



JULY 13, 2025

DAVID SHOWED MERCY

1 SAMUEL 24

CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul was trying to kill David, but David chose to show Saul mercy. We all sin, but God shows us mercy through Jesus, who died for our sin and rose again.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

MEMORY VERSES

Jeremiah 10:6-7a



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

In 1 Samuel 24, we see the tension between Saul and David come to a head as David turned down an opportunity to rid himself of King Saul once and for all. We see David's heart for the Lord as he chose to pursue obedience over safety. David's mercy in this story gives us a glimpse of Christ's incredible mercy toward sinners who place their faith in His name.

Why did David spare Saul's life? How do we see an even greater pardon for sin in the lives of Christ followers?

Back in chapter 18, Saul had grown jealous of David's popularity after his many victories in battle. By chapter 24, Saul had attempted to kill David multiple times and refused to give up the fight. In fact, he brought 3,000 men on a mission to search for David in the wilderness of En-gedi. David soon found himself in a cave with his own men, who tempted him to kill the vengeful King Saul.

Yet David knew what the Lord called him to do (1 Sam. 24:6). He extended honor to Saul, though Saul did not deserve such mercy. David even swore to never harm his king, an oath that would continue to be tested as Saul would go back on his word to preserve the life of his young successor.

David trusted God to deliver him from Saul and refused to take matters into his own hands, believing God's word would come to pass and that David would become king in God's perfect timing. David's willingness to grant mercy came from his trust in God's perfect justice and righteousness (v. 15). Rather than seeking vengeance, David extended mercy, recognizing that God alone would enact judgment on Saul's sin.

In an even greater act of mercy, Christ died for sinners. He prayed for forgiveness for those who nailed Him to the cross, and He took the judgment for our sin. The mercy of God is available to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:4-5). Lead boys and girls to see the immeasurable gift of Christ's mercy so that they, too, might experience forgiveness of sins and new life in Christ Jesus.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might. Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due.

Jeremiah 10:6-7a, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Using the TV in your room, review the motions video for the verse. Practice as a group, then give kids the opportunity to practice on their own.

To continue reviewing, get the provided ball and have kids circle up. Kids will pass the ball to each other as they recite the verse one word at a time.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on July 27!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

DAVID SHOWED MERCY

David became a great military leader for the Israelites and was more successful in battle than all of Saul's army. Saul was very jealous of David. Saul was hunting down David to kill him, because he did not want David to become king instead of him.

While Saul and his army chased after David to kill him, Saul went into a cave to go to the bathroom. It just so happened that he went into the very cave where David and his men were hiding. Saul did not see David and the men in the cave.

The men whispered to David: "Look, the Lord has handed Saul over to you, just as He said He would." David snuck up behind Saul while he was going to the bathroom and cut off a corner of his robe.

Afterward, David felt terrible for cutting off a corner of Saul's robe. David said to his men: "I should have never done such a thing to a man anointed by the Lord!" The men wanted to go fight Saul, but David did not let them.

Then Saul left the cave and went on his way. David followed him out of the cave and called to him, saying, "My lord the king!" When Saul turned around, David knelt low before him and said, "Why do you listen to the people who say I want to hurt you? I could have killed you in the cave, but I showed mercy because you are the Lord's anointed. See, I have the corner of your robe in my hand! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. I haven't sinned against you even though you are hunting me down to take my life."

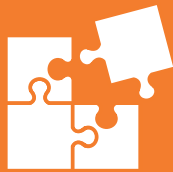
David told Saul that God is their judge. Only God could decide what is right and rescue David from Saul. Then David said he would never harm Saul.

Saul wept and said to David, "You are more righteous than I am. You have done good to me even though I have done evil to you. May the Lord repay you with good for what you've done for me today. Now I know for certain you will be king over the kingdom of Israel."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul was trying to kill David, but David chose to show Saul mercy. We all sin, but God shows us mercy through Jesus, who died for our sin and rose again.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Divide kids into groups of 5-7 and provide each group with a robe, a pool noodle, a handful of clothespins, and a bandana.

Choose one kid from each group to be “King Saul”. Have them put on the robe and place the clothespins on the edge of their robe (or shirt, if they don’t want to wear the robe). Then, give them the pool noodle to hold and cover their eyes with the bandana.

Everyone else will have one minute to sneak as many clothespins as possible off of “King Saul’s” robe. If “King Saul” hears someone, they can use the pool noodle to *lightly tap* that person.

If someone is tapped, they must put the clothespin back. Repeat until everyone has been “King Saul”.

NOTE: Kids can’t just swing the pool noodle around—only intentional taps count!

CONNECT THE DOTS



Saul was chasing David to kill him. In the cave, David had a chance to harm Saul and save himself, but David chose to show Saul mercy. In the same way, our sin makes us enemies of God. God wouldn’t be wrong to punish us for our sin—because of our sin we deserve death. But God chooses to show us mercy by giving us the chance to be saved through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

K12 BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

Briefly explain to kids that there are different categories—or types—of books in the Bible. (*Optional: use the TV slides to help explain.*)

Give each kid a few “books” and have them put them in the right category. They can reference the books of the Bible poster if they get stuck.

345 BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

Put the provided cards in a 6x6 grid, with the backs of the cards facing up. Number each column and row 1-6.

Split kids into two teams and give each team a set of dice. Taking turns, each team will roll the dice to decide which trivia card they’ll choose. The first number they roll is the column, and the second number is the row.

Teams will earn five points for each question they answer correctly. If a team gets the answer wrong, the other team may steal and answer the question, earning three points if they get it right.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. How can we show mercy to those who mistreat us?
2. Why can we trust God when others mistreat us?
3. Why do we show mercy? Is it easy to show mercy when someone has wronged us?
4. Why is jealousy a sin?
5. Saul said David was more righteous than him. What makes a person righteous?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your room. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your group!



BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!