David Helps His Family

Bible Story
1 Samuel 16:11-12,18; 17:34-35

Teacher Challenge
Part of David’s preparation to be the king came from taking care of the family sheep. It was humble work he did alone. He had time to pray and sing and be with God. It was perfect training for David. He gained confidence as he protected the sheep from the predators, with God’s help. It was there in the fields that he learned that no enemy of God could stand against His people, which gave him the confidence to later defeat the giant Goliath who wanted to conquer God’s people.

In what ways do you show God’s love by helping others?

How has God helped you do things you would have been unable to do by yourself?

You may not feel qualified to teach the children in your class. Or you may feel you have had the perfect training. Either way, open yourself to God’s Spirit and ask Him to help you and to draw out those abilities He’s put within you. He can help you make creative use of every bit of your class time. Give God your heart as David did, and He will prepare you as He did David.

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

Active Game Center:
David’s Sheep

Collect
Bible, length of yarn.

Prepare
Use yarn to make a line at one side of an open area in your room.

Do
1. Children line up side by side along yarn line. Stand at other side of open area. At your signal, children call to you, “David, David, how many sheep do you have?” Respond with a number under ten. Five sheep. Children jump forward five times. Children repeat their call to you and you respond with a different number each time.
2. After a few times, answer, None! The lion has them! When children hear that answer, they run back to the yarn line, trying to avoid being tagged by you.

Talk About
- In our Bible story, David helped his family by caring for their sheep. One day David saw a lion creeping up on his sheep. The lion grabbed one of the sheep, but David chased the lion away and saved the sheep. Let’s play a game about sheep and lions.
- David helped his family by caring for the sheep. The Bible says, “With love, help each other.” We show God’s love when we help each other.
- What are some ways you’ve helped others at your house? At church?

For Younger Children
Instead of call and response, teacher simply tells children how many steps forward to take.

For Older Children
Tagged children stand by you and wait to tag other children the next time you answer “None!” Continue activity until there are few or no children left untagged.
Play to Learn

Art Center:
Sheep Face

Collect
Bible, white paper plates, markers, glue, cotton balls.

Do
1. Children draw eyes, nose and mouth on plates and glue cotton balls to them to make sheep faces.
2. Children hold up plates in front of their faces as masks while making sheep sounds.

Talk About
→ The Bible tells about a boy name David. David helped his family take care of their sheep. What do you think David did to care for the sheep? Let’s make some sheep faces.

→ In Bible times, sheep followed their shepherd to find grass and water. What does a sheep say? Where do you think sheep go to get a drink? (River.)

→ What do you think David did to help his sheep find food to eat? (Led them to green grass.)

→ The Bible says, “With love, help each other.” David helped his family by taking care of the sheep. How can you help your family?

For Younger Children
Pre-draw facial features. Children glue on cotton balls.

For Older Children
Shepherds usually name their sheep. Let’s name our sheep. How many different names beginning with the letter S can you think of? Repeat with other letters as time permits.
God's Word
“With love, help each other.”
(See Galatians 5:13.)

I can show God’s love by helping others.

Block Center:
Block Bus

Collect
Bible, blocks.

Do
1. Children lay blocks in the outline of a bus, large enough for the children to sit inside.
2. When pretend bus is finished, children take seats and pretend to ride the bus to church or other familiar places.

Talk About
» The Bible tells us, “With love, help each other.” Let’s help each other build a bus with our blocks!
» Elizabeth, I see you are carrying long blocks to build the bus. Thank you for helping. You are doing just what our Bible verse says to do.
» What are some other ways we help each other in our classroom?
» Watch for ways to interpret children’s interactions in terms of the lesson focus. Christopher, moving over so Emily would have more room to build was a loving thing to do. The Bible says, “With love, help each other.” You know about helping!
» Who can you help at your home?

For Younger Children
Before class, place chairs in two rows that are close together. Place one chair in front for the driver. Children place blocks in a large rectangle around the chairs to form bus.

For Older Children
Cut the center from a paper plate and hand to child pretending to be the bus driver. Child pretends paper-plate ring is the steering wheel. If time allows, children build train and airplane outlines, too.
Play to Learn

Science Center:
Cup Telephones

Collect
Bible, scissors, plastic cup for each child, string.

Prepare
Use scissors to punch a hole in the center of the bottom of each cup. Cut string into 20-foot (6-m) lengths, one length for every two children. Thread one end of string through the cup and tie a knot so that the long part hangs out of the bottom. Thread the other end of the string through the second cup and knot string inside cup so that the string connects the cups as they face outwards. Make one set of cups for every two children.

Do
1. Children form pairs. Give each pair a set of cups. Pairs stand as far from each other as the string allows, stretching string taut.
2. Children take turns talking into cup while their partner holds their cup to their ear. Listening partner then has a turn to talk while their partner listens.

Talk About
➥ The Bible says, “With love, help each other.” We will need to help each other use these cup telephones.
➥ How softly can your partner talk and still be heard? Can you hear a whisper? What happens if you put your finger on the string?
➥ Who is someone you can help at home? How can you help your mom clean the house? How can you help your dad in the yard?
➥ Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. We want to help others.

God’s Word
“With love, help each other.”
(See Galatians 5:13.)

God’s Word and Me
I can show God’s love by helping others.

For Younger Children
Teacher and helper or older child hold one set of cup telephones and assist children holding cup to ear or mouth.

For Older Children
Explain, Vibrations from your vocal cords travel through the string to your partner’s cup. Your partner’s cup collects the vibrations and makes them louder. If anything touches the string, the vibrations go into that item, so the connection breaks.
Listen to Learn
1 Samuel 16:11-12,18; 17:34-35

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 14 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player.

Greet Each Other
Ask children to take turns saying their name and a number between 1 and 5. Other children clap (or jump, or turn around) that number of times.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 14 pictures.

What is something you have to wait your turn for? Listen to find out what David had to wait his turn to do.

The Bible tells about a boy named David. One day his father said, “David, you are old enough to do an important job. You are old enough to take care of our sheep.” David felt happy! He was glad to be a helper with the sheep.

His father said, “You are old enough to find grass for our sheep to eat. You are old enough to find water for them to drink. And you are old enough to bring them safely home at night.”

“I will take good care of our sheep,” David said. David worked hard taking care of the sheep. He listened carefully to the sheep. “Baa! Baa! Baa!” the sheep said. David knew they were thirsty. Step, step, step—David walked to find cool water for the sheep to drink. “Baa! Baa! Baa!” the sheep said. David knew the sheep were hungry. Step, step, step—David walked to find a place where green grass grew for the sheep to eat.

While the sheep rested, David often played his harp and sang happy songs about God. One day David saw a lion creeping toward the sheep. The lion grabbed one of the sheep in its mouth. David jumped up and chased the lion. David caught the lion and saved the sheep. Gently David patted the sheep and took it back to the other sheep.

David loved God. David was glad to be a good helper for his family.
Talk About the Story
What did David find for his sheep to eat? (Green grass.) For the sheep to drink? (Water.) David helped his family by caring for their sheep. David showed God’s love by helping others. We can show God’s love by helping others, too! What have you done today to help someone?

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song about ways we can help others. Lead children in singing “What Are You Gonna Do?” (track 4 on CD). What can you do today to show God’s love by helping someone?

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Galatians 5:13, say verse aloud. How are we to help each other? (With love.) Lead children in saying the Bible verse in the following manner: When children say the words “With love,” they clap their hands on each word. When children say the words “help each other,” they slap their knees on each word. Repeat as time allows.

Pray to God
Invite volunteers to name people they can help. Close in prayer, using the names of the people mentioned by children. Dear God, we love You. Please show us ways we can help __________. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Praise to God
Children walk in a circle. When you clap your hands twice, children stand in place and make motion of a way they can help at home. Olivia is helping set the table. What is Andrew doing? He is folding laundry. Continue game, providing ideas as needed. I’m glad God loves us and I’m glad we can show God’s love by helping others.
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 14 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—cotton balls, glue.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children spread out cotton balls and glue them onto sheep.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 17 and 18 (p. 41 and p. 43 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 9 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors, tape, string.

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

“With love, help each other.” (See Galatians 5:13.)