

## A MAD IDEA

By Rod

*Based on 1 Samuel Chs 20 & 21 and leading to the writing of Psalm 34.*

### CAST

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

David(3)

*Saul(1), Ahimelech (2) Achish (4), Jonathan (5) + Philistines, wild animals etc – these could be played by a minimum of 2 other actors. They start standing in a row 1,2,3,4,5. There is a table on stage with bread and Goliath's sword.*

Narrator 1 This is the story of David.

*David steps forward.(3)*

Narrator 2 What, the one who killed Goliath?

*David given catapult.(by 4)*

N1 Yes, but this is after that.

*Catapult taken away.(by 4)*

N2 The David who became King?

*Crown place on David's head.(by 2)*

N1 That's right, but this is before that. He knew he was going to be king, but he wasn't king yet.

*Crown removed.(by 2)*

N2 Who was king?

*Saul steps forward taking crown and placing on his head + has swoed in his belt*

N1 Saul.... and Saul hated David.

*Saul glares at David.*

N2 Why?

N1 Because he was jealous of David's success. And he wanted to kill David.

*Saul draws sword*

N2 Oh dear, so did David do a runner?

- N1 Yes, after a warning from his friend Jonathan.  
*Jonathan (5) whispers in David's ear pointing at Saul.*
- N2 Wasn't he Saul's son?
- N1 Yes, but he was a very good friend to David. But David fled in haste with nothing at all.  
*David runs off pursued by Saul (1). Jonathan returns to line.*
- N2 What, not even any food?
- N1 No, but luckily he met a priest called Ahimelech.  
*Re-enter David to encounter Ahimelech (2)*
- N2 I didn't know priests sold food. Did he have a burger van?
- N1 No he didn't, but David tricked him into giving him some bread off the altar.  
*David produces cards. Does trick. While Ahimelech looking for card David takes bread off altar/table.*
- N2 That's a bit cheeky.. but at least he now had something to eat.
- N1 But he had also fled unarmed.
- N2 A bit dangerous I would have thought. Israel was a pretty wild country in those days wasn't it? Wouldn't there have been wild animals to watch out for?  
*(4 & 5) pretend to be wild animals.*
- N1 Yes indeed, not to mention Saul's soldiers who were chasing after him.  
*(Saul wanders across front of stage with drawn sword).*  
So he persuaded Ahimelech to give him the sword of Goliath.  
*David points at sword on table. Ahimelech gives it to him.*
- N2 What? The Goliath David killed with a shot from his sling?
- N1 The very same; Goliath the Philistine from Gath.
- N2 Wow! So now David had food and a weapon what did he do next?
- N1 He went to Gath.  
*5 holds up sign TO GATH. David exits in that direction. Ahimelech (2) returns to line.*

N2 You're joking. That was enemy country.

N1 Yes it was. And so Saul couldn't get at him.

*Re-enter David looking behind him as if looking for Saul pursuing.*

N2 Oh, I get it. But even so, surely he was a marked man – Public Enemy Number One?

*Enter Philistines (4 & 5) holding up wanted poster.*

N1 He hoped to sneak in quietly and pass himself off as an anonymous mercenary soldier.

*David sneaks in ending up with his face exactly next to the Wanted Poster.*

N2 Did he succeed?

N1 No, he was spotted straight away and the people told Achish, the king.

*Philistines (2 & 5) spot David. Arrest him. Step forward Achish (4). Philistines take David to Achish(4)*

N2 I knew going to Gath was a mad idea.

N1 Have you heard this story before?

N2 No, I don't think so. Why?

N1 Because David had the idea of pretending to be mad. He started acting strangely.

*David acts mad. 2,4,5 step back.*

N2 How did that help?

N1 Well Achish probably thought David was no threat to him if he was off his trolley?

*1 now as a Philistine pushes on trolley.*

N2 So the mad idea was not such a mad idea after all?

N1 Indeed, because it meant that Achish sent David away.

*Achish points. David gets on trolley and is pushed off by Philistines(1,2,5)*

N2 Which is exactly what David wanted.

*Exit Achish(4) following trolley.*

N1 Precisely.

N2 I expect David was pleased with himself for devising such a cunning plan?

*Re-enter David.*

N1 Well, actually he gave the credit to God for saving him.

N2 How do we know?

N1 Because he wrote Psalm 34 to say thank you.

*David starts to write using feather and scroll.*

*THE END*