

An Excerpt from The Little Prince

The Little Prince, a novel by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is a story that seems to be a children's fairy tale, but many consider it to be an allegory with many lessons to teach adults about what matters most in life. The following passage is the entire text of Chapter 12. At this point in the novel, the little prince is traveling to various tiny planets in space, each of which is inhabited by only one person.

The next planet was inhabited by a drunkard. This visit was a very brief one, but it plunged the little prince into a deep depression.

“What are you doing there?” he asked the drunkard, whom he found sunk in silence before a collection of empty bottles and a collection of full ones.

“Drinking,” replied the drunkard, with a gloomy expression.

“Why are you drinking?” the little prince asked.

“To forget,” replied the drunkard.

“To forget what?” inquired the little prince, who was already feeling sorry for him.

“To forget that I’m ashamed,” confessed the drunkard, hanging his head.

“What are you ashamed of?” inquired the little prince, who wanted to help.

“Of drinking!” concluded the drunkard, withdrawing into silence for good.

And the little prince went on his way, puzzled.

(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*, trans. Richard Howard [New York: Harcourt, 2000], ch. 12)

Questions for review and reflection:

1. Describe the cycle in which this man lives.

2. Can you think of another example of a cycle of sin that traps human beings? Try to think of an example other than substance abuse.

David and Prayer

Section A:

1 Samuel 16:11–13 *The prophet Samuel asks Jesse whether he has any more sons, and he sends for David. God tells Samuel that he is the one to anoint him. The spirit of the Lord rushes upon David.*

1 Samuel 17:41–51 *Goliath, the Philistine, makes fun of David because of his appearance. David says that he comes against Goliath in the name of the Lord of hosts and will strike him down. Everyone will know that the Lord saves not through swords or spears. They run toward each other, and David kills the Philistine with his sling and stone and then cuts off his head.*

Psalms 8 *God's name is awesome. Why do you care about humans? You have made humans little less than gods and given them rule over the earth—creatures, fish, and other living things.*

Section B:

1 Samuel 19:1–3 *Saul's son, Jonathan, was David's friend and warned him that his father wanted to kill David. Jonathan said that he would speak to his father about David and let David know if he learned anything.*

1 Samuel 26:6–12 *David went to Saul's camp with Abishai and saw Saul sleeping with his soldiers around him. Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David told him that they should not harm God's anointed, because only God should strike him down. David took Saul's spear and water jug and returned without anyone seeing them.*

1 Samuel 31:1–10 *The Philistines went to war against Israel and attacked Saul and his sons so that his sons died and Saul was wounded. Saul asked his armor-bearer to kill him so that the Philistines would not torture him, but the armor-bearer refused. Saul and then his armor-bearer fell on their own swords. The Israelites fled, and Philistines came to live in their cities. The Philistines cut off Saul's head and kept his armor as trophies, impaling his body in the temple of Astarte.*

Psalms 86:1–10 *Listen to me, God, and answer me. Save my life for I am your servant. Make me glad. God, you are merciful and forgiving. Hear my prayer and listen to my call for help. God, you are much greater than all other gods, and the other nations will honor you because of your wonderful deeds.*

Section C:

2 Samuel 5:2–4 *The tribes of Israel noted that David was the one who led them in battle and that God had selected him to be the ruler of Israel. The tribes' elders came to Hebron, and David made a covenant with them, and they anointed him king of Israel. He was thirty years old when he became king and ruled for forty years.*

2 Samuel 6:1–5, 17–19 *David and many men went to get the Ark of God and transported it on a cart. David and the house of Israel danced and sang and made music. They put the Ark in a tent, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and communion offerings. He blessed the people and distributed food to every person before they went home.*

Psalms 24:7–10 *The King of glory is the Lord who is strong and mighty. The King of glory is the Lord of hosts.*

Section D:

2 Samuel 11:2–17 *David saw the beauty of Bathsheba and asked who she was, finding out that she was the wife of one of his soldiers. David called for Bathsheba and took her to bed before sending her home. When David found out that Bathsheba was pregnant, he called for her husband and spoke with him, urging him to go home to his wife, but Uriah would not because others, including the Ark, were in tents. Getting Uriah drunk was not enough to get him to go home. Then David asked Joab to position Uriah so that he would be killed.*

2 Samuel 12:1–15 *Nathan the prophet came to see David and asked David to judge a given situation about a rich man with many flocks and a poor man with just one lamb. The rich man took the poor man's lamb even while he had many flocks. David said that the rich man deserved death for doing what he did and said he would need to make reparation. Nathan told David that he was the man.*

Psalms 51:1–17 *God, have mercy on me and wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. I have sinned against you. Teach me wisdom; purify me. Do not look at my sins, but create a clean heart in me, God. Do not drive me away, and restore me to gladness about salvation. I will teach others about you. Rescue me from violence. Open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.*

Section E:

2 Samuel 7:8–16 *God told Nathan to speak this way to David: I took you from the sheep to be Israel's ruler. I accompanied you wherever you went and defeated your enemies. I will make your name great on earth, and I will assign a place for my people Israel. I will give you rest from your enemies and make a house for you. I will raise up your offspring and establish his kingdom. He will build a house for me. If he does not obey me, I will punish him with human punishments. I will not withdraw my favor from him. Your house and kingdom are firm forever before me. Nathan shared all of this with David.*

Psalms 72 *Give your justice to the king's son so that he may govern your people with justice, that the fields will yield food and that he may defend the oppressed among the people. May others fear you, and may he be like showers watering the earth, creating a great bounty. May he rule from sea to sea. May his enemies and all kings bow before him because he rescues the needy and the poor. Long may he live. Prayed for without ceasing, may his name be forever and may all nations regard him as favored. Blessed be God, the God of Israel who alone does wonderful deeds. Blessed be his glorious name forever.*

Name _____ Date _____

Handout 5-C

David and Prayer

Read each passage in the section assigned to your group. Describe what you learned about David from each passage. Then discuss the following questions:

1. If David were here to speak to us, what do you think he'd tell us about God, or about prayer?

2. What would you like to ask David about prayer?

3. Thinking back to our discussion earlier about reasons people find it difficult to pray at times, what do you think David would have added to that discussion if he had been here?

Game Cards Template

In the boxes below, write the names of the prophets described in this section, as well as an identifying fact about each. You might describe an event from the prophet's life, a key theme of his message, or the methods he used to spread his message among the people to whom God sent him. You will then be able to use these cards to play a variety of games:

- **Memory:** Cut on solid and dotted lines, shuffle cards, and arrange them in a grid facedown. Take turns trying to find “matches” of a prophet's name and his description.
- **Go Fish:** Cut on solid and dotted lines, and deal several cards to each player, with a “fish pond” of several cards left in the middle of the desk. Set aside any matches that you have already. Then, in turn, each player tries to make more pairs by asking the next player, “Do you have (e.g., a card about Elijah)?” The second player hands over the card if he or she has one, or else says, “Go fish,” and the first player draws from the “pond.” Play until someone wins by matching all of the cards in his or her hand.
- **Old Maid:** Cut on solid and dotted lines, and deal out all cards except for one, which is set aside. Each player draws, blindly, a card from the hand of the player to his or her right and tries to make a match. The player left at the end with the unmatched card loses.
- **Dominoes:** Cut on solid lines only (note that if you use this game, you will want to prepare by mixing up your prophet names and descriptions so that individual “dominoes” don't match). Deal all cards among players. The first player sets down a card. The next player looks to see if one of his or her cards matches either end of the played card. If possible, he or she lays a card with the matching end touching the first played card. Players continue around the circle to complete the board, and the first player to match all of his or her cards wins.

Then and Now

Assigned event (circle one): Creation/Sin and the Fall/Punishment/The Promise

Your assignment is to offer convincing reasons that the event above is the most significant of the four for faithful people today to remember in their prayers. Use your class time to research and organize the points you will use to persuade your classmates. The following chart may help you:

Prophet	What message did this prophet deliver to the Jews?	What message does this prophet deliver to us today?
Jeremiah		
Ezekiel		
The Prophet of the Exile (Isaiah 40-55)		

Questions for Reflection:

1. What are some things that we know about today that change the message that the Jews heard into the message that we hear today?

2. How is it possible that we hear a different message while reading the same words from the same prophets?
