

LESSON 12: DAVID VALUES SAUL'S LIFE

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 1 Samuel 24; 26

11/17/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 1 Samuel 24; 26
- In This Passage: Saul is chasing David and trying to kill him. Finally, David has two opportunities to kill Saul: once in a cave and once when Saul is sleeping. Both times, David chooses to spare Saul's life because he knows God values people.
- Bible Point: God values people...
- Application: ...so we value people.
- Summary Verse: "So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God values people*. On some level, kids will be able to relate to David. Many have had people perpetually bully them, and all have known people who at least annoy them. The idea of being able to put a stop to that might sound nice! Help kids learn to see other people through God's eyes, just as David did.
- Think About: Who is hardest for you to value? Pray for that person, and ask God to help you see the person through his eyes.

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that your kids will begin to notice the good in others as they value people like God does.

Quick Tip

- Although Saul continually pursued David, we don't want to send the message that abuse is okay. If you know or suspect that some of your students are victims of abuse, stress that abuse is not acceptable to God. Also make sure kids know that even when bad things happen to us, that's not a sign that God doesn't love or value us. God is always there, walking with us through the pain. Encourage kids to talk to a trusted adult if there is physical abuse in their home or school.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers act out the Bible story and sing an affirming song.

Supplies

- Bible
- plastic tablecloth
- scissors (1 pair for every adult or teen helper)
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Review with adult and teen helpers what they'll be doing as they guide children to sneak around you, cutting off a piece of your "robe" and taking the cup from near your head when you're pretending to be Saul.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing an affirming song and pray for help with valuing others.



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers make music with water in jars.

Supplies

- variety of canning jars or sturdy glass drinking glasses (3 for every 5 kids)
- metal spoons (1 for every 5 kids)
- water
- food coloring

Easy Prep

- Fill the jars or glasses with different amounts of water. For instance, 1 might be almost full, 1 half full, and 1 a quarter full. Prepare a set of 3 for every 5 kids.
- To make it easier to see the water levels, add a drop of food coloring to each jar or glass.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a parachute game that lifts friends up.

Supplies

- parachute or large bedsheet



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers "fill up" leaders with kind words.

Supplies

- underinflated balloons (2-3 per child)
- oversized adult T-shirts (1 for every adult or teen helper)
- large box or laundry basket

Easy Prep

- Put balloons in a box or laundry basket.



CRAFT

Preschoolers make a guessing game.

Supplies

- “Who Is It? Game” handout (2 per child) (download [here](#))
- construction paper
- sandwich-size resealable plastic bags (1 per child)
- large hardcover books, plastic folders, or other dividers that can stand up (1 for every 2 children)
- child-safe scissors (1 pair per child)
- washable markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut 2x2-inch squares of construction paper so you have 1 per child.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers high-five three of their friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers shout this birthday cheer: "Two, four, six, eight; it's birthday time, let's celebrate! Gooooo, [name of birthday kids]!"
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **The Bible says that God values people. That means God says we're special and important. Let's think about some special and important *things* we have.**

Share

- Share about *your* most special toy you had when you were a child.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about *their* most special toys.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **We all have some things that are very special and important to us. God sees us like that—we're very special and important to him. That's what I mean when I say God values people. The Bible tells us about some people God valued, and it tells us that God thinks we're special and important, too. When we're friends with God, it helps us remember that all the people around us are special and important, too. Let's learn more about that from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that he values people.



Supplies

- Bible
- plastic tablecloth
- scissors (1 pair for every adult or teen helper)
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Review with adult and teen helpers what they'll be doing as they guide children to sneak around you, cutting off a piece of your "robe" and taking the cup from near your head when you're pretending to be Saul.

Hide From the Enemy

Say: **Today we'll find out that God values people. That means God says each person is special and important. God wants us to treat people kindly because they're so important to God. God values you, too!** Point around the room at each child. **God says you're special and important, and he wants people to be kind to you.**

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible tells about one of God's friends. His name was David, and he treated someone kindly. That person was a king, and his name was Saul. David was kind to King Saul even when King Saul wasn't kind to him.** Place the tablecloth over your shoulders. **Pretend I'm Saul and this is my king's robe. King Saul was very important—he was ruler over all God's friends, the Israelites. One day Saul heard that God was going to take away his job as king. He heard God was going to make David the new king. That made Saul mad and jealous because *he* wanted to keep being the king! So Saul started looking for David so he could hurt David.** Pace around and through the group of children, pretending to look for David.

Say: **David heard Saul was coming with 3,000 soldiers to hurt him, so David ran and hid inside a cave with his closest friends. A cave is a rocky hole inside a mountain or hill. Let's all find a place to hide like David did.** Have adult or teen helpers guide small groups to hurry around the room for about 30 seconds. Have leaders find corners of the room or other nooks and crannies where small groups can "hide" together.

Take a Piece of the King's Robe

Say: **While David was hiding in the cave, Saul was looking for him. Saul looked all around.** Place your hand above your eyes and pretend to look in the distance. **Saul had traveled far, and he happened to be outside the cave where David was hiding when he decided he needed to go to the bathroom. But he didn't know David was in the cave.** Have adult and teen helpers shush their kids so Saul won't hear them. **Saul stepped into the dark cave so he could have some privacy.** Have an adult or teen helper dim the lights in your room.

Stand in the center of your room. Say: **Saul didn't know he'd stepped into the same cave that David was hiding in! David's friends told him, "This is your chance! Hurt Saul so he can't hurt you." So David sneaked up to Saul and cut off a piece of Saul's robe without Saul even knowing it!** Have adult or teen helpers guide children as they sneak up behind you in the center of the room. Have each adult or teen helper cut off a piece of the plastic tablecloth large enough to cut into smaller pieces for each child in his or her small group.

After each child has a piece of the robe, say: **But after David cut off the piece of Saul's robe, David felt bad. He remembered that God values people and that he should value people, too. God had made Saul the king, and David didn't want to hurt the person God made king. David didn't let his friends hurt Saul, either.** Have the adult and teen helpers guide the children to back away from you, as David urged his friends to back away from hurting Saul.

Read aloud 1 Samuel 24:7-8. Have an adult or teen helper turn the lights back on, and then show children how to bow. Say: **David told Saul that he wasn't trying to hurt him. And David said he could've hurt him if he'd wanted to. He showed Saul the small piece of robe he had cut off when Saul was in the**

cave. Have the kids hold up their pieces of the robe. **David said that God would take care of him. Finally, Saul said he would stop chasing David and trying to hurt him. And David promised not to hurt Saul, too.** Have kids join you in a group hug.

Take Saul's Water

Say: **The Bible says after some time had passed, Saul got worried again that David would become the king. So Saul took 3,000 soldiers to find David. One night Saul was sleeping, and his soldiers were sleeping around him. Pretend again that I'm King Saul.** Have an adult or teen helper dim the lights, and then lie in the center of your room. Place the cups near your head.

Whisper: **David sneaked into Saul's camp, and he passed by all the soldiers sleeping around Saul. No one heard him or woke up!** Have the adult and teen leaders help children tiptoe in a circle around you. They'll encourage kids to be as quiet as possible.

Have the adult or teen helpers ask the kids in their groups, "What should we do?" The helpers will encourage kids to share what they might do while Saul and his soldiers are sleeping.

Say: **There was a sword and a jug of water by Saul's head. David's friend wanted to hurt Saul, but David knew that God values people. David didn't want to hurt Saul even though Saul was trying to hurt David. Instead, David took the sword and the jug of water that was by Saul, and he snuck back out of the camp.** Have adult or teen helpers lead children to sneak around you and have each child take a cup before sneaking away from you.

Say: **David and his friends climbed up a nearby hill so they were far enough away from Saul and his soldiers to be safe. Then David shouted, "Wake up!"** Have the children all shout "Wake up!" together.

Say: **When Saul and his soldiers heard David yelling, they learned that David had been in their camp. David said, "I could've hurt you again. I took your sword and the jar that was right next to your head."** Lead children to hold up the cups they sneaked from around Saul.

Say: **David asked Saul, "Why are you trying to hurt me?" Finally, Saul realized that he had done something wrong by trying to hurt David. God values people, so God didn't want Saul or David to be hurt. Once again they made up.** Lead kids in one more group hug.

Sing a Song

Say: **God values you, too. God made you, and he knows you're special. He wants others to be kind to you, and he wants you to be kind to others because God values people. Let's sing a song to remind us of that.**

Have the children sit in small groups, and teach them this song to the tune of "Who Stole the Cookie From the Cookie Jar?" To keep it easy for preschoolers, all the children can sing all three lines of a verse rather than responding individually when their names are called.

Who does God say is his special friend?

[Name of child in your small group] **is God's special friend.** *(everyone points to the named child)*

Who, me?

Yes, you!

Couldn't be!

Then who?

After you sing about every child, end with this verse:

Who does God say is his special friend?

We all are God's special friends. *(kids all point to others and then themselves)*

Woo hoo!

Woo hoo!

God values everyone!

Say: **God values you, and God values me. Everyone is special and important to God, and we can be kind and loving like God is, too!**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Sing a Song About Value

Sing a Song

Say: **Today we found out God values people. God thinks each of you is so special and important.**

Let's sing our special friend song to remember that.

Have the children sit in small groups, and review the song to the tune of "Who Stole the Cookie From the Cookie Jar?" All the children sing all three lines of a verse but take turns naming each child in the group.

Who does God say is his special friend?

[Name of child in your small group] **is God's special friend.** *(everyone points to the named child)*

Who, me?

Yes, you!

Couldn't be!

Then who?

After you sing about every child, end with this verse:

Who does God say is his special friend?

We all are God's special friends. *(kids all point to others and then themselves)*

Woo hoo!

Woo hoo!

God values everyone!

Say: **Let's thank God for each of our valuable friends here today.** Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God for each child by name, and then close by saying: **You made each of us, God. Thank you for making each of us special and important. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Sing for Someone Else

Say: **God values people, even those who we have trouble getting along with. God values every single person. Think of someone you have trouble getting along with. Maybe you had a fight with your brother, sister, or neighbor. Maybe it's hard to be friends with someone at preschool. Think of that person now. Pause. God says that person you're thinking of is valuable.**

Lead children in singing the song once more, but this time lead kids to sing the name of the person he or she was thinking of (all at the same time) in the second verse of the song.

Close in prayer, asking God for help with loving every person, not just those we get along with.

Say: **Each of you is so important and special to God, and you're each special to me, too. I'm so glad you were part of our class today, and I hope you'll join us next week, too.**



OBJECT LESSON

Water Music

[10 min]

Supplies

- variety of canning jars or sturdy glass drinking glasses (3 for every 5 kids)
- metal spoons (1 for every 5 kids)
- water
- food coloring

Easy Prep

- Fill the jars or glasses with different amounts of water. For instance, 1 might be almost full, 1 half full, and 1 a quarter full. Prepare a set of 3 for every 5 kids.
- To make it easier to see the water levels, add a drop of food coloring to each jar or glass.

Observe the Water Levels

Say: **Look at the water in these jars. Some jars have a lot of water while others have just a little bit. Did you know that water can make jars musical? Let's listen and find out how!** Form groups of five, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group. Have each group gather around a table, and place a set of jars on each group's table.

Hit the Sides of Jars

Say: **Listen to this!** Gently hit the side of each jar with a metal spoon. If you're comfortable singing, sing the sound each jar makes with "la." **Now it's your turn to make some music.**

- Have adult or teen helpers give a metal spoon to one child in each group. That child will tap the sides of the jars and make a short tune.
- Encourage kids to try to echo the tune with their singing voices. They could sing "la, la, la" or "doot, doot, doot."
- Pass the spoon to a different child, and repeat. Make sure each child has a turn to make music. Have fun with kids as they try to sing the tunes, keeping in mind that having fun is more important than matching pitch.

Talk About It

Play a tune on the jars one more time.

Say: **The water makes each jar have a different sound. All the sounds are important or valuable. There isn't one that's any better or worse than the others. All the notes are valuable because they all work together to make a song! Like these sounds are different, we're all different, too. Some of us like to sing, and some of us don't. Give a thumbs-up if you like to sing. Give a thumbs-down if you don't like to sing. Pause. Some of us like to play basketball, and others of us don't. Give a thumbs-up if you like basketball. Give a thumbs-down if you don't like it. Pause. Some of us really like to draw. Give a thumbs-up if you like to draw. Pause. Others of us really like to look at books. Have kids give a thumbs-up if they like books. Even though we're all different, God loves and values everyone! God values people. We're all very special to God.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

You're Grrrrreat!

[10 min]

Supplies

- parachute or large bedsheet

Run Under a Parachute

Say: **When we value people, we might say words that lift people up. Our friends don't actually lift off the ground, but their hearts feel happy and light. Let's use a parachute to help us lift up our friends' hearts and make them feel happy and valued.**

- Have kids stand in a circle and hold on to the edge of the parachute.
- Practice lifting the parachute up and down to the ground without letting go. As you lift up, have kids shout "You're grrrrreat!" and then slowly lower the parachute to their toes.
- Choose one child to start. As you lift up the parachute together, call out that child's name and say [Child's name], **you're grrrrreat!** When kids hear their names, they'll try to run underneath the parachute and out the other side before it's lowered back down.
- Continue calling random names around the parachute.
- Play until each child runs under the parachute and out the other side several times.
- Have kids lower the parachute to the floor and then sit on the edge.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did it feel to hear friends say something nice to you?**

Say: **It feels really good when others tell us we're special and important. It helps us feel loved. And it's really grrrrreat to know that God values people. He loves each one of us and thinks we're special. Since God values people, we value people, too. In fact, I value and love each one of you!** Go around the circle calling each child by name and saying something that you like or value about that child. For example, you might value helpfulness, friendliness, storytelling, smiles, or kindness.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Fill 'Em Up!

Supplies

- underinflated balloons (2-3 per child)
- oversized adult T-shirts (1 for every adult or teen helper)
- large box or laundry basket

Easy Prep

- Put balloons in a box or laundry basket.

Tip

- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Race to Fill T-Shirts With Balloons

Put on an oversized T-shirt. Say: **When we value people, we tell them they're special and important. We might even tell them how much we love them. When we say kind things that make others feel special and important, we fill up their hearts with love. If you tell me I'm a good teacher, that makes me feel special. Place a balloon inside your oversized T-shirt. If you tell me you're my friend, that makes me feel important. Place another balloon inside your oversized T-shirt. If you thank me for holding the door open for you, that makes me feel valuable and important. Place another balloon inside your oversized T-shirt. Every (add a balloon) single [add a balloon] kind thing (add a balloon) you say (add a balloon) helps me know I'm special and important to you. Look—I'm all filled up with love because of all the kind things you could say to me. Let's play a game to let our leaders know we think they're valuable and important.**

- Form groups of five, and assign an adult or teen leader to each group.
- Have adult or teen leaders each put on an oversized T-shirt and then kneel on the floor so their group members can reach them easily.
- Distribute balloons on the floor around each group. Make sure each group has access to 10-15 balloons.
- On "go," kids will each grab a balloon and put it inside their leader's oversized T-shirt. Encourage older kids to share something special about their leader for each balloon they add. Younger preschoolers can simply say "You're special" for each balloon they add. Tell kids to see how fast they can "fill up" their leaders.
- As kids add balloons, encourage leaders to respond with thankfulness or delight. For example, they could say, "Oh, thank you!" or "You fill me up with God's love. Thanks!"
- Once all the balloons have been used, have adult and teen leaders stand and parade around the room to show they're filled up with love. Encourage kids to wave and cheer for them.
- If time allows, remove the balloons from the T-shirts and play again.

Talk About It

Say: **When we tell others we think they're special or important, we fill them up with love. Just like the leaders thanked you in our game, people feel thankful when we show them how special they are to us. God loves it when we show other people they're special and important because God values everyone.**

Tell about someone in *your* life who you can make feel special this week.

Ask: • **How can you show someone they're special to *you* this week?**

Say: **God values people. And he invites us to fill up our parents, teachers, and friends with God's amazing love!**



Supplies

- “Who Is It? Game” handout (2 per child) (download [here](#))
- construction paper
- sandwich-size resealable plastic bags (1 per child)
- large hardcover books, plastic folders, or other dividers that can stand up (1 for every 2 children)
- child-safe scissors (1 pair per child)
- washable markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut 2x2-inch squares of construction paper so you have 1 per child.



Prep Game Supplies

Say: **Today we’re going to make a fun game we can play with a friend!**

Show preschoolers the sample craft.

- Give each preschooler two handouts, one pre-cut construction-paper square, a resealable plastic bag, a whole piece of construction paper, and a pair of scissors.
- Help each child cut, count, and bag 14 construction-paper squares. Ideally the squares will be 2x2 inches, but they don’t need to be exact. Kids can use the pre-cut square you gave each of them as a template and trace it with markers to make more squares. However, any square that’s smaller than 2x2 inches will work to mark faces that are ruled out in the game.

Play the Game

Show preschoolers how to play the game. Play against a helper, and let the children watch and “help.”

- Players will each place a “Who Is It?” handout in front of them and take seven construction-paper squares.
- Place a divider, such as a hardcover book, between the two players so they can’t see the other player’s handout.
- Decide who will guess first, and have the other player choose one picture on his or her board without telling which one it is. Help the child cover up the other seven faces with construction paper squares.
- The Guesser will ask his or her partner questions to try to figure out which picture the other player chose. For example, the Guesser could ask, “Is your person a boy?” If the answer is yes, the Guesser will cover up all the girl pictures. If the answer is no, the Guesser will cover up all the boy pictures.
- The Guesser can continue asking questions until the correct picture is guessed.

After the teacher-led game, check that preschoolers understand the concept. Help kids with any additional confusion about the game, and then let preschoolers play in pairs, taking turns being the Guesser. You can have younger preschoolers play in teams with a helper on each team.

Say: **The people on our game boards are all different in some ways, and they're alike in some ways. That's like you and me. We're different in some ways, and we're alike in some ways.** Name some things you have in common with kids, like that you both are friends with God. Then name things that are different between you and the children, like your ages. Invite children to share things that are alike between them and the other kids.

Say: **God values all of us! He thinks you're special and important, no matter who you are.**

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