

# 3

## Would He Ever Be King?



How could David be king of Israel? He did not know how to lead a nation. He did not know how to act in a fine palace. Also, a king had to lead his army into battle when enemy nations came to fight. David could not do that. He was a shepherd, not a soldier.

God would have to teach him all those things if He wanted David to be king.

The Spirit of God had left King Saul because he no longer obeyed the Lord. After that, Saul began having spells when he felt so bad he became sick. His servants thought music might cheer him. One servant had heard that the youngest son of Jesse could play the harp. So whenever Saul had a bad spell, they called for David to play beautiful music on his harp.

Saul loved the young shepherd boy whose music made him feel better. The king's son, Jonathan, loved David too. Jonathan and David

became best friends. At last, King Saul would not let David go home anymore. He kept him at the palace as one of the family. And he made David a leader in his army.

Now David could see what it was like to be king. He learned how to act in the palace. He learned how to be a soldier. God was getting him ready to be the king.

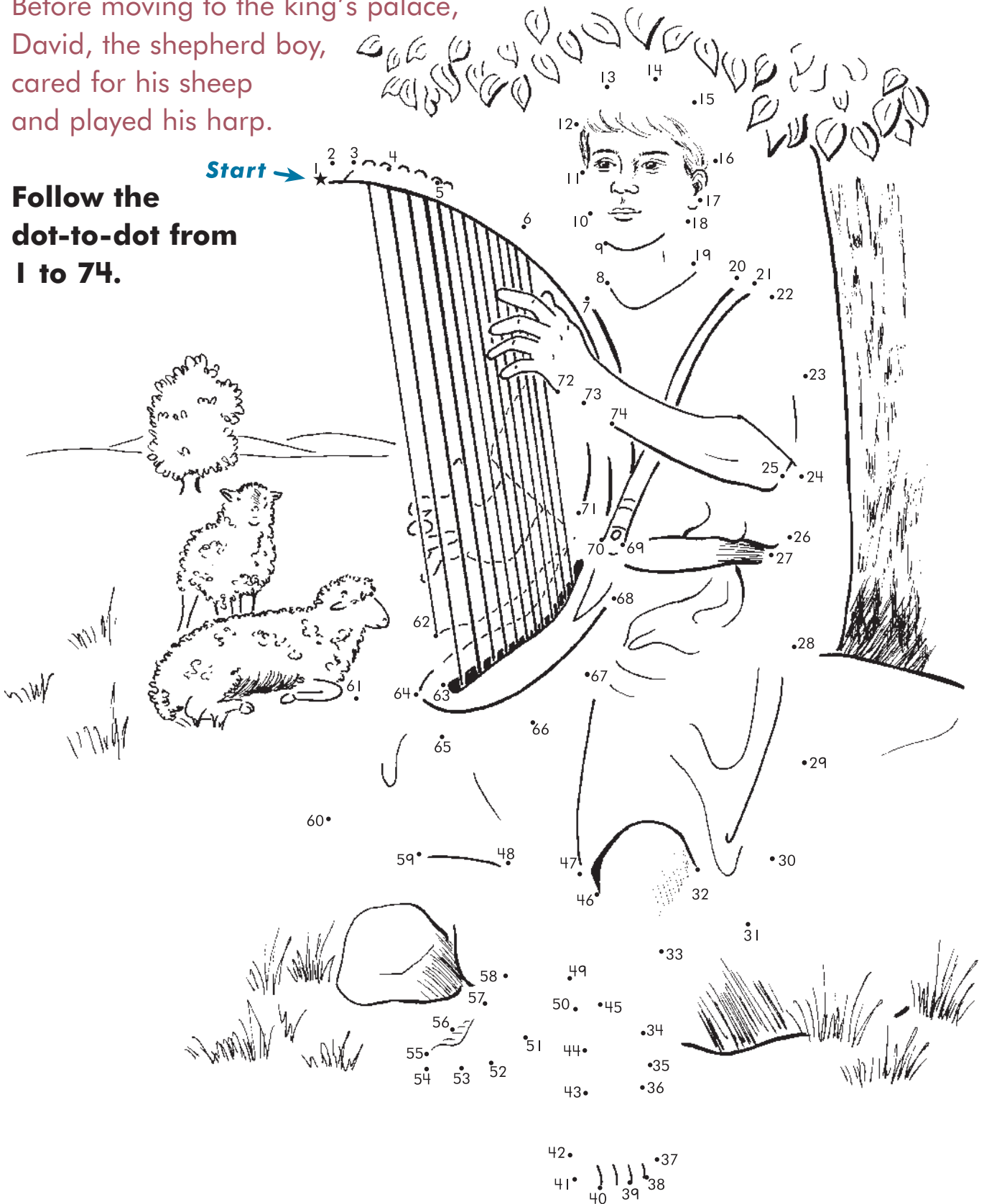
After a while Saul saw that everyone loved David better than they loved their own king. He became jealous. He wanted to get rid of David. Twice while David was playing his harp, the king threw a spear, trying to kill him. But David dodged and the spear missed him. Now he knew it was not safe for him to live in the palace anymore.

David said good-bye to Jonathan. They promised to be best friends forever. Then David fled to the wilderness to hide from Saul. Now he was far from the palace. Would he ever be king?

Before moving to the king's palace, David, the shepherd boy, cared for his sheep and played his harp.

Follow the dot-to-dot from 1 to 74.

Start →



David took an harp, and played with his hand. I Samuel 16:23

# 4

## David Keeps His Promise



David had a hard life in the wilderness. Some friends had come to live with him. But they had a hard time finding food and a safe place to sleep. And they had a hard time staying away from Saul's men who wanted to kill David.

David missed the good times he had had while living in the king's palace. Most of all he missed Jonathan.

Jonathan was having a hard time too. His father was angry with him because he and David were best friends. King Saul knew God had chosen David as the next king, but he wanted Jonathan to be king. He said to Jonathan, "Don't you know that as long as David lives, you will never be king? Now go and find him and bring him to me. He must die."

Jonathan found David hiding in a woods. He encouraged his friend to keep on trusting God. "Do not fear, David. My father will never find you. Some day you will be king of Israel

and I will be next to you."

Then David and Jonathan promised to love each other always. They promised to be kind to each other's family. When they said good-bye that day they did not know it was the last time they would ever see each other.

The Philistines came to fight against Israel. King Saul and his army went out to fight them. Jonathan and his two brothers went along. That day Saul and his three sons died in the battle.

Then David was made king just as God had promised. David loved the Lord with all his heart. He taught Israel to love and follow God too.

And he remembered his promise to Jonathan. He learned that Jonathan had a son who was lame in both feet. David brought him to the palace and gave him a home for the rest of his life. King David had kept his last promise to his friend.

**Finish the picture by following these directions.**

- Make a triangle doorway in the tent.
- Draw a soup bowl in the man's hands.
- Add more arrow ends to the man's quiver.
- Draw a spear point on the spear without one.
- Add flames to the wood.
- Add another rock.



David abode in the wilderness. . . and Saul sought him every day.

I Samuel 23:14