



The **GOSPEL PROJECT**

Unit 11 Session 2 | David Showed Mercy

TEACH THE STORY

THE BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 24

[Paraphrased: PreK option in BOLD, 2/3s & 3/4s Bible story on next page]

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."

(Continued on next page)



The **GOSPEL PROJECT**

Unit 11 Session 2 | David Showed Mercy

THE BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 24

[Paraphrased: PreK Option in BOLD]

(Continued from previous page)

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.

2/3s & 3/4s Bible Story

God was with David when David served King Saul. People liked David, and Saul became angry with David. David ran away to stay safe. David and his men were hiding in a cave when Saul went inside it! David's friends said, "Look, God said He would help you defeat your enemies." David said, "I will not fight God's king." David was so close to Saul, he cut off the corner of Saul's robe! David felt sad about what he did. David came out of the cave and said to Saul, "I am not against you. I did not hurt you when I had the chance." Saul knew that God was with David and would make him king.



The GOSPEL PROJECT

Unit 11 Session 2 | David Showed Mercy

REVIEW THE LESSON

[2/3s & 3/4s]

Repeat with child(ren):

- King Saul wanted to hurt David.
- David showed mercy to King Saul.
- Jesus shows us mercy when we do not deserve it.

[5s]

- Why was Saul looking for David? (Saul was jealous of David and wanted to hurt him.)
- Where were David and his friends hiding? (in a cave)
- What did David do to Saul when he came into the same cave? (secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe)
- Did David hurt Saul or let him go? (let him go)
- Who would be king of Israel after Saul? (David)
- What did Saul ask David to promise him? (Saul asked him to promise not to hurt his family.)
- **How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.**

[Lower & Upper Elementary]

- 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.*