

# DAVID PLAYED FOR SAUL

1 SAMUEL 16



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** David would be the king, and he still helped Saul. Jesus is the King, and He still helps us. Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again to save us from our sin.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God's Spirit left King Saul, and a mean spirit came and made him feel bad.
- Saul's servants asked David to play music to help make Saul happy again.
- God sent Jesus to be the King to help us and to save us from our sin.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** Saul was still the king of Israel, but he was sad. God's Spirit left Saul, and a mean spirit came and made him feel bad. Saul's servants wanted to help him. They wanted to find someone to play music to make Saul happy again. One helper said, "David, a boy from Bethlehem, can play a small harp. He's brave and handsome. It seems like God is always with him!" Saul asked David to play music for him. When David played for Saul, he felt much better. Saul liked David and asked him to help Saul all the time. Whenever the mean spirit came, David's music made Saul feel better.



## LEARNING Activities

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Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Show the **Bible Story Poster** as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **Key Passage Phrase Card**. Pray for the babies.

### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

“The LORD is over all things, all things, all things.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.  
He’s faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ God sent Jesus to be the King to help us and to save us from our sin. ”

### 2 PLAY PEEKABOO

Sit the babies in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Instruct leaders to sit across from the babies and play peekaboo. When leaders move their hands away from their faces, show a sad face, and say, “Saul was sad.” When leaders move their hands away from their faces again, show a happy face, and say, “Saul was happy again!” Read the first and second gospel gems as the babies play.

**SAY** “ Was Saul happy or sad? Saul was sad. Saul’s servants asked David to play music for him to help him feel happy. ”

### 3 SHAKE THE RATTLES

Provide **various noisemakers or rattles** for babies to hold and shake. Say the key passage phrase while babies shake the rattles. Clap along with the babies’ rhythm. Compliment the babies on their music, and say the second gospel gem as the babies play.

**SAY** “ What made Saul happy again? Yes, music! Saul’s servants asked David to play music to help make Saul happy again. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s **Big Picture Card**. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 MAKE HARPS

Provide toddlers with heavyweight paper, heavy duty paper plates, or cardboard cut to look like a harp. Punch four holes at the top and bottom of each paper item. String precut pieces of yarn through the holes to make a harp, and tape in place. Allow toddlers to color their harps with crayons, markers, or stickers as you retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “What did David play to make Saul happy? Yes! David played a small harp to make Saul happy. When David played for Saul, he felt much better.”

### 3 PREPARE FOOD

Guide toddlers to take turns using toy kitchen items (foods, pots and pans, or utensils) to make “dinner” for their friends. Explain that making meals for friends makes them happy. Explore other things that makes people happy. Review the Bible story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “Was Saul happy or sad? Right! He was sad. Saul’s servants asked David to play music to help make Saul happy again.”

### 4 PASS THE BIBLE

Direct the toddlers to sit in a circle on the floor. Hand a Bible to one toddler, and say, “God is always with you.” Instruct the toddler to pass the Bible to the friend sitting to the right, and say to him, “God is always with you.” Continue around the circle until every toddler has passed the Bible and told the toddler next to them, “God is always with you.” Retell the story.

**SAY** “Saul’s helper saw that God was always with David. Is God always with you? Yes! God is always with you, and God is always with me. God loves us and sent Jesus to be the King to help us and to save us from our sin.”

### 5 MAKE A RATTLE

Provide toddlers with a clean, empty water bottle. Gather nature items (rocks, sticks, acorns, and so forth) for toddlers to put inside the bottle. Close the bottle securely, and allow toddlers to use the bottle as a rattle. Reinforce the opening with duct tape. Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device, and allow toddlers to play along.

**SAY** “Can you make music with your rattles? Yes! We can all make music. Who made music to make Saul happy in our Bible story? Yes, David did! David played music to make Saul happy.”

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**CHRIST CONNECTION:** David would be the king, and he still helped Saul. Jesus is the King, and He still helps us. Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again to save us from our sin.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: FREEZE TO THE MUSIC

Sing or play upbeat worship music on an electronic device while toddlers move around the room. Let toddlers know that whenever the song stops, they need to freeze. Instruct toddlers to stay frozen until the song starts again. Play the music, pausing for varying amounts of time before restarting the music.

**SAY** “What did Saul’s servants ask David to do to make Saul happy? Yes! Saul’s servants asked David to play music to help make Saul happy again.”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

“The LORD is over all things, all things, all things.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.  
He’s faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.”

**SAY** “Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ God sent Jesus to be the King to help us and to save us from our sin.”

### 3 FLIP THE FACE

Draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate. Draw a sad face on the other side of the paper plate. Tape a craft stick to the bottom of each paper plate. Allow toddlers to decorate their “faces.” Retell the Bible story, pausing for toddlers to flip their plates during the story.

**SAY** “Was Saul happy or sad? That’s right! Saul was sad. What did David do to make Saul happy? David played his harp to make Saul happy.”

### 4 CHOOSE HAPPY AND SAD

Gather toddlers, and call out things that make people happy and sad. Possible options could be going to the park, eating ice cream, visiting family, falling down on your bike, losing a favorite toy, eating broccoli, making a fun craft, going to sleep, and so forth. Allow toddlers to respond to each situation with a thumbs-up sign for something that makes them happy, and a thumbs-down sign for something that makes them sad. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “Was Saul happy or sad? Yes, Saul was sad. What did David do to make Saul happy? David played his harp to make Saul happy.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.