

David and Saul

Lesson 12

Bible Story

1 Samuel 26

Teacher Challenge

At one time, David's music brought peace to King Saul. Over time, King Saul's jealousy of David grew out of control. David's life was in constant danger. Several times, David had the chance to kill Saul. But David refused, calling Saul the Lord's anointed. David was willing to remain in danger to preserve the life of the man who wanted to kill him. David was willing to wait for God's timing to take over as king. He was humble, not grasping after power he knew would rightfully be his.

- ➔ How do you respond kindly when others are unfair and unkind?
- ➔ What strategies and solutions could you pass along to the children in your class?

Since all the children in your class are learning appropriate social behavior, such as taking turns and sharing, there will be many opportunities to practice being kind to those who are not kind to them. Take time with the children in your class to think of creative ways to deal with problems. These life lessons give children tools with which they are then able to obey the Bible's instruction to "do good to all people."

God's Word
"Do good to all people." Galatians 6:10

God's Word and Me
God helps me show His love,
even when it's hard to be kind.

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.



Play to Learn

Lesson 12

Active Game Center: Beanbag Baskets

Collect

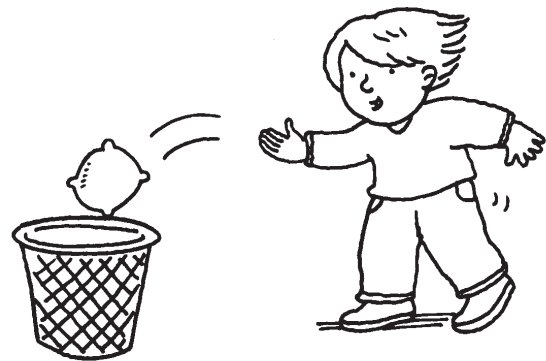
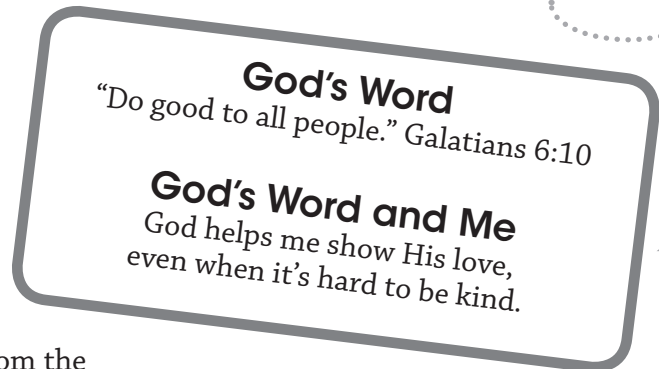
Bible, several beanbags, wastebasket.

Do

1. Children take turns tossing beanbags into wastebasket. Older children will enjoy the challenge of standing at a designated distance from the basket. Younger children will need to stand close to the basket.
2. To vary the game, children take turns tossing the beanbag to each other, or into the wastebasket, in a variety of ways (underhand, overhand, over shoulder, between legs, etc.).

Talk About

- ➔ **Sometimes it's hard to be kind. But God will help us. The Bible tells us, "Do good to all people." Let's play a game and talk about ways to do good and kind things.**
- ➔ **I see Ava waiting quietly to take her turn. What would happen if people did not wait for a turn playing our game?**
- ➔ **When are some other times you need to wait quietly?** (When others are talking. When others are on the swings. When someone else is playing with a toy you want to play with.)
- ➔ **Waiting quietly for your turn is a good thing to do. God will help us do good things and be kind, even when it's hard for us.**



For Younger Children

Instead of tossing beanbags into a wastebasket, children toss beanbags onto a large sheet of paper or a towel that has been spread on the floor.

For Older Children

Instead of tossing beanbags into a wastebasket, children toss them onto a paper grid. Print numbers or draw geometric shapes on separate sheets of paper. Tape papers to floor in a grid pattern. Children choose a paper as a target before tossing beanbag.

Play to Learn

Lesson 12

Art Center: Water Bottle Art

Collect

Bible, construction paper, scissors, crayons or markers, tape, two small bottles of water for each child; optional—art supplies (stickers, cut-out shapes, glue, etc.).

Prepare

Cut construction paper into strips that will fit around a water bottle.

Do

1. Children each decorate two paper strips. (Optional: Children decorate using art supplies you provide.)
2. Children hold paper strips around bottles of water and tape strips together at end.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Do good to all people.” That means we can show God’s love and do good to EVERYONE, even people who are not kind to us.**
- ➔ **Who can you show God’s love to? What can you do?**
- ➔ **Let’s decorate these bottles of water. You may decorate a second one to give away. Jacob, who will you give your bottle to?**



For Younger Children

Tape paper strips onto bottles for children.

For Older Children

Use a decorated water bottle as children play a game like Doggie, Doggie, Who’s Got My Bone.

God’s Word
“Do good to all people.” Galatians 6:10

God’s Word and Me
God helps me show His love,
even when it’s hard to be kind.

Play to Learn

Lesson 12

Block Center: Cave Dwellings

Collect

Bible, small pillows, brown fabric or towel, blocks, toy people.

Do

1. Children cover small pillows with fabric or towel to form hills and drape fabric or towel over block structure to make caves.
2. Children use toy people to act out King Saul's search for David.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, King Saul searched for David on hills and in caves. Let's make some hills and caves and act out the Bible story!**
- ➔ **King Saul and his soldiers were looking for David because Saul was angry at David. King Saul wanted to hurt David. Even though King Saul wanted to hurt him, David was kind to him. When are some times it might be hard to be kind and do good things?** (When someone laughs at you. When someone won't share with you.)
- ➔ **What are some good things you can do for your friends? Your family?**
- ➔ **Saying kind words is a good thing to do. When are times it might be hard to say kind words to others?** (When someone calls you names. When someone pushes in line.)
- ➔ **God wants us to be kind and do good things for others. The Bible says, "Do good to all people." God will always help us to show His love by being kind and doing good things.**



For Younger Children

Give guidance by suggestions and questions. **James, Kayley needs another long block for her cave. You have lots of long blocks. What can you do to help Kayley? That was a good thing to do!**

For Older Children

Provide play dough and twigs. Children make trees by standing twigs in small lumps of play dough.

Play to Learn

Lesson 12

Science Center: Shadow Story

Collect

Bible, construction paper, scissors, drinking straws, tape, flashlight; optional—Lesson 12 Shape Patterns from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

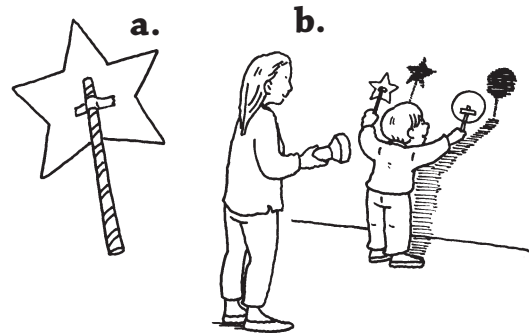
Cut construction paper into one or more of the following shapes: star, crown, triangle (to make spear) or circle (to make person). Make each shape approximately 2-3 inches (5-7.5 cm) in size. (Optional: Make copies of Shape Patterns from CD-ROM onto construction paper and cut out the shapes you wish to use.) Tape paper shapes onto ends of drinking straws.

Do

1. If possible, darken the room and shine the flashlight at the wall. Children hold shapes in front of flashlight to make shadows on the wall. Briefly tell the Bible story.
2. Children hold shapes closer to or further away from flashlight to discover how this affects the size of the shadows.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, David** (show circle) **was hiding in a cave at night** (show star). **He had to hide because King Saul** (show crown) **was chasing him and wanted to hurt him. But even though King Saul was not kind, David showed love to him. David did not hurt King Saul, even though he was close enough to take King Saul's spear** (show triangle).
- ➔ **Chelsea, thank you for letting Christopher hold the star shape first. When you let others go first, you are doing a good thing and being kind. And that shows God's love!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, help us be kind and do good things for others.**



For Younger Children

Provide a number of shapes so children don't have to wait a long time for their turn.

For Older Children

Children discover what shadows classroom objects make when held before the flashlight.

Listen to Learn

1 Samuel 26

Lesson 12

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 17 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, index cards, marker.

Prepare

Write a "1" or "2" on an index card, making a card for each child.

Greet Each Other

Lead children in the following finger play:

Look at my friend! (*Point to a child.*)

And then look at me! (*Point to yourself.*)

We (share and take turns)

To be kind, you see!

Children suggest other kind actions. Repeat, using children's suggestions.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 26. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 17 pictures.

Have you ever been camping? Where did you sleep? Today we're going to hear about a time David was kind to King Saul when King Saul was sleeping outside on the ground.



Step, step, step. King Saul and his men looked for David all day. King Saul was **angry** with David. King Saul wanted to find David and hurt him. Finally, King Saul and his men stopped for the night and set up their camp. King Saul slept on the ground. His men slept all around him.



While King Saul and his men were asleep, David and his men found King Saul's camp. Very quietly, David and his friend Abishai (AB-uh-shi) **tiptoed** up to King Saul.

"Here's our chance," whispered Abishai. "King Saul wants to hurt you. Let's hurt him!"

"No!" whispered David. "That would be wrong. Let's just take his spear and water jug." So David and Abishai picked up the king's spear and water jug.



They quietly ran to the top of a high hill. "Wake up!" David **shouted**. David held up King Saul's spear and jug. "See what happened while you slept!" King Saul and his men heard the shouting. They looked around and saw King Saul's spear and jug were gone. "Is that you, David?" King Saul called out.

"Look!" David shouted. "I have your spear. Let one of your men come and get it. I could have hurt you, but I did not."



King Saul was sorry for the way he had treated David. David turned around and walked back to his men. He could have hurt King Saul, but he **didn't**. David showed love for God by being kind to King Saul.

Talk About the Story

Where did David and his friends find King Saul and his soldiers? (Asleep on the ground.) **David was kind to King Saul, even though it must have been very hard. It's not always easy to be kind to others. God will always help us to be kind. When might it be hard to be kind to others?** (When others say mean things. When others do mean things.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song together! Lead children in singing "What Are You Gonna Do?" (track 4 on CD).

When are some times it might be hard to show God's love and be kind? (When someone won't share a toy. When someone is unfair. When you're really tired or unhappy.) **When it's hard to be kind, we can ask God for His help! He will always help us show His love to others.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Galatians 6:10, say verse aloud. **What are some good things to do?** (Share toys. Help put away blocks.) Then lead children in repeating the verse several times. As the children are repeating the verse with you, point to one child. You and the children say that child's name instead of the words "all people." Repeat until every child has had a turn.

Option: Add motion to the verse activity. Children line up and follow the first child in the line, walking around the classroom. Say verse aloud, replacing the words "all people" with the name of the first child in the line. After his or her name is said, that child moves to the end of the line and the next child becomes the line leader. Repeat verse until every child has had a chance to be the line leader.

Pray to God

We can ask God to help us to be kind. Invite volunteers to each say this brief thank-you prayer:
Dear God, please help me to be kind.

Praise to God

God loves each of us so much. Let's play a game to talk about people we can show God's love to. Lay prepared cards facedown on the floor in an open area. Children walk around the area while you play "Kind to Everyone" (track 7 on CD). When music stops, each child picks up the nearest card and identifies the numeral. Several volunteers then tell either one or two ways to show God's love or one or two people to whom they can be kind.

Talk to Learn

Lesson 12

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 17 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 23 and 24 (p. 53 and p. 55 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 12 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.

