Pioneer devotion – Archery

A Bow, an Arrow, and a Little Boy

1 Samuel 20:35-36: “In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him, and he said to the boy, ‘Run and find the arrows I shoot.’ As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.”

Back when the Bible was written, one of the main weapons that armies used when they were at war was a bow and arrow. Archery is something that we need to be careful with, because an arrow can hurt or even kill someone. As you learn to use a bow and arrow today, I hope you will pay attention to your leaders when they teach you how to use them in a safe way.

But there are two people in the Bible who found a way to use arrows to help and protect instead of to hurt or kill. They were two very good friends, David and Jonathan. Jonathan’s father was the king of Israel, his name was Saul, and Saul wanted his son Jonathan to be the next king. But the Lord God had already chosen Jonathan’s friend David for the job. Saul was so angry that he tried to kill David so that Jonathan could be king. When David told his friend Jonathan that Jonathan’s father was trying to kill him, Jonathan couldn’t believe it, he couldn’t believe that his father would do such a horrible thing. So David asked Jonathan to talk to his father about it and see for himself. And they arranged a signal with arrows after the talk as a warning, so that David would know whether or not King Saul still had plans to take his life.

Jonathan did talk to his father and found out David was right. So he walked outside to a field where David was hiding behind a big rock. He took along a little boy to find the arrows he was going to shoot. And then he shot an arrow, he shot the arrow a long way in the air, past where the boy was standing, and yelled to the boy that the arrow had gone over his head.

When David heard Jonathan shout to the boy that the arrow was beyond him, he knew that Jonathan’s father Saul was going to try to kill him, and that Jonathan knew it too. David was so thankful that Jonathan was such a good friend and that Jonathan loved the Lord and was willing to risk his own father’s anger to do the right thing.

The archery that Jonathan learned was important. It helped keep David alive, so that the Lord could keep his promise to provide a Savior for the world who would be a descendant of David. I hope that as you learn archery today, you will be like David and Jonathan, and use what you learn about bows and arrows to serve your Lord Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for good friends, friends I can play with, friends I can talk about you with, friends who care about me. Help me to be a good friend to others and to stick up for my friends when someone wants to hurt them. As I learn about archery today, help me to learn to use a bow and arrow safely. In Jesus’ name. Amen.