



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

- Welcome Question: What has someone done to help you?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: God Helps Me Comics
- Preteen Responding in Worship: God Helps Me Reflections



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**

Small 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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

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

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say **"I'm curious.."** before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **How do you feel when someone helps you? How do you feel when you help someone else?**
- **How has God helped you?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

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 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, craft sticks (7 per small group), rubber bands (1 per small group), fine-tipped permanent marker (prep only), timer (optional)

Ahead of time, write sections of the verse on craft sticks, one section per stick (see how the verse is divided below). Use a rubber band to hold each set of verse sticks together. Create a set of sticks for each small group.

NirV

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

Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series encourages us to be still and trust God. He's powerful, He's with us, and He's always ready to help us! Let's say the verse together now. Open your Bible to Psalm 46:10–11. Read Psalm 46:10–11 several times together.

Each small group needs one set of verse sticks. Give one or two craft sticks to each kid. (If small groups have more than 7 kids, give sticks to pairs and have kids work together with partners.) Challenge kids to work together to put their sticks in verse order. For an added challenge, use a timer and see how quickly the group can put their verse sticks in order. Invite kids to play multiple times with the goal of beating their previous time each round, just be sure to mix up the sticks after each round.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Number the back of the sticks 1–7 to make it easier for kids to put them in verse order. Also, be ready to help kids read the words on their sticks!

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Encourage kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 26:5–25. Help kids find the book of 1 Samuel in the Old Testament. 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 experience more of the story!

Read 1 Samuel 26:5–25 aloud to the kids or invite several strong, willing readers to read several verses each.

Elementary Questions

- **Whom did God name as king after King Saul?** (*David*)
- **How did David know Saul?** (*David worked for, or served, Saul.*)
- **What did Saul try to do to David? Why did he do this?** (*Saul tried to kill David because he was jealous that God had chosen David as the next king.*)
- **What happened the night David and his friend Abishai** (*uh-BISH-eye*) **went into Saul's camp?** (*They took Saul's spear and water jug but didn't kill Saul.*)
- **How do you think Saul felt after he realized that David had spared his life?**
- **Have you ever asked God for help? What are some things you have asked Him to help you with? What happened?**

God helped David when he had a very hard decision to make. God showed David what was right. Just like He did for David, God is ready and willing to help us at any time too. We don't have to be afraid to tell Him what we struggle with or what we need help with. Let's talk with God in prayer and ask Him to help us.

Preteen Questions

- **Whom did God name as king after King Saul?** (*David*)
- **Why was Saul against David?** (*Saul was jealous of David because God had chosen David as the next king.*)
- **What happened the night David and his friend Abishai** (*uh-BISH-eye*) **went into Saul's camp?** (*They took Saul's spear and water jug but didn't kill Saul.*)
- **Do you think David intended to kill Saul when he went into his camp at night? Why or why not?**
- **David reminded Saul how valuable he was to God.** (Reread 1 Samuel 26:23–24.) **If you were standing across the valley from David, what would he say to remind you of how valuable you are to God?**
- **God helped David by showing him a better way and helping him make the right choice. What's something in your life you're struggling to make the right choice about? Why is it sometimes hard to do what is right?**

David had a hard decision to make the moment he came upon Saul at camp. Just as David discovered, making the right choice isn't always easy. Remember, God is ready to help us with whatever we face. He can help us make the right choice as we honor Him. Let's talk with God in prayer and ask Him to help us.

Small Group Prayer Time

Gather the kids in a circle and share praises and prayer requests. Beginning with the leader, offer a prayer, and then gently tap the shoulder of the kid next to you to pray. If kids are reluctant to pray, that's OK. They can pass the tap on to the next kid.

LARGE GROUP

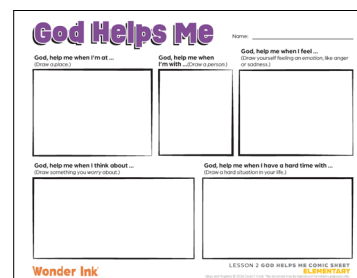
Elementary Responding in Worship: God Helps Me Comics

SUPPLIES: Bible, writing utensils, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God Helps Me Comic Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), "Good God" from the [Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print a God Helps Me Comic Sheet for each kid.

Display the God Helps Me Comics Slide and gather the kids together. **In God's big story today, we saw how God helped David make a hard decision. What hard decision did David have to make?** Invite kids to respond. **Wow! What a hard decision! Saul had been chasing David and planned to kill him. Now David could choose to kill Saul or honor God by sparing Saul's life. David loved God very much and leaned on Him for help. He chose to honor God and spare Saul's life.**



Sometimes, we go through hard things too. Raise your hand if you've ever struggled with something. Pause kids to respond (and raise your hand too!). **Raise your hand if you've ever struggled with someone who's made you upset or mad.** Pause for kids to respond (and raise your hand too!). **Raise your hand if you've ever disliked going to a certain place for some reason.** Pause for kids to respond (and raise your hand too!). **Raise your hand if you've ever worried a lot about something.** Pause for kids to respond (and raise your hand too!).

Here's the great news! In each of those situations, God is there to help us. Hold up a Bible. **God's Word reminds us that God is with us and is strong when we're weak. Listen to what the Bible says:**

Open to Deuteronomy 31:8a. If possible, read it directly from the Bible: **"The LORD himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you."**

Open to 2 Corinthians 12:9a. If possible, read it directly from the Bible: **"My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak."**

Open to 1 Peter 5:7. If possible, read it directly from the Bible: **“Turn all your worries over to him. He cares about you.”**

God helps us, no matter who we’re with, where we are, or what we may be feeling. He’s in charge and always cares about what is happening in our lives.

Our Word of Wonder says, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Let’s do that now as we remember that God helps us!

Set out writing and coloring utensils. Give each kid a God Helps Me Comic Sheet and invite them to write their names at the top. Read the words on the sheet out loud. Then give kids time to draw pictures in all five boxes. In the end, they’ll have five comic-style illustrations showing that God helps them everywhere and in all situations! Play “Good God” from the [Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids draw.

When kids finish, encourage them to put their sheets in a place this week where they can be reminded of God’s love and help.

Make It Inclusive: Provide a variety of drawing utensils and art supplies to support different fine motor skill levels. For example, have palm-grasp crayons, stickers, and stamps available for kids who struggle to hold traditional utensils.

Preteen Responding in Worship: God Helps Me Reflection

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), writing utensils, coloring utensils

WONDER INK RESOURCES: [God Helps Me Sheet NIV \(1 per kid\)](#), “Good God” from the [Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print a God Helps Me Sheet NIV or NIV for each kid.

Display the God Helps Me Reflection Slide and gather the kids together.

In God’s big story today, we saw how God helped David make a tough decision. Saul had been chasing David and planned to kill him. David had an opportunity to end it all by ending Saul’s life. It was a moment of decision, and David was at a crossroads. Would David end the chase and stop Saul once and for all? Or would he honor God and spare Saul’s life? Wow! What a decision! David loved God very much and leaned on Him for help. He chose to honor God and spare Saul’s life.

Sometimes, we go through tough things too. Raise your hand if you’ve ever struggled with something. Pause kids to respond (and raise your hand too!).
Raise your hand if you’ve ever struggled with someone who’s made you upset or mad. Pause for kids to respond (and raise your hand too!). **Raise your hand if you’ve ever disliked going to a certain place for some reason.** Pause for kids to respond (and raise your hand too!). **Raise your hand if you’ve ever struggled with worrying about something.** Pause for kids to respond (and raise your hand too!).

The image shows a template for a comic sheet titled "GOD HELPS ME". It features five rectangular boxes for drawing, each with a prompt: "God, help me when I'm all _____ (upset)", "God, help me when I'm with _____ (a person)", "God, help me when I feel _____ (an emotion I struggle with)", "God, help me when I think about _____ (something I worry about)", and "God, help me when I struggle with _____ (something I struggle with)". Below the boxes is a reflection section with the text: "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." followed by a line for a signature and date. At the bottom, it says "Wonder Ink" and "LESSON 2 GOD HELPS ME SHEET - NIV PRETEEN".