

LESSON 12: DAVID VALUES SAUL'S LIFE

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Kids remove nickels from the bottom of a stack.

Supplies

- nickels (8 for every 3 kids)
- variety of flat objects such as metal spatulas, butter knives, rulers, and plastic knives (2 different objects for every 3 kids)

Easy Prep

- Practice ahead of time so you feel comfortable demonstrating.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids sneak around to hide from Saul and then act out the story.

Supplies

- Bible
- classroom objects such as Bibles, stacks of paper, large bins, boxes of markers, and chairs
- water bottle
- plastic knife
- scissors
- plastic tablecloth
- star stickers (1 per child)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to swipe supplies without being tagged.

Supplies

- water bottles*
- plastic knife*
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Use the tape to mark a 10x10-foot square on the floor.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids place a value on various items.

Supplies

- random objects such as a stapler, coffee mug, sheet of stickers, book, snack pack of crackers, bottle of water, and other easily accessible objects (1 set of 15 random objects for every 5 kids)
- sticky notes
- pen

Easy Prep

- For each set of supplies you gather, create a “cheat sheet” for yourself with a list of the supplies and how much each item costs. You can give your best guess for costs or do some quick online searches to get the average current cost for each item.
- Line up each set of supplies on the floor at one end of your play area. Space the sets of items a

few feet apart so it's clear where each set ends and another begins.

- For each set of supplies, create a set of price tags by writing on each sticky note a price that corresponds to an item in the set. Shuffle the price tags into a random order.
- Place each set of price tags on the floor near the set of supplies it belongs to.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for each other.



CRAFT

Kids make paper birds and trade them.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Bird Template" handouts (3 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- hole punches
- string
- crayons or markers
- glue sticks
- googly eyes
- craft feathers
- Glue Dots

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**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 kids give a high-one (high-five with just one finger) to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say, "Long live [name of birthday child]!"
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God values people, so we value people. Let's talk about things we value.**

Share

- Tell kids about something *you* have that you value most.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share what *they* have that they value most.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 24, and say: **When something is important to us, we say we value it. The thing you shared about might not be worth a lot of money, but it's valuable to you because you love it! That's how God feels about all of us. In the Bible, a man named David knew that God values people, and it changed how he treated people. The Bible isn't like other books; it's God's special book. The Bible is one way God shows us how valuable people are to him. As we read his Word today, let's see how he changes our view of people. Let's praise him for the way he views people.**

Pray, praising God for valuing us.



OBJECT LESSON

Nickel Knockout

[10 min]

Supplies

- nickels (8 for every 3 kids)
- variety of flat objects such as metal spatulas, butter knives, rulers, and plastic knives (2 different objects for every 3 kids)

Easy Prep

- Practice ahead of time so you feel comfortable demonstrating.

Tip

- Have kids hit the bottom of their stack of nickels with a variety of flat objects. Make sure each group has at least 2 objects with which to experiment.

Demonstrate

Say: **Check out this stack of nickels. Let's find a way to remove the bottom nickel without making the top ones fall over. All we need is a flat object and just the right amount of force. Watch this!**

- Set the stack of nickels on a flat surface. Quickly hit the bottom nickel with one of the flat objects; then pull the object quickly back toward you.
- When you hit the nickel with just the right amount of force, it will fly out from under the stack, and the other nickels will fall straight down.
- Repeat, knocking out nickels until the stack is gone.

Hit the Bottom Nickel

Say: **Now it's your turn! In your groups, take turns knocking out the bottom nickel from your stack without making the rest of the stack fall down. It'll take some practice, and you might not always knock out the bottom nickel perfectly—but that's okay! Give it a try, and work on it together.**

- Form trios, and give each group eight nickels. Have kids stack the nickels and take turns trying to knock out the bottom nickel with a knife, ruler, or spatula.
- Group members who aren't hitting the nickels can help retrieve and restack nickels as needed. Every two minutes, call out for groups to switch and let another member have a turn.
- Encourage kids to try different flat objects and find what works best for them.
- Collect all the nickels and flat objects after everyone has had a turn.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Was knocking out just the bottom nickel difficult? Why or why not?**

Say: **Knocking down a stack of nickels is easy. But removing only the bottom one is a little more difficult. With some practice, and the help of a scientific force called *friction*, we were able to safely remove one nickel without knocking the others over.**

Stack up nickels again.

Ask: • **Let's imagine that this stack of nickels is a group of people. What things tear people apart?**

Share an experience from your own life to get kids started.

Say: **Like our stack of nickels faced the threat of being torn apart, sometimes we're faced with problems like jealousy or betrayals that threaten to tear people apart. It takes patience and practice to value people enough to stick with them even when it's hard.**

Ask: • **How did David value Saul in our Bible story?**

Say: **When you value someone, you want to protect that person and keep that person from falling or getting hurt. In our Bible story, David valued Saul's life. He knew that Saul was God's chosen king, and until God said differently, Saul was in charge. Since God values people, he helped David see that it wasn't his job to knock Saul off his throne. We can value people, even when it's hard.**



Supplies

- Bible
- classroom objects such as Bibles, stacks of paper, large bins, boxes of markers, and chairs
- water bottle
- plastic knife
- scissors
- plastic tablecloth
- star stickers (1 per child)

Set It Up

Say: **In today's Bible story, we'll see how God values people, so we value people. The king in our Bible story, King Saul, *didn't* value people. He wanted to kill David! God had already decided David would be the next king, and that made Saul jealous. Plus, David overpowered a giant named Goliath, so everyone sang praises about what a big hero David was. Saul didn't want anyone to like David better than him!**

Ask: • **What words would you use to describe Saul?**

Say: **Did you know that God values all people—even people who are [say some of the words kids used to describe Saul] like Saul? During our story, let's see what words David used to describe Saul.**

Chase

Say: **Since Saul kept chasing David, David had to run away! He and a group of men who protected him wandered all through the wilderness. David couldn't be home, and he had to be constantly alert, looking for danger and ready to get up and go again. Let's see what that might've felt like. Let's imagine Saul is chasing us, and we'll be David and his group.**

Give kids various classroom supplies, such as stacks of Bibles, stacks of paper, large bins, and boxes of markers. You can even have kids carry chairs. Make sure every child has something to carry. Explain that since David couldn't go home, he had to have everything he needed with him. Carry the water bottle, the plastic knife, the scissors, and the plastic tablecloth as you travel around the room with the kids.

Have kids carry their items around the room. If your church policy allows it, leave the room and travel all around the church; even the hallway outside your room would work.

After a few minutes or when kids seem to be getting tired, say: **Okay, let's rest.** If you're traveling around the church, try to find nooks and crannies to hide out in so you stay safe from Saul. After just a few seconds of resting, say: **Oh no! I see Saul coming! Let's get out of here!** Repeat this sequence two times.

During your third rest period, ask: • **What does it feel like to have someone chasing you all the time?**

Have kids walk to a new hiding place. This might simply be a corner of your room. Say: **One time when David and his men were hiding in a cave, Saul came into the cave all by himself—without his army! Saul didn't know David was there.**

Ask: • **What do you think David should do?**

Say: **Let's check out what happened in the Bible.**

Read 1 Samuel 24:3-4.

Say: **Do you know why Saul went into the cave alone? When the Bible says he went into the cave to "relieve himself," that means he was going to the bathroom! He didn't even realize that David was right behind him.**

Right now, imagine that I'm Saul. Drape the plastic tablecloth over your shoulders to be a robe. Stand at the edge of the hiding place, facing away from kids, and have kids take turns cutting or ripping pieces off your "robe." They'll hold on to their scraps for later.

Ask: • **Why do you think David only cut Saul's robe?**

Say: **David could've killed Saul, and then he wouldn't have had to run away anymore. Plus, God said David would be the king when Saul died. But David only cut off a part of Saul's robe...and he even felt bad about *that*!**

Read 1 Samuel 24:5-7.

Say: **Remember those words we used earlier to describe Saul? David described Saul differently. He called him "the Lord's anointed one." David saw how God valued Saul.**

Ask: • **How do you think David was able to see the good in Saul even though Saul was trying to kill him?**

Say: **God values people, so we value people. God didn't approve of Saul trying to kill David, but he *did* still value Saul. When we see other people through God's eyes, we look for the good in them, even if it's not obvious right away. That's what David did!**

Saul didn't know David had cut off part of his robe. So David came out of the cave and showed him the piece of the robe. David told Saul that he could've killed him, but he didn't. David wanted to make a truce—or have peace—with Saul.

Saul seemed really sorry and agreed to stop chasing David. Saul went back home, but David and his men kept hiding out, just in case.

Lead kids in traveling back to your classroom.

Take Water and a Spear

Say: **Even though they'd made a truce, Saul changed his mind. Pretty soon he started looking for David again. But once again David got to see Saul before Saul found David. Let's read what happened.**

Read 1 Samuel 26:5-8.

Ask: • **Do you agree with Abishai that David should kill Saul this time? Why or why not?**

Say: **Once again, David said Saul was the Lord's chosen one. Instead of killing Saul, he played a trick on him.**

Have half your kids be Saul and his army. Saul will lie on the floor in the middle of your space, and his army will lie in a circle around him. Place the water bottle and the plastic knife by Saul's head.

Have the other kids be David and quietly and carefully sneak into the circle and stand near Saul.

Read 1 Samuel 26:9-12.

Have one child pick up the plastic knife and water bottle. Then say: **Let's get out of here!**

Lead the David group in sneaking far away from the Saul group. Then have the child with the plastic knife and bottle hold them up. Read 1 Samuel 26:13-16.

Say: **Saul and David made another truce. I'd love to tell you that Saul stuck with it this time. But the fact is he chased David his whole life. David knew that God values people, so we value people. He would never do anything to hurt Saul. David had two chances to kill Saul, but he chose to value Saul's life. He showed self-control even when he could've ended his problem.**

Ask: • **What are some examples of how kids can show self-control to value people?** To get kids started, give examples such as not making a snappy comeback when someone is mean to us or not talking back to our parents.

Describe People

Say: **Earlier we described Saul. We called him [share words kids said earlier]. But David called him the Lord's anointed. That means David knew God had chosen and blessed Saul as the king. Let's think about how we can reflect God's value of people like David did.**

Have kids get out the pieces of your robe from earlier.

Say: **Think of someone *you* have a hard time getting along with. Think of negative words you'd use to describe that person.**

Ask: • **Without naming the person, call out your words.**

Say: **God values people. Even though we sometimes see people as [fill in kids' words], God sees them as special. He loves them just as much as he loves you and me!**

Ask: • **Knowing that God values people, call out words you think *he* might use to describe the person you're thinking about.**

Give one star sticker to each child. Have kids stick the stars on their robe pieces as they silently thank God for the person they've each been thinking about.

Pray: **God, thank you that you value people. You valued David, and you valued Saul. You value us! Thank you that everyone in this room is a star to you. Help us see others through your eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Sneak, Swipe, Sprint

[10 min]

Supplies

- water bottles*
- plastic knife*
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Use the tape to mark a 10x10-foot square on the floor.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

Swipe the Supplies

Say: **Today we read about David and King Saul and how David valued Saul's life. During one of the times David allowed Saul to live, David and one of his soldiers took a jug of water and a spear that were next to Saul while he slept. Let's play a game where you'll try to sneak up and take a jug of water (hold up the water bottle) and a spear (hold up the plastic knife) before the person who is "Saul" notices and is able to tag you.**

- Invite a willing person to be Saul.
- Have Saul stand in the center of the square you taped on the floor, and place the water bottle and plastic knife on the floor next to Saul.
- Everyone else can spread out around the square just outside of the taped lines.
- Kids will try to sneak up to Saul and take both supplies, getting them out of the square without getting tagged.
- Saul can only tag a player who is holding both supplies.
- The other players can strategize and work together to try to successfully take the supplies, but the same child must take both supplies at once.
- If Saul manages to tag someone before he or she gets out of the square with the supplies, the person who was tagged will become the new Saul.
- If someone gets out of the square with the supplies, invite a new willing person to be the next Saul.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Was it more fun in our game to be Saul or to try to take the supplies? Why?**

Say: **Our game was a fun way to imagine today's Bible story. But when David actually took the water jug and spear from Saul, it wasn't a game or a way to be mean. David was showing Saul that he valued him and his life by only taking things that were next to Saul while he slept—not hurting him.**

Ask: • **What are some ways we can choose to value others instead of being hurtful?**

Say: **David valued Saul because he knew that God valued Saul. That's why David didn't hurt Saul when he had the chance. God values people, so we value people.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Price It Right

[10 min]

Supplies

- random objects such as a stapler, coffee mug, sheet of stickers, book, snack pack of crackers, bottle of water, and other easily accessible objects (1 set of 15 random objects for every 5 kids)
- sticky notes
- pen

Easy Prep

- For each set of supplies you gather, create a “cheat sheet” for yourself with a list of the supplies and how much each item costs. You can give your best guess for costs or do some quick online searches to get the average current cost for each item.
- Line up each set of supplies on the floor at one end of your play area. Space the sets of items a few feet apart so it's clear where each set ends and another begins.
- For each set of supplies, create a set of price tags by writing on each sticky note a price that corresponds to an item in the set. Shuffle the price tags into a random order.
- Place each set of price tags on the floor near the set of supplies it belongs to.

Tip

- Have fun with your role as the game show host today to help kids imagine they're taking on a game show challenge.

Play a Game Show–Style Pricing Game

Say: **In the Bible, we read about how King Saul's life mattered to David even when it seemed like Saul probably didn't deserve David's compassion. David chose to value Saul's life because God valued Saul.**

Let's dig more into what *value* means with a great game where you'll try to guess the value of a bunch of things.

Hold a pen like a microphone. Change your voice to sound like a hammy game show host; get into character so kids will notice the change. **Welcome to Price It Right—a game show to show what you know!**

- Form teams of five, and have each team take its place near a set of supplies on the floor.
- Teammates will look through their price tags and decide which price they think belongs to each item.
- You'll call out (in your game-showiest voice), “Price it right!” and one person from each team (the Guesser) can place a price tag where the team thinks it belongs in its series of supplies.
- Check each team's guess, and for correct tags, congratulate the Guessers with a “You priced it right!” For incorrect guesses say, “Price check on [name the item],” and have the Guesser return the price tag to the pile.
- Continue like this with teammates taking turns placing the price tags until a team has correctly guessed where all its price tags go.
- Wrap up by thanking everyone for playing Price It Right.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did your team decide which price you thought went with each item?**

Say: **You *evaluated* each item—you came up with what you thought each thing was worth based on what you could see. And some items had more value than others.**

Ask: • **What are ways we evaluate people? This might include things we can see about a person's appearance or qualities we can see, like friendliness.**

Say: **We might value people differently, but God values people all the same.** Point to the sets of supplies. **If these were all different people instead of things, we might still have different values for each person, but God would value each person as *priceless*—so valuable that there can't be a price. When we see people through God's eyes, it changes the way we treat each other.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Value Prayers

Share and Pray

- Have kids form groups of four.
- In their groups, have kids tell about ways people have shown they value them.
- Next, have kids show value for each other by praying for one another. Each child in a group will get a turn to be the "Pray-ee." The other three kids (the "Pray-ers") will pray for the Pray-ee, thanking God for how he created that person.
- Kids can also pray a blessing over the Pray-ee. For example, kids could pray, "May God show you his love this week," or "May God give you peace this week."
- Make an announcement periodically to switch Pray-ees so that each child gets a turn.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you for valuing every person in this room. Thank you that you value people.**

Help us value people the way you do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



Supplies

- Bible
- “Bird Template” handouts (3 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- hole punches
- string
- crayons or markers
- glue sticks
- googly eyes
- craft feathers
- Glue Dots

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Paper Birds

Read Matthew 10:31.

Say: **Birds can remind us that God values people and that he values us far more than he values birds.**

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child three handouts. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these instructions to each make three sparrows.

- Fold the handout in half on the dotted line.
- Cut out the heart shape, which will be the bird body.
- Cut out the other shape, which will be the bird wings.
- Also cut a small triangle, which will be a beak.
- On the inside of your bird body, write your name.
- With the fold as the top of the bird body, punch a hole centered along the top.
- Tie a 2-foot piece of string through the hole.
- Color the bird body your favorite color.
- Decorate the wings with something that represents you, such as paw prints if you like animals or sports equipment if you're an athlete.
- Glue the wings onto the top of the bird body so they're sticking up at a slight angle. The string should come out in front of the wings. (Tip: If you put glue on only the front of the wings, you can position them so they stick out a little bit, giving your bird dimension.)
- Color the beak, and glue it to the bird body.

- Add an eye to the bird body. (You could use a googly eye.)
- Follow the same steps to make two more birds that represent you.
- If time allows, decorate with feathers, too.

Trade

Say: **The Bible says you're more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. Right now you have a flock of sparrows that represent you. God values people, so we value people, and that means valuing *other* people the way God does!**

Have kids each keep one of their birds but trade the other two so they each have three unique birds.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What's different about each of the birds in your flock?**

- **Name something you like about each bird you have.**

Say: **Each of your birds is different because they represent people who are different. God values people. He values each of our individual personalities. After you leave here, show you value the people whose birds you got by praying for them throughout the week.**

Have kids take their flocks of birds home. Encourage kids to hang the birds in their rooms as a reminder to pray for people throughout the week. They can also tell their friends and families how God values people more than a flock of sparrows.