



LESSON 2

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 26

GOD'S BIG STORY: Because of Saul's disobedience, God chooses David as the next king. Saul is jealous and tries to kill David. With God's help, David honors God by sparing Saul's life.

WORD OF WONDER: Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The LORD who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us. —Psalm 46:10–11

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: What Could Help You?
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Help Me!
- Welcome Question: What has someone done to help you?
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story:
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Holy
- Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

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 46:10–11

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.

LESSON 2 **ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN**

Large Group

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 46:10–11

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Kings and Prophets Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, [display the David Welcome Question Slide](#) or write the following question on a whiteboard: “What has someone done to help you?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by teaching them a silly handshake. Show them the Welcome Question. For younger kids, read the question to them and encourage them to share their answers. For older kids, pair them with a friend and encourage them to share their answers. Some kids may choose to draw their answers.

At your start time ...

Gather all the kids and invite several to demonstrate their new handshake with a friend. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What has someone done to help you?**

Today in God’s big story, we’re going to see how God helped a soon-to-be king make a wise decision that saved a person’s life! But first, it’s time to be curious!

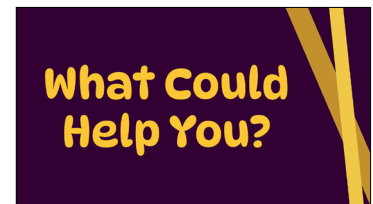
OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: What Could Help You?

SUPPLIES: play dough (1 lump per kid), table (optional), vinyl tablecloth (optional), plastic placemats (1 per kid, optional)

Ahead of time, consider preparing for easy play dough clean up by covering a table with a vinyl tablecloth or having plastic placemats available for kids to work on. If your group is very large, modify the activity by calling three kids to the front for each scenario to create with play dough while the other kids watch and cheer them on!

Make It Inclusive: Have paper and coloring utensils available for kids who prefer not to use play dough due to texture sensitivities. Invite them to draw pictures of what would help them in each situation.

Display the **What Could Help You? Slide** and gather the kids. Give each kid a lump of play dough. **Let's do an activity called What Could Help You? Here's how it works: I'll read an adventure scenario, and you'll create something out of play dough that would help you in that situation. Let's get started!**



Read the following scenarios, pausing after each for kids to create with play dough. If time allows, invite kids to share their creations before moving on.

Scenario 1: **You found an old map that shows there's treasure buried in your backyard! But the ground is hard, and the treasure is deep underground. What would help you?**

Scenario 2: **You're stranded on a tropical island. There's plenty of food, water, and even shelter! But you're getting lonely. What would help you?**

Scenario 3: **You're hiking in a dark, cool cave and can't see what's in front of you. What would help you?**

Scenario 4: **You're on a scientific expedition to Antarctica when a sudden storm blows in. You're too far from the research station to make it back safely. What would help you?**

Collect the play dough and gather the kids. **Everyone did a great job creating things that would help in those scenarios! All of us need help sometimes, even if we're not in a dark cave or exploring Antarctica! People in the Bible needed help too! Display the David Wonder Truth Slide. Today in God's big story, we'll see how God helped a man named David. When we lean on God for help, He's always there for us, just as He was for David. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HELPS US.****



OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Help Me!

SUPPLIES: oversized T-shirts (1 per 5–10 kids)

Ahead of time, when collecting oversized T-shirts, keep in mind that this activity works best with very large T-shirts, such as sizes XXL or XXXL. If your ministry is very large, consider inviting a handful of kids to play the game on stage while everyone else watches and cheers for them!

Display the **Help Me! Slide** and gather the kids. Help kids form equal teams of 5–10 kids. (The activity will also work with as few as two kids.) Give each team an oversized T-shirt and encourage kids to tuck in their shirts. If kids are wearing hats and glasses, ask them to remove it. A player on each team will put the shirt on over his clothes and then hold the hand of another teammate. When the leader says, “Go!”, the team will work together to transfer the T-shirt from the first player to the second player, while the pair is holding hands. Once the team transfers the shirt, another player takes the hand of the second teammate and begins another T-shirt transfer. This repeats until all kids on the team have worn the T-shirt. The winner is the first team who gets the T-shirt on the last player.



Make It Inclusive: Some kids may simply be uncomfortable playing this game or unable to play due to physical limitations. All kids are welcome to simply watch and cheer others on!

Gather the kids together. **Everyone did an amazing job helping their teammates! There's no way any of us could have played the game without the help of someone else!**

Display the **David Wonder Truth Slide**. In God's big story today, we'll see how God helped a man named David. When we lean on God for help, He's always there for us, just as He was for David. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HELPS US**.



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the [David Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

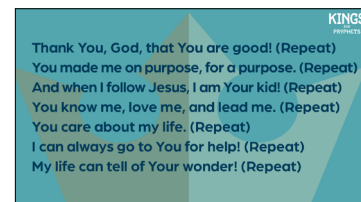
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You care about my life. (Kids repeat.)

I can always go to You for help! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, You are here, and we thank You for being with us. As we listen today, help us to hear You and to be changed by Your love. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us understand You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God loves us and is with us through His Holy Spirit. He hears us when we call to Him for help! Let's worship Him now through music.

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

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Display the [David Title Slide](#).

Remind them that the chapter is the big number, and the verses are the small numbers.



Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

[Watch God's Big Story Video](#)

LESSON 2 DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

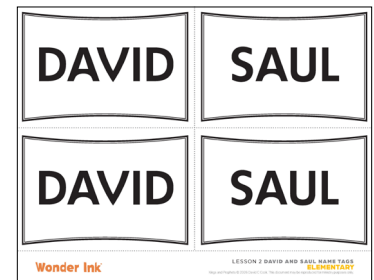
EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: interlocking bricks, mini-figures or peg people (handful per 2–8 kids), gallon-size baggies (1 per 2–8 kids), scissors (prep only), hole punch (prep only), string or yarn (about 48" per 2–8 kids), ancient military costume (such as breastplate and helmet, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: *David and Saul Name Tags*, *Experience It! Script* (1 extra copy), Ancient Gathering Sound Effect, Chase Sound Effect, *1 Samuel Slide NlrV*

Ahead of time, put a bunch of interlocking bricks along with a handful of mini-figures or peg people into each gallon-size baggie. You'll need one baggie for every group of 2–8 kids. If your ministry is very large, consider preparing one baggie for groups of 10–20 kids and assign one leader to each group. The leaders can invite several kids at a time to help them set up the story scene at that point in the Experience It! Script with the other kids in the group watch.

Invite a dynamic leader to be the storyteller or prepare to tell the story yourself. The storyteller will play the role of an ancient commander and will speak in a tough and commanding (but not scary!) voice. Print an extra copy of the Experience It! Script for the storyteller. Consider having the storyteller wear an ancient military costume, such as a breastplate and/or helmet. Keep in mind that this part of God's big story takes place centuries before the Roman Empire, so remove any distinctive Roman elements from the costume, such as a red plume on the helmet.



Print the David and Saul Name Tags and cut them apart. Punch two holes at the top of each name tag and loop about 24" of string through the holes to make name tags kids can wear around their necks. You'll need one "David" and one "Saul" tag for each small group of 2–8 kids.

Gather the kids and help them form small groups of 2–8. Invite each group to sit in a circle where they can still see the stage area. Set a prepared gallon-size baggie in the middle of each group and encourage kids not to touch the baggies until asked. Give one "David" and one "Saul" name tag to each group and have kids choose two kids to play these roles and wear the name tags. Encourage all the "Davids" and "Sauls" to listen carefully for their cues during the story!

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.

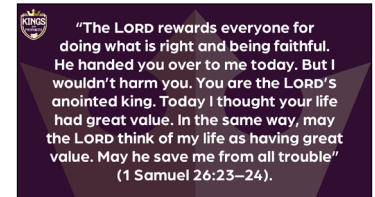
“You did not guard your master!” Kids repeat.

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 N1rV** 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.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the David Wonder Truth Slide.

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



To show mercy is to hold back from treating people as their actions deserve. In God’s big story today, David showed 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 laid down His life in our place.

In Awe of God’s Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God’s story.

What surprised you in today’s story? Invite kids to answer freely.

What can we tell about God based on today’s story? Give kids time to imagine they’re Saul and explain how they feel.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

WORSHIP VIDEO: [Holy](#)



Blessing Your Kids

Display the [David Blessing Slide](#). Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May you know God is with you. He's guiding you and helping you in whatever you face. May you lean into Him and let Him be the voice that speaks truth over you.