28****When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David,****29****Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.*

***30****The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.*

*2 Sam 6:16-23*

***16****As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.*

***17****They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord.****18****After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty.****19****Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.*

***20****When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!”*

***21****David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord.****22****I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”*

***23****And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.*

1. According to 1 Samuel 18:21, why did Saul want his daughter, Michal, to marry David?

2. If you knew the boss was out to get you, would you trust his daughter? Although Michal loved David, what were some of the challenges she probably faced in her marriage?

3. Michal was married to one of the most handsome, talented, famous and popular men in Israel. What kind of feelings might this have brought out in Michal, and how might those feelings have affected their relationship?

4. Have you ever felt insecure in an important relationship? What caused you to be insecure? What gives you a sense of security? (Please remember that anything of a personal nature that’s shared in our small groups is to remain confidential. No gossip please!)

5. In the 2 Samuel passage, David brought the ark, which represented God’s presence, back to Jerusalem, with dancing and great rejoicing. When he came home to bless his household, Michal unleashed words of scorn and criticism. What does this tell you about her? How did her reaction affect their relationship?

6. How might their story have ended differently if Michal had welcomed David home and rejoiced with him, instead of criticizing him?

7. Do you relate to Michal in any way? Is it difficult for you to praise a person and call out the good you see in their lives? Have you ever criticized when you should have praised? Explain.

8. Do you see a spiritual connection between Michal’s attitude and words and her barrenness?

9. What have you learned not to do from Michal?

10. Journal this passage “SOAP style” as explained in the introduction of this workbook.