

David Values Saul's Life

1 Samuel 24; 26

November
Week 3

3



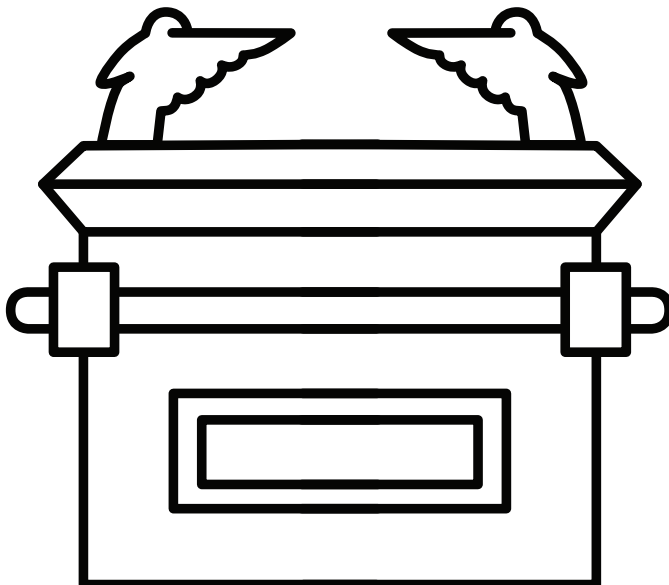
Teacher Background

What Happens: 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.

Why It Matters: 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.

Pray that your kids will begin to notice the good in others as they value people like God does.



Point

God values people.



Key Verse

"So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."

Matthew 10:31

QUICK TIP

Although Saul continually pursued David, we don't want to send the message that abuse is OK. 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



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Sneak around to hide from Saul, then act out the story.	How David valued Saul.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Remove nickels from the bottom of a stack.	How to build people up instead of knocking them down.
PLAY A GAME Try to swipe supplies without being tagged.	How to make choices that value others.
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Play a simplified version of Checkers.	How to treat people kindly.
PRAY TOGETHER Pray for the world.	How God loves and values everyone in world.

EASY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- water bottle
- plastic knife
- scissors
- plastic tablecloth
- 8 nickels
- butter knife
- plastic knife



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids give a high-one (high-five with just one finger) to one friend.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids say, “Long live [name of birthday child]!”

ASK: What’s one new thing you learned this week? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

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

ASK: Tell about something you have that you value most. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

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.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible
- water bottle
- plastic knife
- scissors
- plastic tablecloth

HIDE

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? But since Saul kept chasing David, David had to run away and hide. Let’s be like David—quick, find a place to hide!

Let kids hide. After a minute or so, continue as kids keep hiding.

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.



Read 1 Samuel 24:3-4.

SAY: 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. Sneak out of your hiding place and cut off a piece of my robe. Drape the plastic tablecloth over your shoulders to be a robe. Stand at the edge of the room, facing away from kids, and have kids take turns cutting off pieces of your "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 as "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: After that, Saul and David made a truce. Saul went back home, but David and his men kept hiding out, just in case.

Have kids get back in their hiding spot.

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 26:5-7, 12.

SAY: Once again, David said Saul was the Lord's chosen one. Instead of killing Saul, David took his spear and water jug. Sneak up to me and try to steal my spear and water bottle, then run away.

Lie on the floor, and place the water bottle and the plastic knife by your head. Close your eyes as kids sneak up to you and take your items.

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.

DESCRIBE PEOPLE

SAY: What about you? 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.

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

PRAY: God, thank you that ➡ **you value people**. You valued David, and you valued Saul. You value us! Help us see others through your eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.



**SUPPLIES**

- 8 nickels
- butter knife
- plastic knife

EASY PREP

- Practice ahead of time so you feel comfortable demonstrating.

**CELEBRATE SMALL**

Nickels are a choking hazard for preschoolers, but with your smaller group, you can let each child have a turn and keep an eye on things!

QUICK TIP

It may be a struggle for your youngest kids to do this experiment. If that's the case, give them a turn to simply practice stacking the nickels up. They'll get to practice being careful, and that makes the point!

DEMONSTRATE

SAY: Let's see what this stack of nickels can show us about valuing others. 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 knives; then pull the knife 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! Everyone will get a turn to knock out the bottom nickel from our 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 OK! Give it a try, and work on it together.

- Give each child a turn to try the experiment.
- Group members who aren't hitting the nickels can help retrieve and restack nickels as needed and can encourage their friends.
- If kids are struggling with one of the knives, let them try the other one.
- Set aside the nickels and knives 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 over the others.

Stack up nickels again.

ASK: What are some things people sometimes do that tear others down?

ASK: What can we do to build people up instead?

SAY: When you value someone, you want to protect that person and keep that person from falling or getting hurt. You're careful with them, like you were careful with our nickel stack.

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**, we can value people, even when it's hard. We can treat them carefully and build them up with encouraging words.





SWIPE THE SUPPLIES

SAY: Remember in our Bible story when David took a jug of water and a spear from Saul?

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. Make sure leaders play, too!
- 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 person 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.

SUPPLIES

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

EASY PREP

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



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.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



QUICK TIP

A world map or globe can help kids visualize the world of people cared for by Jesus. Consider bringing one in to show kids all the places full of people loved by God.



CELEBRATE SMALL

In your small church setting, kids are more likely to know each other's names and be able to pray for each other by name. What great community!

SAY: When we value something, we love or treasure it. We treat it as special. We respect it, like David respected Saul.

ASK: How do you show that *you* love someone?

SAY: The Bible tells us that God loves the world—that means the people *in* the world! God values people so much that he gave his one and only Son. Jesus died to pay for the wrong things *everyone* does! Whoever believes that Jesus is God's Son can have a forever friendship with God. Wow! That's a lot of love!

One way we show love is by praying for people. So let's pray and thank God for all the people Jesus came to earth to save.

ASK: Call out the names of some people you know.

PRAY: Loving God, thanks for all the people we just named. Help us love and value them, because we know *you* love those people. Amen.

SAY: And God loves the whole world—even people we don't know.

ASK: Call out some countries you've heard about. (If you have mostly younger kids, simply call out names of countries they've likely heard before, such as France, Mexico, Canada, and China.)

SAY: ➡ **God values people in all those places.** He sent Jesus to pay for the wrongs *everyone* does! Let's pray for people around the world. Stretch out your arms—almost like God giving the world a giant hug.

Lead a prayer for the world. Thank God for loving people around the world. Ask for his peace and protection over them and that all of them would know about Jesus.