

Sheerluck Holmes and the Golden Ruler



What is the STORY about?

In this nail-biting VeggieTales' mystery, Larry the Cucumber plays detective-dynamo Sheerluck Holmes and Bob the Tomato his venerable sidekick, Dr. Watson. Together their superlative powers of observation and forensic fortitude can solve any crime. But because Sheerluck takes all the credit for the pair's sleuthing savvy, the missing Golden Ruler—the most valuable and prized treasure in all of Buckingham Palace—may never be recovered. Find out how Sheerluck discovers the meaning of the all-important Golden Rule in time to rescue the ruler and save his friendship with Dr. Watson.

- *A Lesson in Friendship*
- *Key Passage: 1 Samuel 18, 19 and 20 (Lesson-related Bible story)*
- *Running time: 23 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "The Asparagus of LaMancha" (19 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

- *Why did Dr. Watson decide to leave his partnership with Sheerluck Holmes?*

(Sheerluck was taking all the credit for solving crimes.)

- *What caused Sheerluck to realize he had not been treating Watson like a true friend?* (The detective stole Sheerluck's idea and made him realize that he had been inconsiderate for not giving Watson credit for his ideas.)
- *Who solved the mystery of the stolen ruler?* (Sheerluck Holmes AND Dr. Watson... working together as friends.)
- *What is printed on the Golden Ruler?* ("Treat others the way you want to be treated.")



What does the BIBLE say?

The FRIENDSHIP of Jonathan and David is described in 1 Samuel 18, 19, and 20. Read appropriate passages OR tell the story in this abbreviated form.

After defeating Goliath, the great Philistine giant, David came to live at King Saul's palace. The king's son, Jonathan, and David became good friends. Jonathan shared his riches with his new friend...he gave him his own coat and belt, and even his sword, bow and arrows. David and Jonathan loved each other as brothers and promised to be friends as long as they lived. King Saul became jealous of the great warrior David when he saw how much the people loved him. When the king tried to kill David, Jonathan warned his friend and helped him escape. Jonathan persuaded his father not to harm David, so he returned to the palace. But soon King Saul became jealous again and tried several times to kill David, and he fled for his life. One day David returned to ask Jonathan why his father wanted to kill him. They devised a secret plan using arrows for David to know if Saul was still angry with him. Saul WAS still angry because he knew that his son, Jonathan, would never be king as long as David lived. David came out of his hiding place and talked with Jonathan about the promise they had made as friends. Because of Saul's anger and jealousy for David, the friends knew that he must leave. They said good-bye to each other. Even though King Saul hated David and continued to chase him, Jonathan and David were loyal to each other and remained best friends.

The Story of Jonathan and David



ACTIVITY

The worth of true friendship is immeasurable. But just for fun...have the children use rulers to measure the height of their friends. (Distribute rulers, paper and pencils, and assist the children in measuring when necessary.) Calculate the total number of “friendship inches” in your group.

Additional activity: Detectives are always looking for fingerprints. If available, offer stamp pads, colored pencils, and paper for the children to create designs, characters, animals, etc, from their own fingerprints. (Have wet wipes available for easy clean up.)



What can we DO?

Read and discuss the meaning of the Golden Rule from Matthew 7:12. Encourage conversation with the following questions.

- Have you ever been jealous of one of your friends? How could that ruin your friendship?
- What should you do if someone lies about one of your friends?
- How should we treat friends when they do something bad to us or say something mean about us?
- Do you like to hang around friends who are conceited and always telling you how great they are?
- What are some ways that you can show kindness to your friends?
- How can you make new friends?

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **Proverbs 18:24** “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
- **Hebrews 13:5** “...Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
- **Ephesians 4:32** “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

3 Things to remember about David and Jonathan

1. David and Jonathan were **LOYAL FRIENDS**
2. They **LOVED EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS**
3. Jonathan **HELPED** David when his father tried to kill him

KEY VERSE

(Proverbs 17:17) “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

KEY NUGGET

We need to treat others the way we want to be treated.

