



JULY 13, 2025

DAVID SHOWED MERCY

1 SAMUEL 24

CHRIST CONNECTION

David was kind and showed mercy to Saul. God was kind and showed us mercy by sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

MEMORY VERSE

LORD, there is no one like you. You are great. **Jeremiah 10:6**

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

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?

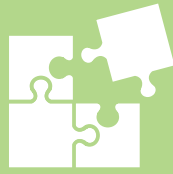
Back in chapter 18, Saul had grown jealous of David's popularity after his many victories in battle. By chapter 24, Saul had attempted to kill David multiple times and refused to give up the fight. In fact, he brought 3,000 men on a mission to search for David in the wilderness of En-gedi. David soon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

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

LORD, there is no one like You.
There is no one like You.
There is no one like You.
LORD, You are great!
Jeremiah 10:6

(Repeat)

CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “LORD, there is no one like you. You are great.” Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything!

CONNECT THE DOTS



You look very royal in your crown and robe! David cut a corner off Saul’s robe while he was hiding in a cave. David could have chosen to hurt Saul, but David showed kindness to Saul instead. We all deserve to be punished for our sin, but God shows us kindness and mercy when we trust in Jesus, who died for our sin and rose again.

ACTIVITY #2: ROBES & CROWNS

Set out the provided cloth and crowns. Help children dress in “robes” by draping the cloth around their shoulders and arms. Encourage children to try on the crowns as well.

As children play, review the Bible lesson.



DAVID SHOWED MERCY

David led the Israelite army as a brave leader, but King Saul was jealous of him. Saul wanted to hurt David because he did not want David to become king instead of him.

One day, while Saul was looking for David, Saul went into a cave. But David and his friends were hiding in that same cave! Saul didn't see them.

David's friends whispered, "God said He would give Saul to you! Here's your chance to fight him!" David snuck up behind Saul and cut off a piece of his robe while Saul wasn't looking.

Afterward, David felt bad for what he did. He told his friends, "I shouldn't have done that to someone chosen by God to be king." The soldiers with David wanted to fight Saul, but David said no.

When Saul left the cave, David went out too. He called out to Saul, "My king!" Then he bowed down. David said, "I do not want to hurt you. See? I could have fought you in the cave, but I cut a corner of your robe instead."

Saul cried. He said, "You are better than me. You did not hurt me even though I wanted to hurt you. Now I know you will be the next king of Israel."

Then Saul and David both went to their homes.

CHRIST CONNECTION

David was kind and showed mercy to Saul. God was kind and showed us mercy by sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Why did David cut off a piece of Saul's robe?
4. Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!