

LESSON 2**DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE****LESSON AT A GLANCE****WONDER TRUTH:** God Helps Us**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Samuel 26**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After Saul, God chooses a new king named David. Saul is jealous and tries to kill David. With God's help, David spares Saul's life as a way to honor God.**WORD OF WONDER:** Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10a

- Play Stations:
 - Camping Play
 - Bedtime
 - David Spares Saul's Life Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Help Me!
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 46:10a
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: Pass the Pitcher
- Craft: Water Jug Creation
- Game: Tissue Head Game

**SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!**



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 26

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10a

Read 1 Samuel 26:5–25. “Today I thought your life had great value” (1 Samuel 26:24a). What a statement! These are the words David says to Saul, explaining why he spared Saul’s life. If someone said that to me, I would sob! My life has great value. Think about it. How many times do we question this about ourselves? How many times do we tell ourselves the opposite and listen to our repeating negative thoughts?

“I’m not enough.”

“I feel so alone.”

“No one understands me.”

After hearing David’s words, Saul did a 180-degree turn. He no longer pursued David in anger but instead blessed him. Allow yourself to pause and take a moment to picture God speaking these same words over you.

“My beloved, your life has great value to Me. I’m here to help you, not harm you.”

Do you believe those words? Read them again. Now, picture God saying these words over the kids you lead today.

“Sweet beloved child, your life has great value to Me. I’m here to help you, not harm you.”

- How do those words change how you see God today?
- How do those words impact how you lead kids today?
- How do those words impact what you say to kids today?

—Stephanie Rhyne

Kids’ Ministry Content Creator

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

David is an important figure in the Bible—he's remembered as Israel's greatest king, and the Messiah came through his descendants. He had many ups and downs—battles, sins, tragedies, joys. Ultimately, the life of David shows God's faithfulness, care, and help.

WHAT?

David had the chance to kill Saul—the man who had been throwing spears at him, chasing him, and attempting to kill him for years. God delivered Saul into David's hands, but David refused to kill the one God had anointed as king.

WHERE?

Saul and his men were camped in the Desert of Ziph in southern Israel. They had set up camp with Saul at the center, protected by his men. David got near Saul because God put the men into a deep sleep.

WHEN?

Saul and David had a long history by this time. David defeated Goliath, served Saul, fought Israel's enemies, and then had to flee because Saul wanted to kill him. David had already spared Saul's life before (1 Samuel 24).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

David showed mercy to a man who had been chasing him and trying to kill him. Many years later, Jesus showed mercy to the entire world, even while we were still sinning and turning against Him. He laid down His life in our place.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 26

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10a

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: play camping supplies (such as play tent, toy campfire set, sleeping bag, etc.), dolls, pillows, small blankets, books, alarm clock, night-light, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [David Spares Saul's Life Coloring Sheet \(1/kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Camping Play

Set up: Set out play camping supplies such as a play tent, toy campfire set, sleeping bag, etc.

Play: Encourage the kids to pretend they're camping.

Play Station: Bedtime

Set up: Set out dolls, pillows, small blankets, books, an alarm clock, and a night-light.

Play: Invite kids to pretend to put the dolls to sleep. They can read to the dolls, tuck them in, sing lullabies, and pretend to sleep.

Play Station: David Spares Saul's Life Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a tent they would want to go camping in.

Curiosity Activity: Help Me!

SUPPLIES: kid-appropriate puzzle

Set out a kid-appropriate puzzle and put all the pieces in different places around the room where you can see them.

Everyone, I need your help! I want to finish this puzzle quickly, but the pieces are all over and I can't do it by myself. Will you help me? Allow the kids to respond. **Great!** Point out each of the puzzle pieces and ask the kids to bring them to you. Invite the kids to help put the puzzle together. **Thanks for your help! It's nice to help others. But what would have happened if I had a five-thousand-piece**

puzzle and told you I needed it put together in less than a minute, and the puzzle pieces were scattered all over the church? Would that have been possible for us to do together? Allow time for responses. **No! Some things are just too hard for us to do on our own, even with each other's help.**

But nothing is too hard for God! God is powerful and wise, and He loves us. He knows when we need His help. And because He loves us, He helps us! Today we'll learn how God helped David before David became the king of God's people. Our Wonder Truth is **GOD HELPS US.**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, wooden block tower

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a

Before the kids arrive, set up a wooden block tower with several rows of stacked blocks.

Display the **Word of Wonder Slide** if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from Psalm 46:10a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to Psalm 46:10a and practice the verse with the kids.



We've seen how God helped David and learned that God helps us. Our Word of Wonder shares about a time God can help us—when we're being still. That means, instead of choosing our own way, we can stop and think about God and His ways of doing things.

Remember how David had to tiptoe carefully around the campsite to not wake up Saul? We're going to have to be just as careful as we learn our Word of Wonder. Point to the block tower. **Everyone will get a turn to take a block from the tower. When you take your block, say a word from Psalm 46:10a. The catch? You can't take a block off of the top! If the tower falls when you take your block, you'll say the whole verse!** To make it more interesting, you could have the kids tiptoe around the tower until you tell them it's time to stop and get a block.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STILL**,—Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.
- **AND KNOW**—Point to your head.
- **THAT I AM GOD**.—Point up.
- **PSALM 46:10a**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What good things can happen when we're being still?** (Possible answers: We can focus on God; we can hear from Him; we can rest; we can remember that He is God.)
- **How does being still allow God to help us know Him?** (We feel His presence and hear from Him.)

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO
Watch the God's Big Story Video as
kids eat their snacks!



Declaring God's Wonder

Show the **Early Childhood Declaration Slide** and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

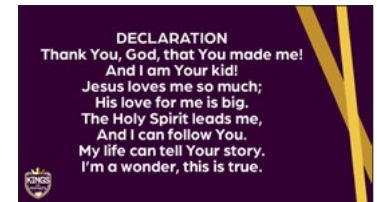
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for helping us. We believe that Your way is the best way! Help us do what You want us to do. Show us how You help us today and every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God helps us. Let's sing and praise God to thank Him for how He helps us.

Play Psalm 8, Over & Over and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read 1 Samuel 26:5–25 from the Bible. You can print the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: toy or paper crowns (2); pool noodle; empty, non-breakable water jug

A long time ago, God's people, the Israelites, wanted to be like the nations around them. They asked God to give them a king. God warned them that it would be hard. They wanted one anyway. A man named Saul became their king. Invite a kid to come up and pretend to be King Saul. Put a crown on his head. **At first, Saul was a good king. Then he stopped listening to God and did things his own way.**

Because Saul would not obey, God chose someone else to be king someday. God picked a young man named David. Invite a kid to come up and be David. Put a crown on his head. **God can see each person's heart. God chose David because David loved God. But David did not become king right away.** Take the crown off David's head and put it aside. **Instead, he helped Saul. Saul got jealous of David and wanted to kill David. David had to run for his life and hide from Saul.** Encourage the David actor to pretend to run and hide.

Saul chased David and tried to kill him many times. But God was with David and helped him. One time, David had the opportunity to kill King Saul. David was with his men when Saul came chasing after him. Saul and his army had set up their camp and settled in for the night. Encourage the King Saul actor to lie down and pretend to be asleep. **Saul slept in the middle of the camp, surrounded by his army of men.** Set the pool noodle and empty, non-breakable water jug next to the sleeping Saul. **David knew Saul was looking for him, and he found Saul first.**

If the king had found David first, the king would have done his terrible plan, but David had a better plan ... He had God's plan. David trusted that God would make him king one day, just like He had said. David carefully and quietly took Saul's spear and water jug. Encourage the David actor to take the "pool noodle spear" and water jug and go to the other side of the room. **When Saul woke up, he realized that David had been there next to him, but that David did not hurt him.** Encourage the Saul actor to wake up and look for the spear and water jug, then notice David across the room and point.

After that, Saul said that David did not do anything wrong. Saul finally stopped hunting for David. In the end, David was rewarded for trusting God. David knew God would help him. God cares about what happens in our lives. We can always trust Him and go to Him because God helps us.

Thank the actors and have them sit back down.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD HELPS US. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

In God's big story today, David showed extra kindness (or mercy to Saul—a man who had been chasing him and trying to kill him. Many years later, Jesus showed mercy to the entire world, even while we were still sinning and turning against Him. God did not give us what we deserved. Instead, Jesus died in our place.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for how He helps us.

God, thank You for helping us in all things. We'll be still and trust that Your way is the best way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you receive God's help and always know how much you mean to Him. He loves you today and every day, and He's always ready to help you.

Circle Time: Pass the Pitcher

SUPPLIES: empty, non-breakable water pitcher; pool noodle

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: upbeat music from the [Kings and Prophets Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Gather the kids to sit in a circle. **In our story today, David sneaked up on Saul while Saul was sleeping. Do you remember what David took?** Allow the kids to respond. **Saul was after David and David had a chance to hurt Saul, but he chose to not hurt Saul. David took Saul's spear and water jug instead. Let's play a game where we'll pass a water pitcher (the jug and a pool noodle (the spear) around a circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding them will answer a question.**

Play upbeat music from the [Kings and Prophets Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and pass an empty pitcher and a pool noodle around the circle. When the music stops, the kid holding the pitcher and the kid holding the pool noodle will answer a discussion question. You can let them answer the same question or different questions, and it's OK if the kids answer questions more than once.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did Saul keep doing to David?** (*chasing him; trying to kill him*)
- **What was Saul doing when David got into his camp?** (*sleeping*)
- **What did David take?** (*Saul's spear and jug*)
- **What could David have done while Saul was sleeping?** (*hurt Saul*)
- **What did David decide to do?** (*not hurt Saul; take the spear and water jug*)
- **How did God help David?** (*God protected David from Saul; helped David not hurt Saul; helped David show mercy*)
- **What can God help you with?**
- **Share about a time when someone helped you.**

God can help us in any and every situation! Let's talk to God and ask for His help right now for anything we might face this week. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for helping us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: Water Jug Creations

SUPPLIES: modeling clay (1 lump per kid), toothpicks (1 per kid)

David trusted God and knew that God would help him. God cares about what happens in our lives. We can always trust Him and go to Him because He helps us. Sometimes it's hard to remember that God can help us when things get hard. We're going to make a reminder jug, like the jug that David took from Saul.

Give each child a lump of modeling clay and a toothpick. Invite them to create a jug by pushing their thumbs into the center of the clay and squeezing the sides upward. They can use the toothpick to draw designs on the outside of their jug. Tell them to let their jug dry in the sun for two days to harden. Remind them not to poke one another with their toothpicks.

Take your jug home and keep it where you can see it. Then, every time you look at it, you can remember how God helped David and that God can help you too!



Game: Tissue Head Game

SUPPLIES: tissues (1 per kid)

Today we're talking about how God helps us. In this game, you'll get a chance to help your friends remember that God helps us. Once you put your tissue on your head, walk around and try to keep the tissue on, without using your hands. If you see your friend's tissue fall off their head, help them by giving them back their tissue! As we play, remember how God helps us, just as we're helping our friends.

Give each kid a tissue. Invite them to put their tissues on their heads and walk around the room. To make it harder, they can dance or jump around the room. They can't touch their own tissues with their hands, but they can help one another. If the tissue falls off, they must freeze. They can only unfreeze if a friend helps them and puts the tissue back on their heads.

Make It Inclusive: If a child has mobility issues, give her the tissue box and let everyone know she's the Grand Helper. Any kids who drop a tissue can go to the Grand Helper for new tissue to keep playing.