

Teacher Resource

Chapter 1—*New Boy* (pages 1–6)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Verbal bullying. Kimberly and her boyfriend tease David about his “old” house and make life uncomfortable for him on his first bus trip.
- b) Reactions to bullying. David is embarrassed and just wants to shrink away. Joanne becomes angry and reactive. Observers/friends enjoy the tension and entertainment.

Question—What is the difference between verbal and physical bullying? Did David respond well to the bullying on the bus? What were his options?

Discussion points:

- Is there a difference in how boys and girls bully each other? For example, physical versus verbal? Explore this with the class.
- Why do some people bully others? Is it because it makes them feel powerful and important? Does it raise their self-esteem? Does it give them pleasure? Does it help some groups become stronger when they have a victim?
- Why do people allow others to bully them? Is it because they are afraid and weak? Is it because they cannot defend themselves? Is it because they have no other options?
- Can ignoring bullying be a good option and a sign of strength?
- Why do some people allow others to be bullied while they stand by and do nothing? Is it because they enjoy it? Is it because they are weak? Is it because they are loyal to the bully?
- How would you deal with bullying? Should you try different responses?
- How do new students feel on their first days and week at school? What can new students do to fit in better? What can “old” students do to help them?

The Bible and bullying:

David and Goliath. Was Goliath a bully in the way he spoke and acted? Should we do what David did? Read and discuss 1 Samuel 17. Compare this story with Matthew 27:27.

Note: The book begins with a bus journey. David is on the move, bound for new experiences and new adventures. Is that like all of us?

Activity Sheet

Chapter 1—*New Boy* (pages 1–6)

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david

Your mission is to list, anonymously (don't write your name on this paper), some of the bullying things people have said to you in the past.

Things said (verbal bullying) that were really bad.

Things said (verbal bullying) that were bad.

Things said (verbal bullying) that were minor.

- Step 1 Hand in your anonymous comment sheet.
- Step 2 Take someone else's anonymous comment sheet.
- Step 3 Take turns reading the comments aloud.
- Step 4 Discuss why you think certain comments are so hurtful.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 2—*Deathball* (pages 7–14)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Settling into a new school—awkwardness and not belonging. David does not know who to talk to or where to stand at lunchtime.
- b) Making new friends. In David's case, James went out of his way to include him in a game.

Question—David ends up covered in dog poo and is suffocating under a pile of bodies. This is symbolic of his life. He has tried his best but is being crushed by circumstances outside his control. He is, metaphorically, in trouble. Do many students feel this way but never talk about it? What stops them?

Discussion points:

- Is looking after new people (for example, new students at school) an act of strength and leadership?
- What overwhelms students and crushes them?
- Why don't people talk about stuff going on in their lives?
- What can we do to make new students more welcome?
- Is life a bit like deathball—do we all compete and enjoy seeing others fall?
- Can good come from bad? Consider, for example, David making friends with James and Sai because they shared a negative experience.
- What is the most disgusting, funny thing that has happened to you?

The Bible and strangers:

Read and discuss Hebrews 13:2 and Matthew 25:35. How should we treat strangers?

Behind the story: The dog poo incident really did happen to the author. It is a true story but told in a different time and place.

Activity Sheet

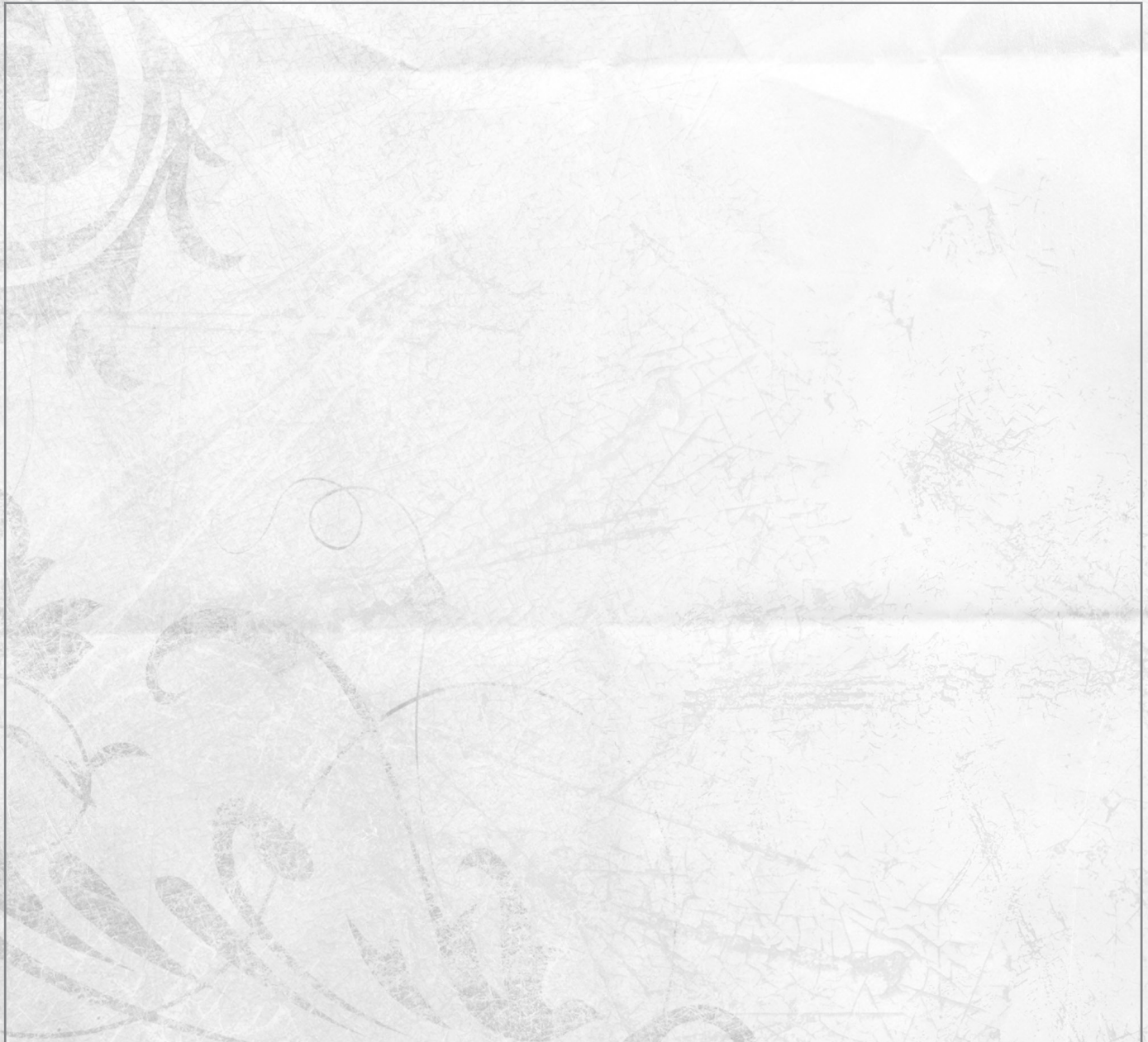
Chapter 2—*Deathball* (pages 7–14)

finding
david

Your mission is to illustrate the things that can weigh down, burden and crush people your age. Think of what piles up on you and the people you know.

- Step 1 Draw a stickperson near the bottom of the page (you).
- Step 2 Draw other objects piling up on top (problems).
- Step 3 Give each object a title. Big problems = big objects.

For example, David would draw himself. People piling on top could be labelled “Bullying,” “Family problems” or “School.”



Teacher Resource

Chapter 3—*The Assignment* (pages 15–22)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Peer pressure. David's main worry is what others will think if they know the secret in his family. After refusing to participate in talking about his mother, he leaves the room feeling like a loser.
- b) Reactions to stress and coping with stress. When put on the spot, David can't think clearly. He clams up and withdraws, feeling like a failure.

Question—Everyone reacts to stress differently. What other options did David have?

Discussion points:

- Is stress a good thing or bad thing?
- What are the symptoms of stress? Some symptoms include elevated heartbeat, increased blood pressure, confusion, tenseness, headaches, flushed skin and more.
- Is it possible to be stressed without even knowing it?
- How do your friends react when they are put in embarrassing or stressful situations? Do they get angry, become passive, withdraw/avoid or deal with it?
- How could David have responded in a way that would have gained respect for him? For example, could he have asked the teacher if he could talk to her in private and politely tell her he preferred not to talk about his personal life?
- Was the class exerting peer pressure on David or was David worried about peer pressure that was not even there?
- How did Kimberly react to the stress of being moved to the front of the room? Was her response one that earned respect?
- How can symptoms of stress be reduced? Some suggestions include exercise, dealing with the problem or doing what Jesus did and going to a quiet place to pray.

The Bible and stress:

Read and discuss Matthew 6:25, 6:27 and 10:19.

Note: Everyone worries. Successful people worry about what they can change. Even Jesus got stressed. However, He prayed about it, got over it and kept on keeping on.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 3—*The Assignment* (pages 15–22)

finding
david

Your mission is to draw a stress graph for yourself for the past five days.

Y Axis—*Stress Level*

No stress

X Axis—*Time*

Draw a scale on the Y axis above. For example, 1 to 10. 1 = low stress.
10 = high stress.

Draw the past five days on the X axis. For example, Monday, Tuesday,
etc. Now plot your stress as it went up and down over the five days.

Write what you could have done to reduce stress on your worst day.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 4—*Locals* (pages 23–28)

finding david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Racism. Sai is verbally harassed because he looks different, even though he is Australian. This makes him angry, resentful and determined to get revenge.
- b) Respect. Anthony and his surfing mates break common rules of surfing by dropping in on waves that David is already riding. As “standup” surfers, Anthony and his friends show little respect for bodyboarders.

Question—Although the chapter is about racism and lack of respect in the surf, does the same thing happen at school and in society? Do we disrespect difference?

Discussion points:

- Has anyone in the class experienced racism or disrespect because of appearances, body, fashion, etc?
- Why do people so easily disrespect other people who look different—even if in small ways?
- Did Sai and David do the right thing by paddling away and avoiding a fight? If they were not outnumbered, should they have stayed?
- Can anyone give examples of racism in Australia today?
- Does fighting racism with racism work—or fighting disrespect with disrespect?
- What was Martin Luther King’s advice for dealing with racism and disrespect? For example, King advised quietly standing up for your rights without using force. It worked.

The Bible and respect:

Read and discuss 1 Peter 15:25. (The passage on slaves respecting masters is controversial and makes for a great discussion.) Read also Matthew 22:36-40 or Leviticus 19:9-16.

Note: Everyone experiences disrespect in some way. It is our choice how we deal with that disrespect—whether we stoop to the same level or rise above it and behave as leaders.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 4—*Locals* (pages 23–28)

finding
david

Respect is showing esteem, regard or consideration for something or someone. Your mission is to write down one way of showing respect for the people below:

A king, president or prime minister:

A war hero who speaks to your class:

A famous musician you meet after a concert:

A foreign visitor to your country who asks for directions:

A church leader after a boring sermon:

A disabled person who falls out of his or her wheelchair:

A homeless man who asks you for money to buy food:

Teacher Resource

Chapter 5—A Very Flat Tyre (pages 29–36)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Revenge. Sai wants to let down Anthony's car tyre and urinate on it to humiliate those who were racist.
- b) Deceit. David and Sai lie to Mr Matthews about the car tyre.

Question—What would you have done if you were in David's and Sai's shoes? Would you have done something to the car?

Discussion points:

- Is there a time for revenge?
- Why did David advise Sai not to urinate on the tyre? Were they more worried about doing the wrong thing or getting caught?
- What is the difference between revenge and justice? Is it OK to want someone to suffer for making you suffer?
- Was David's lie to Mr Matthews a small one or a big one? Is there a difference?
- What would you have said to Mr Matthews?
- Is surfing for David an escape? Is that OK?

The Bible and revenge:

Read and discuss Leviticus 19:18.

Note: The Bible always urges us to think carefully before we act. There is a difference between making someone suffer for your own enjoyment and seeking to change their hearts through justice.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 5—*A Very Flat Tyre* (pages 29–36)

finding
david

Your mission is to think of three instances where someone has wronged you. What could you do for revenge? What should you do for the right course?

The wrong =

Sweet revenge =

The right course =

The wrong =

Sweet revenge =

The right course =

The wrong =

Sweet revenge =

The right course =

Teacher Resource

Chapter 6—*Two Weeks Down* (pages 37–42)

**finding
david**

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Communication. Mr Matthews is frustrated by trying to make conversation with his teenage kids. David does not want to be grilled and Jessica is very tense.
- b) Settling into school. Jessica reveals she is very unhappy and struggles to fit in. Unlike David, nobody has befriended her and she misses home. She is very negative about everything.

Question—How stable is Jessica? Is she abnormal for being so emotional?

Discussion points:

- Why can it be so hard communicating with parents?
- Do parents always pry and want to know everything?
- What do teenagers hide from their parents?
- Could David help his sister more?
- Is Jess being proactive or reactive?
- What would you advise someone like Jessica to do?
- What would you advise a parent like Mr Matthews to do?

The Bible and communication:

Read and discuss Exodus 20:12. Does honouring your mother and father mean you have to be truthful, honest and open? What if they don't honour you? How can we explain Bible verses like Matthew 15:3-7?

Note: Many parents find it difficult to adjust as their children grow up, think their own thoughts, dream their own dreams and explore their own way of doing stuff. However, all good relationships are based on letting other people into our own lives a little, and showing respect and concern.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 6—*Two Weeks Down* (pages 37–42)

finding
david

Your mission is to list things you mostly talk to your friends about and things you mostly talk to a parent about. What are the differences?

Things I talk to my friends about:

Things I talk to a parent about:

Teacher Resource

Chapter 7—*Squashing Peas* (pages 43–48)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Prayer and our relationship with God. David feels so far away from God that he is unable to pray and he gives up.
- b) Avoiding things. Jessica and David are avoiding problems in their family. David is being forced to do an assignment he doesn't want and his reaction is to try to get out of it.

Question—Why doesn't David pray? What sort of prayer was he thinking about?

Discussion points:

- Are there different sorts of prayer? Consider, for example, praying silently, aloud, in song, in writing or through acts of kindness.
- How have Western religions taught followers to pray? For example, the stereotype is eyes closed, on knees, addressing God with something like "Oh Lord, Thou art..."
- How does prayer help people? Is it just a strange thing to do?
- According to a wise man, there are three answers to prayer: "Yes," "No" and "Wait." Can anyone give examples?
- Why do so many people think prayer is weird?
- Who says prayer before eating? Why?
- Should prayer be a list of requests, a form of worship or both?

The Bible and prayer:

Read and discuss Daniel 6. How important was prayer to Daniel and why did he continue to pray in public? At what risk? Why did he break the king's law and risk death?

Note: Most people pray when something goes wrong and they want God's help. The biblical character Daniel prayed three times a day to God, regardless of whether he was having a good day or bad one. God blessed him in all he did.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 7—*Squashing Peas* (pages 43–48)

finding david

Your mission is to read Luke 11:1-4. Notice that Jesus starts by:

- asking His disciples to ask for help in honouring God.
- asking for needs to be met.
- asking for help in forgiving others.
- asking for help to resist temptations.

Now, write an incredibly selfish prayer—one that is a lesson in BAD prayer. Ignore Jesus' advice.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the background, there is a faint, light-colored floral or leaf-like pattern that adds a decorative touch to the otherwise plain paper. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 8—*Bad Dreams* (pages 49–54)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) The power of dreams to reveal our state of mind. David has a bad dream in which he feels like he is about to drown. This symbolises his lack of control and feeling of helplessness over what has happened in his personal life.
- b) Showing off. David falls off his bike while trying to impress two girls.

Question—Are all dreams “gobbledygook” or do some have meaning or importance?

Discussion points:

- Has anyone had the same dream more than once?
- Does anyone remember a dream they had a long time ago that is still fresh in their memory?
- Can God speak in our dreams as we sleep?
- How do we know which dreams to pay attention to?
- What is your interpretation of David’s dream?
- What happened to David when he showed off to the twins?
- Can anyone remember a time when showing off ended badly?

The Bible and dreams:

Summarise for students King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2:1-49. Note that Daniel could have shown off to the king. Instead, he gave all the credit to his God.

Note: Almost everyone dreams. This is normal. But few people have dreams that are so real that they come true.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 8—*Bad Dreams* (pages 49–54)

finding
david

Your mission is to interpret the following dreams:

In your dream you begin to fall. You fall and fall and fall. Then you wake up.

You dream that you are in your house and a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex comes and takes one of your parents. You run after it but can't catch up. Then you wake up.

You dream that you are at a party with friends and suddenly realise you have no clothes on. Nobody has noticed yet but they will soon and you are so embarrassed.

You dream that you wake up and look in the mirror. Your face is puffy and twice its normal size. You notice your whole body is twice its normal size. You panic. Then you wake up.

You dream that you are walking through a beautiful meadow full of colour. You climb up the thick trunk of huge, shady tree. Then you wake up.

Write a dream that you have had more than once. What could it mean?

Illustrate a scene from your dream on the other side of this page:

Teacher Resource

Chapter 9—*Bathroom Blues* (pages 55–59)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Conflict resolution. David and Jess compete for time in the bathroom and struggle to get along.
- b) Eating disorders. David teases Jess for eating so little.

Question—If families are supposed to be so close, why are they often filled with so much tension?

Discussion points:

- What causes tension in your family? For example, what are sure-fire argument starters?
- Do girls take longer in the bathroom or is that a stereotype?
- Why are boys so messy—or is that a stereotype?
- Is eating too little an eating disorder? When is the line crossed?
- What is the best way to express concern about someone's eating habits? Is David's method a good model to follow?
- What is vanity? Is David vain? Are teenagers in general vain?
- Who decides whether we look good? Is it us or others? Why is "beauty" always changing? For example, in England hundreds of years ago, a "beautiful" women had to have lily-white skin and a full, pear-shaped figure.

The Bible and our image:

Read and discuss Genesis 1:26, 27. Note that God values all people equally. The Bible has almost nothing to say about physical beauty and concentrates more on inner beauty.

Read and discuss the story of Absalom in 2 Samuel 14:25. Can beauty be a curse?

Note: Almost all teenagers stress about their body image. What they are really stressing about is what other people think of them. Instead of wanting to be seen as individuals, they become part of the herd. It takes someone brave to be content with who they are.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 9—*Bathroom Blues* (pages 55–59)

finding
david

Your mission is to list argument starters in your family. Draw 10 bombs/grenades/explosives. On each explosive device, write the cause of fights or disagreements.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to draw 10 bombs or grenades and write the causes of family fights or disagreements on each one. The box is empty and occupies the majority of the page below the instructions.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 10—*Church* (pages 60–67)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Preconceptions about church. David expects church to be artificial, fake and boring.
- b) Trusting in God. David continues to trust in himself instead of in God.

Question—What are churches for? How have Christian churches changed in the past few hundred years? Are churches out of fashion?

Discussion points:

- David is suspicious of Christians. Why?
- What about the church surprises David?
- Why does David think the speaker at church will say the same old stuff?
- Is the story of Joseph about a boy sold into captivity who becomes a star, or is it about a God who can do anything if we believe in Him?
- What choices did Joseph make that led to success? For example, positive thinking, honesty, etc.
- Why should Joseph have kept trusting in God when everything seemed to be going wrong? Does God promise easy times or difficult ones?

The Bible and worship:

Read Psalm 84. Note that the Psalm is a song to God. David admires God, asks God for blessings, is prepared to humble himself and says, “O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.” Read Isaiah 58:6 and discuss. True worship is doing good. Life isn’t easy for believers. Read Luke 12:49-53

Note: Places of worship change like fashion. Methods of worship change, too. What does not change is God’s call to follow His way every day and to make a difference. Feeling empty? Maybe you need to worship and take your emptiness to Him.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 10—*Church* (pages 60–67)

finding
david

As a class, your mission is to list the best and worst things about church. There is no right or wrong answer because everyone has different experiences and perceptions.

Best things about church	Worst things about church

Teacher Resource

Chapter 11—*Joanne* (pages 68–71)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Broken relationships. Joanne's mother and father divorced after her father left for another woman. Joanne shares her father with Kimberly, a half-sister who is spoiled, arrogant and pretentious.
- b) Attraction. David finds both Kimberly and Joanne attractive but in different ways.

Question—How can Kimberly and Joanne both be attractive to David but in different ways?

Discussion points:

- What attracts girls to boys?
- What attracts boys to girls?
- Is there a difference in what men and women find attractive in a life partner?
- Why do Hollywood stars who are so attractive find so much unhappiness in relationships?
- What is the long-term impact of adultery on Joanne's family?
- If you've got it, why not flaunt it? Kimberly does!

The Bible and “flaunting it”:

Read Esther 1:10-12. Was Queen Vashti brave or foolish? What did the King value her for? Can God use beauty for His purpose, as in Esther 2?

Note: There is nothing wrong with beauty and good looks. The problem is when people use their beauty and good looks in a proud and arrogant way—or when they use beauty to give others ugly thoughts.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 11—*Joanne* (pages 68–71)

finding
david

Your mission is to write down the qualities of your perfect boyfriend/ girlfriend (for a two-year, serious relationship) and then the things that would make them a complete turn-off.

My perfect Partner—Qualities	Biggest turn-offs ever

Teacher Resource

Chapter 12—*JJ* (pages 72–78)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Loss and grieving. Jess keeps a diary in which she writes to JJ, the big sister she would have had, who died as baby.
- b) Brainfood. David likes watching violence on TV, while Jess reads *Dolly* magazine.

Question—How weird is it for a teenage girl to write in her diary to an imaginary big sister who died at birth? Or is that OK?

Discussion points:

- How traumatic is it to leave your home, friends, school and church to move to a completely different place?
- Why is Jessica so secretive about her diary? Is this normal?
- Is it true that girls are more relationship oriented while boys are more activity oriented? Does this explain why David loves sports while Jessica misses friends terribly and writes to JJ?
- Why do boys like watching violent stuff on TV? Is it any worse than the mushy stuff many girls watch?
- What would Jesus NOT watch on TV if He was on earth today? What sort of brainfood would He avoid?

The Bible and brainfood:

Read and discuss Philippians 4:8. If we followed this advice. What would we have to stop watching on TV? What about real food? Read and discuss Daniel 1:3-17.

Note: Everyone is unique but we are more the same than we are different.

Note: We all know that we are what we eat. The same applies for our attitude and ability—we are what we study and use.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 12—*JJ* (pages 72–78)

finding
david

Your mission is to think about what teenagers eat (for their bodies) and take into their minds (brain food). We will call all of the bad body and brain food *junk food*. Illustrate them or write them below.



Teacher Resource

Chapter 13—*Jail time* (pages 79–86)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Friendship. James and Sai call David and invite him to go bike riding. Being a friend can be as simple as including people in activities you both enjoy.
- b) Ghosts and the supernatural.

Question—What is a good friend?

Question—Are ghosts real? What are supernatural forces?

Discussion points:

- It is said that if you want good friends, you have to be a good friend. What does this mean?
- How are James and Sai good friends to David?
- What is a bad friend?
- What are the three most important qualities of a good friend for boys?
- What are the three most important qualities of a good friend for girls?
- Are ghosts, spirits and the supernatural real?

The Bible and friendship:

Read and discuss Proverbs 16:28, 17:17, 18:24 and 27:10.

Read and discuss Daniel 3. Are angels real?

Note: Most friendships are user relationships. The person is there, they have something in common, so you hang out. You know you have a real friendship when your friend is prepared to sacrifice something for you. That is rare.

Note: The jail described in this chapter is a real place, and exists almost exactly as described in bushland near Morisset on the Central Coast, New South Wales.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 13—*Jail time* (pages 79–86)

finding
david

Your mission is to write down the qualities of a great friend, then the things that would make them a bad friend.

Friends—Positive Qualities	Friends—Negative Qualities

Teacher Resource

Chapter 14—*The Challenge* (pages 87–93)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Arrogance/pride. Anthony and his friends feel superior to David and his mates, challenging them to a contest of any sort.
- b) Confidence. David responds by suggesting a surfing showdown, believing he can win but doubting himself at the same time.

Question—What is the difference between arrogance and confidence?

Discussion points:

- Do people generally prefer others who are arrogant and proud, or those who are confident?
- How do Australians tend to react to people who are too confident? What is the “tall poppy syndrome”?
- If you are the best basketballer in the world and you tell everyone, is that confidence or arrogance?
- Was Jesus confident or arrogant? How did the Jewish leaders of the day see Him?
- Would you prefer a talented friend who is humble or a talented friend who thinks they are the best?

The Bible and pride:

Discuss the following Bible passages: Philippians 2:3, Matthew 23:12, Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 29:23.

Note: Pride becomes destructive when we think we are superior to others and worth more than they are. Jesus shocked His disciples when He washed their feet—a lesson to Christians that we should serve humbly if we want to be like Him.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 14—*The Challenge* (pages 87–93)

finding
david

Your mission is to write down the things you are confident about and things you are not so confident about.

Things I have confidence about:

Things I am not confident about:

Teacher Resource

Chapter 15—*Learner Driver* (pages 94–101)

**finding
david**

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Revenge. David and his friends play a practical joke on Kimberly involving a P-plate sign.
- b) Physical contact in relationships. After deciphering Kimberly's letter, the boys realise she has kissed her boyfriend for the first time.

Question—What is a good age to start dating?

Discussion points:

- Is there a good age for a first kiss?
- How much pressure is there on teenagers to get physical in relationships from a young age?
- Would you agree that the earlier you kiss, the earlier you will go further?
- How young can you be and still fall deeply in love?
- Is the practical joke the boys played on Kimberly cruel or appropriate?
- Were the boys mocking Kimberly?
- Is it wrong to hold hands and hug a boyfriend or girlfriend in Year 8 or 9? What about going further?

The Bible and mockery:

Read and discuss Proverbs 9:12.

Note: When the Bible talks about mockery, it is usually in the context of disrespect for God, and for wisdom or authority. This is different from playing a practical joke on another teenager.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 15—*Learner Driver* (pages 94–101)

finding
david

Your mission is to write outside the circle what is OK for a couple your age to do physically in a relationship according to your parents. Inside the circle, write what your parents would not want a couple to do. Consider touch, talk, going out, being alone together, swapping photos, etc. Discuss why parents feel like this.



Teacher Resource

Chapter 16—A/ (pages 102–107)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Respect for older people. David does not want to talk to his elderly neighbour and automatically assumes that he is a nuisance because he is old.

Question—Why don't we have much respect for elderly people in Western culture?

Discussion points:

- What is interesting about old people?
- What sort of stuff do old people know that young ones don't?
- How old do you have to be to be classified as "old"?
- Are old people a burden on society?
- Do young people in Australia have much to do with old people? Why?
- Does anyone know an old person who is "cool," "awesome," inspiring" or a valuable friend?

The Bible and respect for older people:

Read and discuss Leviticus 19:32. How can we show respect in the 21st century?

Note: Our society glamorises youth and sex appeal. It devalues age. For many young people, it would be awkward spending much time with old people.

Note: A/ is a real person who was interviewed for this story. The author chose to describe him as older for the sake of the story but he really did work in the hospital and jail.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 16—A/ (pages 102–107)

finding david

Your mission is to pretend you are 80 years old. Write a short letter to a teenager explaining why he or she should come and spend Christmas with you. OR write down the benefits of being older rather than younger. Maybe even debate them.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the background, there is a faint, light-colored floral or leaf-like pattern that is slightly out of focus. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 17—*RiskMEN* (pages 108–114)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Resilience.
- b) Integrity.
- c) Self-discipline.
- d) Knowledge.

Question—What is mentoring and does it sound interesting?

Question—What are the benefits of being mentored?

Discussion points:

- Give personal examples of resilience.
- Give personal examples of integrity.
- Give personal examples of self-discipline.
- How important is “knowing yourself”?

The Bible and integrity:

Read and discuss 1 Kings 9:1-7 and Proverbs 10:9.

Note: A person who has all of the four qualities above would be considered wise. According to the Bible, wisdom, is the ultimate achievement on earth.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 17—*RiskMEN* (pages 108–114)

finding
david

Your challenge is to pretend that you have been invited to a RiskMEN meeting. You have been asked to identify how you can do better in the following areas. Give one example for each section below:

Resilience

Integrity

Self-discipline

Knowledge

Teacher Resource

Chapter 18—*Canteen Confusion* (pages 115–121)

**finding
david**

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Being proactive rather than reactive. David is provoked to fight but stays level-headed and avoids being placed in a situation others want him in.

Question—Was David a winner or a loser for not wanting to fight?

Discussion points:

- Is it better to make war or peace?
- Is it better to avoid a fight and risk looking weak, or have a fight knowing you will probably lose?
- What is being proactive?
- What is being reactive?
- When you are bullied or picked on, are you proactive or reactive?
- Is the pen mightier than the sword or is that just a nice idea?

The Bible and fighting:

Discuss Proverbs 16:32 and Matthew 5:39.

Note: Although Jesus was a pacifist, there are many instances in the Bible where believers stood up against oppression. Usually, however, it was only successful when God was leading them.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 18—*Canteen Confusion* (pages 115–121)

finding
david

Your challenge is to explain how you could respond to the following circumstances in a proactive and reactive way.

Somebody at school spreads untrue gossip about you.

Reactive Response:

Proactive Response:

Your best friend tells you that you are an idiot.

Reactive Response:

Proactive Response:

A teacher accuses you of cheating when you didn't.

Reactive Response:

Proactive Response:

Somebody challenges you to a fight. You are confident you can win.

Reactive Response:

Proactive Response:

A friend confides that they have suffered from abuse.

Reactive Response:

Proactive Response:

Teacher Resource

Chapter 19—*9000 Things* (pages 122–129)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Being positive. In the story quoted from *The 7 Habits of Highly-Effective Teenagers*, Mitchell refuses to give up on life despite being burned horrifically and becoming a paraplegic.
- b) Goal setting. David is welcomed into the group and determines to improve his family situation.

Question—Is a good definition of a “winner” someone who sets goals, then works toward them with determination and a positive attitude?

Discussion points:

- What would you do if you sustained burns to 60 per cent of your body, then lost use of your legs?
- Does anyone have a goal they are determined to work toward, even if they may not make it?
- What is the difference between looking at a glass as half full or half empty?
- What is a pessimist? What is an optimist? Would you prefer optimistic friends or pessimistic ones?
- Is it bad to set a goal you know you will probably never reach? Is it better to set no goals and not be disappointed?

The Bible and thinking positive:

Proverbs 17:22 and Matthew 17:20.

Note: All Olympic gold medallists know if they do not have faith in themselves, they cannot win. Without belief, there is only failure.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 19—*9000 Things* (pages 122–129)

finding
david

Your challenge is to think about the following scenarios and find positive things that might come from them.

A young person has discovered his/her parents are divorcing.

A young person is told by his/her parents that they are moving schools. In fact, they are moving more than 500 kilometres away to a new town and new jobs.

A student fails his/her Year 10 exams.

A young person gets mixed up with the wrong crowd and is arrested.

A young person is rejected by his/her friends.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 20—*Fire!* (pages 130–136)

**finding
david**

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Being truthful

Question—Are all lies bad?

Discussion points:

- Is it a lie to let someone believe something that is not true?
- Is it a lie to compliment someone to make them feel good when you do not believe your own words?
- Is there any such thing as small lies and big ones?
- Do some liars prosper while some who are honest struggle?
- Did David and James show integrity when they remained standing, admitting they had not done their work?
- What sort of great lies are communicated in the media? Examples include: that cigarette smoking is glamorous; that alcohol consumption is sophisticated and masculine; that more possessions mean greater happiness.

The Bible and lying:

Read and discuss Proverbs 6:17; 12:22; 21:6.

Note: Lying to a friend is like saying “goodbye.”

Note: It is possible to be deceitful without telling a lie. You just have to lead a person to believe something that is not true and this can be done with actions.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 20—*Fire!* (pages 130–136)

finding
david

Your challenge is to think of a lie you have heard in the past few weeks.

What was the lie?

How bad was the lie on a scale of 1 to 10?

What were the consequences of the lie?

We can also lie through our behaviour. We can even live a lie. Describe a person, without naming them, who is dishonest.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 21—*The Decision* (pages 137–143)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Mental illness/tolerance.
- b) Drug use.

Question—Is there a link between mental illness and drug use in some people? For example, links have been found between marijuana and schizophrenia, ice and paranoia, alcohol and depression.

Discussion points:

- How shameful is mental illness?
- Is Al ashamed of his patients, or is he compassionate and understanding?
- What was Boxer's problem?
- What was Ocker's problem?
- Why do so many people use drugs knowing they can lead to mental illness?
- What is cool about alcohol?
- What is not cool about alcohol?

The Bible and strong drink:

Read and discuss Proverbs 20:1. Would the writer of Proverbs say much the same thing about other strong drugs?

Note: In Bible times, alcohol was the most commonly used drug. Drugs like heroin, amphetamines and ice did not exist. The best wine was "new wine"—wine that had not fermented much and did not contain much alcohol. The older and more fermented wine became, the cheaper it got.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 21—*The Decision* (pages 137–143)

finding
david

Your challenge is to use the internet to list the possible consequences and outcomes of alcohol use and abuse.

Negatives of alcohol use	Positives of alcohol use

Teacher Resource

Chapter 22— *You Put it There* (pages 144–151)

**finding
david**

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Mental illness. Mrs Matthews believed her children were trying to take her life. She had become paranoid and delusional.
- b) Being supportive. David realises that Jessica is deeply affected by all that happened and is reacting differently to him.

Question—How would you feel if one of your parents believed you were trying to kill them?

Discussion points:

- How common is mental illness? In various forms, it affects up to 30 per cent of the population.
- Why should David and Jessica have known their mother was headed for a nervous breakdown?
- How did David and Jessica react differently to their mother's mental illness?
- Why did Mrs Matthews become ill? What is post-natal depression?
- Would counselling have helped David and his family deal with what happened?
- Do you think it would be normal for David and Jessica to feel guilty for not preventing what happened?

The Bible and depression:

Read and discuss 1 Samuel 19:1-17.

Note: One interpretation of the story above is that Saul was mentally ill and had become paranoid, thinking David would overthrow him. David could have killed Saul several times but refused to do so, even when he was being hunted by the king.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 22— *You Put it There* (pages 144–151)

finding
david

Your challenge is to use the internet or a dictionary to define and describe the following mental illnesses or conditions:

Depression

Paranoia

Bipolar disorder

Bulimia Nervosa

Anorexia Nervosa

Acute stress disorder

Teacher Resource

Chapter 23—*No Turning Back* (pages 152–157)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Showing emotion. David and Jessica cry when they are reunited with Mrs Matthews and David tells her that he loves her.
- b) Forgiveness.

Question—Is it true that real men don't cry?

Discussion points:

- Why was David surprised to see a wedding tent on the grounds of a mental hospital?
- Why was David so confused when he met his mother?
- What did David have to do to gain peace?
- Is it normal for a male like David to cry like he did?
- Why is the chapter called “No Turning Back”?
- Why is forgiving so good?

The Bible and emotion:

Read and discuss Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Read and discuss various texts about forgiveness.

Note: In some cultures, it is fine for men to show sorrow and emotion. But Australian culture, for example, upholds the ideal of the “tough guy” who rarely says sorry and almost never cries or shows emotion—unless he wins a sporting competition, in which case it is perfectly OK.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 23—*No Turning Back* (pages 152–157)

finding david

Your challenge is to pretend you are David or Jessica. Write a journal entry describing how you felt after meeting your mother.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. On the left side, there is a decorative border featuring a faint, stylized floral or leaf pattern. The rest of the page is plain white with evenly spaced horizontal lines.

Teacher Resource

Chapter 24—*Big Swell* (pages 158–164)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) No pain, no gain.

Question—What does David mean when he says “No pain, no gain” and “If you never go, you never know”?

Discussion points:

- What is the most dangerous thing you have ever done?
- Is it true that boys take more risks than girls?
- What was the risk of surfing in dangerous conditions?
- What was the risk of David not surfing?
- What is most scary—trying and failing, or never trying and never knowing if you could have succeeded?
- Can fear be a good thing and not something to be ashamed of at all?
- Would you agree that true winners are those who conquer their fears?

The Bible and fear:

Read and discuss Isaiah 41:10-13.

Note: Australian troops in World War I said that going into battle was a terrible thing but even more terrible was the fear of failing their mates. The waiting in the trenches, they said, was harder than the going.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 24—*Big Swell* (pages 158–164)

finding
david

Your challenge is to describe something you are afraid of.

What is it?

Why does it make you fearful?

What would you have to do to conquer the fear?

Are you likely to address this matter or avoid it? What are the consequences of avoiding it?

Teacher Resource

Chapter 25—*The Wave* (pages 165–171)

finding
david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Winning. David respects the other surfers in the water and puts himself at a disadvantage. Anthony drops in and wins the competition. David shows incredible bravery.

Question—Did losing the contest mean David was a loser? Anthony was the winner but was he the champion?

Discussion points:

- What was the significance of David almost drowning but coming up with his board broken? Was part of him broken when he cried out to God?
- The scene is a bit like Chapter Two's dog-poo incident, where he was smothered and crushed. This time he comes out clean. Why?
- Would David respect himself more or less after the wave?
- Have you ever aimed high and fallen low? How did it feel? Did it make you stronger or weaker?

The Bible and winning:

Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Note: In the Bible passage above, winning is all about running the race of life in a way that brings us to God and eternal life. Winning takes discipline, self-control, denial and courage but it is worth it. Races, elections, beauty competitions and games on earth are like winning a kid's toy when we could be in something so much bigger and better with God.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 25—*The Wave* (pages 165–171)

finding
david

Your mission is to identify one reasonable, attainable challenge or goal you really want to take on.

What is the challenge or goal?

Why is achieving this goal important to you?

What price will you have to pay or what risks will you have to take to reach your goal?

Set a deadline.

What will you need to do every day to meet your goal?

Teacher Resource

Chapter 26—*God is Around* (pages 172–179)

finding david

Themes dealt with include:

- a) Putting family first

Question—How is the David in this chapter different from the David who was first given the assignment? What has changed?

Discussion points:

- How open are you with your friends at school?
- What sort of stuff would some teenagers keep secret and never talk about? Why?
- David is ashamed because he feels he let his mum down. Why?
- Do we let God down when we are too ashamed to speak openly about him?
- Why would Joanne be attracted to David and agree to go out with him?
- Is it unreasonable for Joanne's mum to stop her from going out alone with boys or is she a control freak?

The Bible and family:

When Jesus called the disciples to follow Him, they became almost like His family. Peter was proud to be a disciple of Jesus. He saw Jesus as a hero. He was devastated when Jesus was arrested and became “weak.”

Read and discuss Peter's reaction to Jesus' arrest in Matthew 26:69. Is it a bit like David's reaction to his mother's mental illness?

Note: Peter went on to be one of the greatest disciples, performing miracles and showing incredible leadership. Although he was ashamed of being a disciple, he became sorry for being ashamed, turned his life around and became a great defender of Jesus. After that, he did not care what anyone thought of his faith. He put the family of God first, just like we need to.

Activity Sheet

Chapter 26—*God is Around* (pages 172–179)

finding david

Your challenge is to write a short letter to God, asking Him to help you meet the challenge or goal you set in your previous activity. Remember the story of David and Goliath. David was relying on God. Goliath was relying on himself.

Dear God,

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. On the left side, there is a decorative border featuring a faint, stylized floral or leaf pattern. The paper appears to be part of a notebook or a set of stationery.