



LESSON 2 DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Play the Ancient Gathering Sound Effect. The storyteller walks to the front of the stage and addresses the kids as the music fades.

Hello, and welcome to ancient Israel! I am a commander in the king's army, and every time you hear this sound (play Ancient Gathering Sound Effect for several seconds), **you must stand up and give me your full attention. Let's try it now!** Play the Ancient Gathering Sound Effect as kids stand and face the storyteller. Fade music.

Very fine job! You may sit back down now. Pause as kids sit. **Today you have a very important mission to complete. To do so, you must always be on guard and listen for my instructions. Stand up and then sit back down if you understand!** Pause for kids to stand up and sit down.

Israel wanted to be like the nations around them, so they asked God to give them a king. Although God warned them about how a king would rule, they wanted one anyway. So a man named Saul became Israel's first king. Please repeat his name so I'm clear that you understand. Kids respond, "Saul." Saul was a good king for a while, but then he started to disobey God and choose his own way.

Because of this, God took the kingdom away from him—Saul and his family wouldn't reign in Israel forever. Because God can see each person's heart, God chose a young man named David to be the next king. Please repeat his name so I'm clear you understand. Kids respond, "David."

David loved God very much, but he didn't become king right away. In fact, he even served King Saul. But Saul became jealous of David. He knew that David would be king after him, and he wanted to stop it from happening by killing David. David had to run and hide from Saul.

This is where your mission begins. You have chosen one member in your group to be Saul and one to be David. If you have been chosen for either role, please raise your hands. Pause for kids to respond. As I share the following report, follow my instructions. Do you understand? If so, say, "Yes, I do!" Pause for kids to respond.

By now, Saul had chased David and tried to kill him many times. Saul and David, please stand up. Pause for kids to respond. Play the Chase Sound Effect as you continue. Saul, please chase David around your circle three times and then sit back down. Each group's "Saul" can chase "David" around their group's circle three times and then sit down. Fade the Chase Sound Effect.

But all the chasing was to no avail because God was with David and helped him. In fact, twice, David had the opportunity to kill King Saul.

Play the Ancient Gathering Sound Effect. If needed, remind kids to stand and give you their full attention. Fade the music. Now it's time for the second part of your mission. One of these times, David was with his men when Saul came chasing after him. Saul and his army set up their camp and settled in for the night. Saul slept in the middle of the camp, surrounded by his army of men. Use the tools in your bag to set up Saul's camp for the night! You have until the song stops to complete this. Ready? Go! Play the Ancient Gathering Sound Effect two times through. Then invite kids to sit back down, leaving their scenes set up.

Now, the tables have turned. David has an opportunity to kill Saul. Saul just finished chasing David and has set up his camp for the night. Saul is sleeping in the middle of the camp,

surrounded by his army of men. Where is Saul? Please repeat his location so I'm clear you understand. Allow kids to respond.

David saw that Saul and his army were close by. In the night, David and his friend Abishai (uh-BISH-eye) went down into Saul's camp. Saul and his army were all sleeping, so David and Abishai were able to creep right up to Saul. They got so close that they were able to grab his spear right by his head.

Abishai thought this was a great opportunity to stop Saul once and for all. He told David that God was delivering Saul into their hands—Abishai wanted to take Saul's spear and stab him with it.

But David disagreed. He wanted to honor God, so he respected the king who God had anointed. He knew that God was in control and had chosen Saul as king. David also knew that God had chosen him to be the next king, but it wasn't his job to decide when that would be. David trusted that God's timing was best.

So instead, David and Abishai took Saul's spear and water jug and left the camp. Taking Saul's belongings showed that they chose not to harm the king. David went on top of a hill and called out to Abner, the commander of Saul's army.

Now repeat after me: "Abner!" Kids repeat.

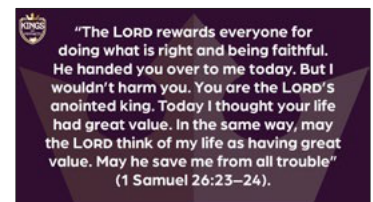
"You did not guard your master!" Kids repeat.

Say David's words again louder: "Abner!" Kids repeat.

"You did not guard your master!" Kids repeat.

Saul heard David's voice and called out to him. David asked Saul why he kept chasing him. He hadn't done anything wrong to Saul. Saul admitted that this was true, and he promised to stop chasing David.

Play the Ancient Gathering Sound Effect. If needed, remind kids to stand and give you their full attention. Fade the music. **David reminded Saul that God had helped him that day. Let's read David's words to Saul together.** Display the 1 Samuel Slide NIV or NIV and slowly read the words of 1 Samuel 26:23–24 with the kids. Younger kids can simply listen carefully as you read.



You may take a seat. Pause for kids to respond. **David and Saul each went on their way. God helped David that day, and Saul's life was spared. God helps us too! Our God is in charge, and He knows what's best. Just as He cared about David and Saul, God values each one of us and cares about what's happening in our lives. We can always go to Him because God helps us.**

Play the Ancient Gathering Sound Effect and pause for kids to stand and give you full attention. Fade music. **Let's repeat those words together three more times: God helps us!** Pause for kids to repeat three times.

Thank you for your help with today's mission!

If time allows, invite groups to share the scenes they built at the center of their circles.

DAVID

SAUL

DAVID

SAUL

God Helps Me

Name: _____

God, help me when I'm at ...
(Draw a place.)

**God, help me when
I'm with ...**(Draw a person.)

God, help me when I feel ...
(Draw yourself feeling an emotion, like anger
or sadness.)

God, help me when I think about ...
(Draw something you worry about.)

God, help me when I have a hard time with ...
(Draw a hard situation in your life.)

Name: _____

GOD HELPS ME

God, You are good! Thank You for Your love and for always being there to help me. This is my prayer this week as I learn to trust and depend on You:

God, help me when I'm at _____ (place).

"The LORD himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you."
(Deuteronomy 31:8a)

God, help me when I'm with _____ (a person).

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Leviticus 19:18b)

God, help me when I feel _____ (an emotion I struggle with).

"My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak."
(2 Corinthians 12:9a)

God, help me when I think about _____ (something I worry about).

"Turn all your worries over to him. He cares about you." (1 Peter 5:7)

God, help me when I struggle with _____ (something I struggle with).

"I will make you strong and help you." (Isaiah 41:10b)