



David Showed Mercy

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 24

Memory Verse: ⁶No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. **Jeremiah 10:6**

Bottom Line: I trust Jesus and follow Him because God's plans and timing are best.

Big Picture Question: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

A Little Dickey Minute to Win it

What You Need: large popsicle sticks (1 per kid), 20 dice

What You Do:

- Give each kid a popsicle stick and a stack of 10 dice
- Separate kids into 2 teams.
- Set your timer for 1 minutes.
- Kids will place the popsicle stick in their mouth and attempt to stack and balance a set amount of dice on the end of the stick.
- Award 1 point for each die stacked and stays on the stick when the timer goes off..
- Most players should be able to get 4-6 dice stacked on the stick.

What You Say "This summer we are playing a different game each time you come to small group. As we play we should get to know each other's names and see if there is a way we can learn from our Bible story as well. It's time for large group, let's clean up and get ready to see what story we have today."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

CONTEXT

David's relationship with King Saul was complicated. Early on, David served the king by playing the lyre for him whenever he felt unwell. After David killed Goliath, he became good friends with Saul's son Jonathan. But David's success made Saul jealous. Saul could see that David was rising in popularity. He won victory after victory. Saul made several attempts on David's life, and David fled to the land of Moab.

David wasn't alone. His family and other men—anyone who was "desperate, in debt, or discontented" (1 Sam. 22:2)—joined David, and he became their leader. About 400 men were with David. Once in Moab, the prophet Gad instructed David to return to the land of Judah. When Saul found out David's location, he pursued David, intending to kill him. Yet God protected David from Saul.

Saul was in pursuit of David when he stopped to relieve himself. Imagine David's surprise when Saul entered the very cave in which David and his men were hiding. This was David's chance! Saul was outnumbered and could easily be defeated. David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe, but he did not allow his men to hurt Saul.

When Saul left the cave, David followed after him. He acknowledged Saul's authority—"My lord the king!" (1 Sam. 24:8)—and showed Saul the corner of his robe, proof of David's passed-up opportunity. Saul wept upon realizing David's mercy toward him. God had put Saul in David's hand, and David let him go unharmed. Saul realized God had clearly chosen David to be Israel's king.

David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan. As you teach, point kids to Jesus, who 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.

TEACHING FOCUS (1 Samuel 24)



All Star Kids

July 7, 2019
Kinder – 2nd grade

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.*

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- *David knew that God's plans and God's timing are best.*
- David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan.
- **BL: I trust Jesus and follow Him because God's plans and timing are best.**
- 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.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- Where was David hiding from Saul? (*in a cave, 1 Sam. 24:3*)
- What did David do to Saul? (*cut the corner of his robe, 1 Sam. 24:4*)
- 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*)
- How is David similar to Jesus in this story? *Guide 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.*
- Do you think God wants us to seek revenge when people hurt us? *Guide 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.*
- Is it easier to be kind or cruel to people who hurt us? *Encourage 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.

Activity: Mercy Role Play

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Read different scenarios to the kids.
- Ask for volunteers to describe how they would react in each situation.
- Talk about what mercy, justice, and revenge might look like in each scenario.
- Focus on the idea that mercy is withholding a punishment that is deserved, justice is giving punishment that is deserved, and revenge is trying to hurt a person because he or she hurt you.
- Scenarios:
 - Your younger brother broke one of your favorite toys while playing with it without permission.
 - Your friend at school called you a mean name and wouldn't sit with you at lunch.
 - A kid on your sports team is being picked on by other kids.
 - You cut in line to stand closer to your friend, but the person you cut told you to go to the back of the line.
 - Your older sibling told you to go away, and you punched him on your way out of his room.

What You Say David showed mercy to Saul even though Saul hated him. Sometimes it can be hard to see the differences between justice, mercy, and revenge. Revenge is wanting to hurt another person because that person hurt you. Justice is when a crime is punished according to the law. Mercy is when someone does not receive the punishment he or she deserves. Only Jesus on the cross perfectly shows both justice and mercy. Jesus took the punishment we deserved, and God showed us mercy. **BL: I trust Jesus and follow Him because God's timing and plans are best.**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse Name Tags (printable -1 set per week)

What You Do:

- Put one name tag on each kid.
- Challenge kids to work together to put themselves in order without speaking.
- Play a second round where they can speak.
- Then allow volunteers to say the verse from memory.
- Praise each kid's effort and encourage all the kids to continue working on the verse over the week.

What You Say "In this memory verse, God's Word tells us that no one is like Him. That means that no matter how strong, wise, kind, or powerful anyone else might be, God is stronger, wiser, kinder, and more powerful. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone."



All Star Kids

July 7, 2019

Kinder – 2nd grade

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

“Lord God, thank You for Your Word. We see that David showed mercy even though Saul hated him, and we are reminded of the mercy You show to us. As sinners, we were Your enemies! But You loved us and sent Your Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. Soften our hearts so we would extend mercy to others. We love You. Amen..

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone. . **BL: I trust Jesus and follow Him because God’s timing and plans are best.**