

## David Learns to Be a Leader

**Theme:** Love — Returning good for evil



### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Working Hard on Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Have Memory Verse strips hidden in different places throughout the room. Have the students find the strips and place them on the floor in front of the pocket chart. Once all the strips are found, have the students place them in the pocket chart correctly.

#### Prayer

#### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 1 Samuel 24:12-15. Have reading students find and mark 1 Samuel 24:12 in the classroom Bibles. Read these verses aloud together before the story. Tell children to listen for them in the Bible lesson story today and raise their thumbs when they hear them.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students locate the following places on the map of Israel in the time of David, found on page 71 of this Guide – Adullum, Moab, Nob, Keilah, Ziph, En-gedi, Ramah, Maon, Carmel.
5. Introduce the Lesson Graphics using the “Loving & Working Toolbox”.
6. Tell the story using the *Loving Hearts & Working Hands Lesson Graphics*.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
  - David and his followers had to keep moving from place to place to hide from King Saul.
  - God always protected David from Saul.

- King Saul went into a cave where David and his men were, and David could have killed him, but chose not to, leaving justice to God.
  - In the cave, David, without being seen, cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
  - David showed Saul what he had done, but told Saul he would not kill him.
  - David continued to leave judgment up to the Lord.
  - Out of meanness, Nabal, a cruel rich man, refused to give David and his men food.
  - Nabal's wife Abigail was kind and generous with David and his men.
  - God killed Nabal, and David married Abigail.
8. Before class, make a "cave" by draping a large brown sheet or tablecloth over adult-sized chairs placed facing outward in a semicircle. The cloth can be held in place by placing rocks, bricks, or heavy books on top of the cloth in the chair seats. Use the Lesson Graphics to tell story of David leading his men, hiding from Saul, and returning kindness to Saul instead of killing him. During the lesson story, move into the "cave" and let David (one child) quietly and carefully cut off piece of Saul's (another child) robe. Use an old woven cotton shirt and scissors for this, but explain that David, of course, didn't use scissors. At the appropriate time in the lesson, read 1 Samuel 24:12-15 and watch for children to raise their thumbs.



## David Learns to Be a Leader

**Theme:** Love — Returning good for evil

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Working Hard on Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Hide the Memory Verse strips around the room. Have students find all the strips and, once they are all found, have all students help to arrange them correctly in the pocket chart.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

We have to grow into some things. There was a time you couldn't read this book or count to ten. Along the way, you learned how to count, read, add, and subtract. People are not born as great leaders; becoming a leader takes time and work. David had to grow into being a great leader for God's people, and you will too. David was successful in ways in which Saul proved to be a failure. Let's see some of the steps David took to becoming an effective leader.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 1 Samuel 24:12-15.

#### Illustrations and Applications

##### 1. *Objective: Illustrate returning good for evil and respecting the Lord's anointed.*

Designate a student as David and give him a toy knife. Designate another student as Saul, and give him a cardboard spear. The remaining students are Saul's and David's soldiers respectively. As you read 1 Samuel 18:10-16 and 19:8-10, have students reenact the scenes. Saul starts chasing David. In the wilderness, Saul goes into a cave not knowing David and his men are already in the cave (1 Samuel 24:1-12). David's men encourage him to kill Saul. Allow David to decide what to do, and explain why he made that choice. Discuss our respecting an office or position even though we may not agree with the actions or decisions of the person currently holding the position.

**2. Objective: Identify David's good leadership qualities.**

Review the major scenes about David in this lesson as listed below. As you review what David did, have the students identify qualities of good leadership.

- David respected Ahimelech and the priest and received their help — RESPECT
- David rescued the people of Keilah from the Philistines — COMPASSION & STRENGTH
- David spared Saul's life — RESPECT
- David listened to Abigail's advice — WISDOM

**3. Objective: Illustrate how Saul failed and David succeeded.**

Have two containers of objects of two different colors, with ten objects in each container. Designate one color for Saul and the other color for David. Explain that the objects represent actions related to Saul and David respectively. As you read out and elaborate the following list, the students decide if the objects should stay in a container or be removed. For every positive action or an action better than the other man's, objects remain in the container and nothing is removed. If a man takes a negative action or does something less than the other man, an object is removed.

- God's spirit leaves Saul
- God's spirit comes upon David
- Saul wants to kill David and can't
- David has a chance to kill Saul and doesn't
- David respects the priests and receives their help
- Saul accuses the priests and kills them
- Saul doesn't seek God's will
- David always seeks God's will
- Saul plans to kill David
- Saul's son Jonathan protects David

The Bible record about Saul and David shows that where Saul failed, David succeeded. Discuss that this may happen when people choose a leader by looking only on the outside and not on the inside.

**BIG HEART Display:** A piece of fabric representing the corner of Saul's robe