David Visits His Brothers

Bible Story
1 Samuel 17:12-20

Teacher Challenge
David had a simple task to accomplish that met a significant need. David’s father asked him to take food to his brothers who had been away for some time. Sometimes we think doing good things means to do something that changes the lives of millions of people for the good. But bringing food to one hungry person is a very good thing. God sees these simple good acts, and is pleased with our expressions of care for others.

« What practical ways do you do good and show God’s love to people around you?
« What good things do you appreciate that others do to make your life more pleasant? Take time to express your appreciation to these people.

At the end of some class sessions you may feel that everything went wrong. In those times, remember that every child goes away with more than projects and papers. Every child also takes home an attitude, an understanding, a feeling. When the activity whirls and the tension builds, pause to remember that simple acts of love and patience have lasting effects—reaching even people you may never see. As you teach each child about who God is, teach with more than words; teach with the good deeds of your life.

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Active Game Center: Shopping Game

Collect
Bible, grocery bag, grocery items or recyclable grocery packaging (empty cereal boxes, egg cartons, milk containers, etc.).

Prepare
Place grocery bag at one end of playing area. Place grocery items at the other end.

Do
1. Children line up next to grocery items. First child selects a grocery item and walks across playing area to grocery bag. Child places item in bag and then walks back to line. Repeat until each child has had a turn.
2. Play another round, with children crossing playing area in a different way (hopping, skipping, jumping, backwards, etc.).

Talk About
- Today in our Bible story, we’ll hear about a way David did something good. David’s brothers were far away in the king’s army. David’s father told David to take them some food. David did just what his father said.
- Let’s play a game of shopping! We can pretend we are packing groceries to take to our families.
- The Bible tells us, “Do not forget to do good.” Helping our families is a way to do something good. What are some good things you can do to help your family?
- What are some of the other jobs people in your family do to help each other? (Wash clothes. Cook food.)

For Younger Children
If you have a large group, provide additional grocery items and bags so children don’t have to wait long for their turn.

For Older Children
Children predict how many items will fit in the grocery bag. When bag is full, children count the number of items inside.
Art Center: Picnic Fun

Collect
Bible, markers, paper lunch bags, scissors, ruler, stapler and staples; optional—copies of Lesson 10 Picnic Food Patterns from Discovering God’s Love CD-ROM.

Prepare
Draw cut line on paper lunch bags (see sketch a), one bag for each child. (Optional: Cut out pictures of food from Picnic Food Patterns.)

Do
1. Children cut bags along cut line. Keeping bags flat, children decorate bag with markers. As children work, cut a strip approximately 1-inch (2.5-cm) wide from the cutoff portions of the bags.
2. When children finish decorating bags, staple strips to bags to form handles for picnic baskets (see sketch b). (Optional: Children choose two or three food pictures to put in their picnic baskets.)

Talk About
- In our Bible story, David helped his family by bringing food to his brothers. We can show God’s love by helping the people in our families, too.
- Let’s pretend we’re packing food to take with us on a picnic. What are some of your favorite foods? What do you like to eat on a picnic?
- At my house, I help my family by mowing the lawn. The Bible says, “Do not forget to do good.” What can you do to help your family and do good?

For Younger Children
Instead of making a paper picnic basket, children glue food pictures to paper plates (see sketch c). Place plates in a picnic basket. Walk with children to another area of the classroom. Children unpack basket to enjoy a pretend picnic.

For Older Children
Provide a large sheet of butcher paper. After children complete their paper picnic baskets, they cut fringe along all sides of butcher paper and decorate to create a picnic blanket. Drawing ants and ladybugs on blanket is a fun touch. Children place baskets on blanket for picnic.

God’s Word
“Do not forget to do good.”
Hebrews 13:16

God’s Word and Me
Helping the people in my family is a way to show God’s love.
**Play to Learn**

**Block Center:**
**Picking Up Pumpkins**

**Collect**
Bible, orange construction paper, scissors, blocks; optional—several mini pumpkins.

**Prepare**
Cut large circles out of orange construction paper. Using blocks, outline a pumpkin patch.

**Do**
1. Show children orange circles, and invite them to plant the “pumpkins” in the patch. (Optional: Set out mini pumpkins too.)
2. Once all the “pumpkins” are planted, children pick “pumpkins.” Repeat as time and interest allow.

**Talk About**
- The Bible tells us, “Do not forget to do good.” Helping our families is a way to show God’s love. Let’s help our families pick pumpkins.
- What is one way you did good by helping your family this morning? What did you do with your pajamas?
- To help children think of helping actions, ask, Who helps you have clean clothes? What does your grandmother do? How can you help her?

**For Younger Children**
Provide several small containers into which children may put their “pumpkins.”

**For Older Children**
Children place a specified number of pumpkins in each row. Children count the people in their family and pick that number of pumpkins.
Play to Learn

Science Center: David’s Walk

Collect
Bible, shallow pan or box, nature items (sand, grass, twigs, stones, etc.), toy people.

Do
1. Guide children to arrange nature items in shallow pan or box, forming hills, trees and roads.
2. Children play with toy people, showing David walking on path to visit his brothers.

Talk About
- Our Bible story today is about David. David’s brothers were soldiers and were far away in an army camp. One day David’s father, Jesse, told David to take some food to his brothers. David had to walk on a path through the hills and past trees to get to his brothers.
- How can we make hills? (Mound sand.) How can we show the road? (Outline road with stones.)
- David did what was good by obeying his father and by bringing food to his brothers.
- The Bible says, “Do not forget to do good.” What are some good things children your age can do?

For Younger Children
If you have a large group, provide more than one shallow pan or box.

For Older Children
After constructing the Bible story scene, invite children to arrange nature items to spell words from the story or from the Bible verse: “David,” “do,” “food” or “good.”

God’s Word
“Hebrews 13:16
“Do not forget to do good.”

Helping the people in my family is a way to show God’s love.
Listen to Learn

1 Samuel 17:12-20

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 15 pictures from God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, beanbag or ball.

Greet Each Other
Children sit in a circle. Play “Come On In!” (track 1 on CD). Children pass beanbag or ball around the circle. After beanbag or ball has been passed to several children, stop the music. Child holding the beanbag or ball when the music stops tells his or her name and names the people in his or her family. Continue for several more rounds.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 17. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 15 pictures.

I have a job at my house. Once a week I wash my car. What is a job you like to do? Today we’ll hear about a time when David’s father had a job for David to do. Listen to find out what David did to help.

Every day David found green grass for his family’s sheep. Every day David found cool water for them to drink. Every day David took good care of the sheep. And every day, David’s father thought about his seven older sons who were in the army. What are they doing? Do they have enough to eat? he must have wondered.

One day David’s father said to David, “David, you are old enough to go on a trip by yourself. Please go to see your brothers who are in the army. I want to know how they are doing. I can’t go see them.” David listened carefully. His father said, “Pack some bread and cheese and wheat to give to them.”

David made plans right away. David probably found another boy to take care of his family’s sheep. Then early the next morning, David packed bread and cheese and wheat in sacks. Very carefully he loaded the sacks on his donkey. “Good-bye, David,” his father called as David walked down the road. “Be careful.”

“I’ll be careful,” David said. “Good-bye!” Clippety-clop, clippety-clop went the donkey’s feet on the rocky road.

After a while David saw the tents of the army camp. Then he saw his brothers. David ran to meet his brothers. “I brought you some food from home,” David told them. The brothers must have been very glad to get the food. David was glad he could help his father by bringing food to his brothers. David was a good helper. David loved God.
Talk About the Story
What was the job David’s father, Jesse, asked him to do? (Take food to his brothers in the army.) David showed God’s love by helping his father and brothers. When we help the people in our families, we show God’s love, too! What is something you can do today to help the people in your family?

Sing to God
Let’s sing together! Lead children in singing “What Are You Gonna Do?” (track 4 on CD). What are some other ways you can show God’s love by helping people in your family? (Help Mom water the plants. Help my sister clear the table. Obey Dad when it’s time for bed or a bath.)

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Hebrews 13:16, say verse aloud. What are we not supposed to forget? (To do good.) Children sit in a large circle. Lead children in repeating the verse several times. When saying the words “Do not forget,” children stand. When saying the words “to do good,” children sit down.

Pray to God
We can thank God for the people in our family. We can ask God to help us do good things for our family. Volunteers complete the following sentence prayer by adding the name of family members: Thank You, God, for __________. Close prayer by asking for God’s help to show love to the people in our families.

Praise to God
When we’re kind, we show how much we love God. Let’s sing about kind actions. Invite a child to tell a kind action. Sing about that item (share a book, make my bed, clean my room, etc.) to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

(Daniel) likes to (share his book),
(Daniel) likes to (share his book),
He’s kind to everyone.
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 15 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors; optional—3-inch (7.5-cm) length of string for each child, glue.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue string onto rope attached to donkey.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 19 and 20 (p. 45 and p. 47 from The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 10 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.