



DAVID SHOWED MERCY

1 SAMUEL 24

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

David was hiding in the wilderness. He had served King Saul and won many battles, but now Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him. Saul took three thousand men and went looking for David. David and his men were hiding in the back of a cave when Saul happened to pass by. Saul decided to go inside. David's men saw Saul and said, "Look! God said He would hand your enemy over to you. This is the day! You can do whatever you want to him!"

David got close to Saul and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe. Saul didn't realize that David was there. David felt bothered about what he had done, and he told his men, "I won't fight the king. God chose him." So David did not let his men fight against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way.

David left the cave and called to Saul, "My lord the king!" Saul turned around, and David knelt low before him. "Why do you believe people who say I'm trying to hurt you?" David asked.



“See, God handed you over to me today in the cave. I had a chance to kill you, but I showed mercy.” David showed Saul the corner of the robe that he had cut.

“I have done nothing against you,” David said. “God might punish you, but I will never harm you. Let God decide who is right and who is wrong. May He protect me from you.”

When Saul heard David’s words, he cried. “You are more righteous than I,” Saul said, “because you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. Most people would kill an enemy, but you have let me go. May God reward you for your kindness.”

Saul realized God was with David, and he knew David would be the king of Israel. “Promise me you won’t kill my family,” Saul said. So David promised. Then Saul went home, and David and his men returned to their hiding place.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God’s plan. Jesus also trusted His Father’s plan. He died on the cross so His enemies could experience God’s mercy and live forever as part of God’s family.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 24. Explain that 1 Samuel is named for Samuel, the last judge of Israel, but experts aren’t sure who wrote it.

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. Why did David show mercy to Saul?

Guide your kids to recall that David trusted God’s plan. God had chosen Saul as Israel’s king, and Saul was anointed. The time had not yet come for David to become king, and David did not want to rebel against Saul or the Lord.

2. How do we know God is merciful?

Discuss ways God shows kindness to people who have done wrong. Jesus showed mercy by responding out of love to people in need. He healed the sick, welcomed the sinner, and forgave those who killed Him. God the Father showed mercy to sinners by sending His Son. Jesus died and rose again to rescue people who need forgiveness from sin.



3. What are some ways you could show mercy to someone?

Encourage your kids to think of examples that they could carry out with their friends or family members. Prompt kids to think beyond forgiving those who have wronged them. Suggest they consider ways they can show love and kindness to people in need.



SAY:

David encountered King Saul in a cave in the wilderness. David had a chance to kill Saul, but David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find 1 Samuel 24. Discuss the different Bible divisions, and remind the kids that 1 Samuel is part of the Old Testament History division. Check that the kids know how to use chapter and verse numbers to find passages of Scripture.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where was David hiding from Saul?

In a cave, 1 Sam. 24:3

2. What did David do to Saul?

Cut the corner of his robe, 1 Sam. 24:4

3. What did Saul do when David explained what happened?

Wept aloud and said David was more righteous for showing mercy, 1 Sam. 24:16-18

4. How is David similar to Jesus in this story?

Guide your kids to see that, just as David showed mercy to an enemy, Jesus came to show us the ultimate act of mercy while we were enemies of God. Remind kids that Jesus died for sin and rose again to show mercy to us even though we do not deserve it.

5. Do you think God wants us to seek revenge when people hurt us?

Guide your kids to see that the Bible teaches us to love our enemies and do good to those who hurt us. Remind the kids that God is good, righteous, and just. We can trust Him to end evil someday. Remind kids that we are guilty of sin just as those who may hate us are. Everyone needs Jesus.



6. Is it easier to be kind or cruel to people who hurt us?

Encourage your kids to be honest about their feelings. It's natural to have intense feelings of anger when we are wronged. Remind kids that when we feel angry, we can pray and ask God for help to show His amazing love, mercy, and grace to those who hurt us.



SAY:

David had a chance to hurt Saul, who had done many wicked things to David and even to others. David showed mercy even though Saul hated him. This points us to Jesus, who showed the greatest mercy by dying for us while we were still dead in sin.