

Old Testament

David spares Saul's life twice!

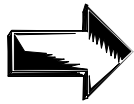
1 Samuel 24 and 26

Younger Verse

Give me life through your word. Psalm 119:37

Older Verse

Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. Psalm 119:37



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever gotten a second chance when you had done something wrong? Sometimes we change and do the right thing when we are given another chance. Other times we continue doing wrong. Let's see what happens in this story.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have been following David's life in the Bible. God told him that he would one day be king. However, the king at that time (Saul) was jealous and envious of David. He tried to have him killed so that his son, Jonathan, could be king.

Jonathan and David were best friends. Jonathan wanted David to be king as God said. He helped David escape his father's evil traps. Consequently, David was continually running from Saul and his men. He was running for his life!

David and the men that followed him would hide in caves or fields to escape being killed by Saul's men.

One time, Saul heard that David was in the desert. He and 3,000 men trampled into the land to destroy David. David secretly hid in a cave to hide from Saul.

Believe it or not, Saul went into the same cave. He had to use the bathroom!!

David quietly crept up to Saul and cut off a little piece of his royal robe. He was so secretive that Saul did not know that he was there!

When Saul exited the cave, David felt guilty for cutting off a piece from the bottom of the special robe. Back in David's time, there were special markings on the clothing. David felt bad that he had cut off part of the robe which symbolized that he was the king appointed from God.

David walked to the entrance of the cave and called out to Saul. He bowed down to Saul and asked Saul why he wanted to kill him. Then he showed Saul the piece of fabric

Teachers:
You can certainly choose not to explain why Saul went into the cave if you think it will distract from the lesson.

Lesson Goals

Explain how David forgave Saul
Share how Jesus loves us and forgives us

from the robe. He shared that he had a chance to kill Saul in the cave but did not do it. He did not harm him because he was the king.

Saul cried out to David and realized that David had spared his life. He confessed that David had treated him well when he had treated David badly.

David promised to be kind to Saul's family and Saul went back to his palace. David gave Saul a second chance.

However, this was not the end.

Sometimes later, Saul heard that David was in the desert and he again tried to kill him. He and his troops traveled to the desert to find David. David sent out scouts to find out where Saul and his men were camped.

That night, David crept into Saul's camp and even into Saul's tent! They found Saul asleep with a spear near his head. David's men wanted to kill Saul right then. David again spared Saul's life. Instead of killing Saul, they took the spear and his water jug that were by his head.

David crossed over to the other side of the hill and called out to the army leader. It was the middle of the night and he woke everyone up. Saul recognized David's voice and called out to him. David showed Saul his spear and asked why Saul was trying to hurt him again. He told him that he had an opportunity to kill him again, but chose to spare his life.

Saul realized that he again had sinned. He asked David for forgiveness and thanked him for being kind. He knew that David would do great things for God.

They both parted ways again and David went to live in another country.

David did not understand why Saul was trying to kill him. He had done only good things for Saul. Each time Saul tried to hurt him, David would forgive him. Can you believe that David spared Saul's life twice! If it had been the opposite, do you think Saul would have spared his life? Probably not!

David loved God and follow Him. He wanted to honor God and respect Him. He was willing to forgive, even when Saul continued to try to hurt him.

The way Saul treated David was very bad and sneaky. He tried to kill him; he acted like he wanted David around and then he would treat him so badly. This hurt David deeply. He was afraid for his life, but he trusted God to protect him and God not only protected David, but later honored him because of the good ways David treated Saul.

God forgives us in the same way. We have sinned or done wrong. God should punish US for our wrongs but He came up with a different solution. God's Son, Jesus, took our punishment for us when He died on the cross. He did this because He loves us. If we believe in Him and know that Jesus came back to life 3 days later, Jesus will clean out all our sin. He promises that He will take us to Heaven one day too. Would you like God to forgive all your wrongs and make you clean? Talk to us about it today.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids see the importance of forgiveness and love.

Memory Verse Activities

Talk about what God's Word is—the Bible. Share how reading the Bible can help us learn more about God and help us with things in our life. It gives us life!

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us forgive others like David forgave Saul and how God forgives us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks together and clean up afterwards.

Planning for Lesson 48
Abigail
1st Samuel 25

Preschool Lesson
For
David and Saul

Hi! I'm a little bat. Some people are scared of me, but they shouldn't be. I don't hurt people. I sleep during the day and look for food at night. I like to eat little insects or even fruit.

One day, while I was asleep, something happened. I want to tell you about it.

While I was asleep, hanging upside down in a cool dark cave, some men ran quickly into my home. They went far back into the cave and hid behind some rocks. Since I can see in the dark, I noticed that one of the men was very important and special. His name was David.

Soon after the men ducked down and were quiet, another man came into the cave. I could tell that he had no idea that the other men were in the cave too. He was a king. His name was Saul. He wore a beautiful royal robe. He was trying to find David to hurt him.

While he was in the cave, David quietly crept close to the man and cut off a piece of his beautiful robe and hid back in the cave. The king did not even notice!

When the king went back outside, David ran to the entrance of the cave and shouted to the king and his men. David showed Saul the piece of fabric from the robe. He shared that he had a chance to hurt Saul in the cave but did not do it. He did not harm him because he was the king.

Saul cried out to David and realized that David had been good to him even when he had treated David badly and tried to hurt him.

David promised to be kind to Saul's family and Saul went back to his palace. David gave Saul a second chance.

Just like David gave Saul a second chance, God gives us second chances when we mess up. He loves us and wants to help us do the right thing. Let's ask God to help us do things His way.

To the tune of "Oh my Darlin' Clementine."

In a cave, in a cave, in a cave cold and dark

Came David and his men, they were running in to hide.

In came Saul, in came Saul, in came Saul for a break

David cut off his robe hem and it wasn't a mistake.

David told him, David told him, David told Saul what he did

Saul was sorry for his actions and they were friends again.

Hands-On Activities For David and Saul

Bring sheets to use as robes. Let them write on the bottom of the hem something special about themselves. If sheets are hard to find, try cutting out a paper sack to use as a vest or possibly using T-shirts.

Make an edible Cave scene. Hollow out a muffin or cupcake so that it resembles a “cave.” Now add little teddy bear graham cookies to represent David and his men. Talk about how David was kind and forgiving to King Saul. Ask them to think of someone in their mind that they need to forgive. Pray and ask God to help us forgive.

If you are using the preschool lesson, make little bats or use black socks as puppet bats.

This week is Thanksgiving. Remind the children about the importance of being thankful and grateful to God for all that He has given us. So often we take for granted the things that we have. Help the kids see how blessed they are and how necessary it is to thank God.

Bring a backpack and lots of books or something heavy like bricks. Show the class the backpack and ask one person to put it on. Then hand them one book and ask them if they think it is very heavy or not. See if they would carry it in the backpack and ask them to estimate for how long they would feel very comfortable carrying it around. Then start putting in more books. Put as many books as possible into the back pack until it is loaded up and very heavy. Then ask the volunteer how long they could carry the backpack comfortably now. Share how carrying grudges and staying bitter and mad at people does not help us in any way, but it is a heavy burden that makes it more difficult every day to remain joyful. Share how forgiveness “removes” the burden. Remove the books and share how David forgave Saul in the same way. He did not carry a grudge or burden. He gave it to God and God helped him deal with the problem.

Bring a tarnished brass or silver object such as a vase, spoon, etc. and brass or silver cleaner. (Be sure that you are very careful with these cleaners. They are toxic.) Share how at one time it was bright, shiny, and very beautiful. Explain that over time the color becomes dull and lifeless. It is no longer very pretty. Now use the cleaner to shine the object. Share how burdens or bitterness tarnishes our lives. It makes us dull and ugly. Jesus can help us “shine” our lives by taking the burden and helping us forgive others who have hurt or wounded us. The Bible tells us that if we give Jesus our cares and concerns, He will take them and help us forgive the ones who have hurt us.
