

LESSON 12: DAVID VALUES SAUL'S LIFE

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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 travel, carrying items and hiding, and then they sneak to take Saul's "jar" and "spear."

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)



CRAFT

Kids 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.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids "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.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a parachute game that lifts friends up.

Supplies

- parachute or large bedsheet



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for one another to value them.

**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: **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 small groups, have kids share about *their* most special toys.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids 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.



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 beat 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 word 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 look for danger all the time. He had to be ready to get up and hide somewhere new. 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, or 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 where you can hide out 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 the hiding and resting 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.**

Distribute one star sticker per child. Have kids stick the stars on their robe pieces as they silently thank God for the person they've 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.**



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 kids the sample craft.

- Give each child two handouts, one pre-cut construction-paper square, a resealable plastic bag, a whole piece of construction paper, and a pair of scissors.
- Have 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.
- Invite kids to add any details to characters that they want to make them harder to guess. For example, they might add hats to all the characters or glasses to a few more characters. Remind them to add the exact same things on both of their handouts.

Play the Game

Show kids how to play the game.

- Players will each place a “Who Is It?” handout in front of them and take seven construction-paper squares. Be sure the two players are using a set of handouts from one of the kids, rather than one handout from one player’s set and a handout from a different player’s set.
- 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. Have kids 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.

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.**



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. 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!**



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. Of course, 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.
- Invite the child who ran last to call another child's name to run next. Ensure that every child's name gets called at least once.
- 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 great 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.



Value Prayers

Share and Pray

- Have kids form groups of four.
- In their groups, have kids tell about a way someone has 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.