

# DAVID SHOWED MERCY

1 SAMUEL 24



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** David was kind and showed mercy to Saul. God was kind and showed us mercy by sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** LORD, no one is like You. You are great. Jeremiah 10:6

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Saul did not like David, and he wanted to hurt David.
- While Saul was looking for David, he went in a cave where David and his friends were hiding.
- David showed kindness and did not hurt Saul. God showed kindness by loving us and sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** David became a brave leader who led the Israelite army. King Saul did not like David. While Saul was looking for David, Saul went into a cave to go to the bathroom. But David and his friends were hiding in the same cave! David quietly cut off a piece of Saul's robe while Saul wasn't looking. The men with David wanted him to fight Saul, but David said no. When Saul left the cave, David came out, bowed down to Saul, and showed him the cut piece of Saul's robe. Saul said, "You are better than me. I wanted to hurt you, but you didn't hurt me. Now I know you will be the next king of Israel." Then Saul and David went to their homes.



## LEARNING Activities

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 24. 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 “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

“LORD, there is no one like You.  
There is no one like You.  
There is no one like You.  
LORD, You are great!”

**SAY** “Our key passage phrase says, ‘Lord, there is no one like You. You are great!’ God showed kindness by loving us and sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again.”

### 2 PAINT A HEART

Draw a heart outline on a piece of heavyweight paper with a permanent marker. Squeeze two or three dots of tempera paint on to the paper. Place the paper in a gallon-size ziplock bag and seal. Reinforce the opening with duct tape to prevent spills. Sit babies on the floor in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows, and let babies squish the paint around in the bag. Praise babies’ efforts by saying things like “I like how the colors are mixing!” or “You are working hard!” Read the gospel gems as babies “paint.”

**SAY** “King Saul wanted to hurt David, but David showed him kindness. Did God show kindness too? Yes! He showed us kindness when He sent Jesus to die and rise again.”

### 3 FIND BIBLES

Place Bibles in various places around the room. Lay one Bible on the floor with a scarf covering it. Sit babies on the floor in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows in front of the Bible. Ask, “Where is the Bible?” Help the babies pull the fabric off the Bible. Walk around the room carrying the babies and pointing out the other Bibles. Provide handheld Bibles for babies to explore as you look for others. Review the gospel gems as babies find the Bibles.

**SAY** “In the Bible, we learn about King Saul and David. Did David show kindness to Saul? Yes! David showed kindness and did not hurt Saul. God showed kindness by loving us and sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise 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 24. 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 PAINT WITH DOT MARKERS

Write LORD, no one is like You. You are great. Jeremiah 10:6 on a piece of construction paper (one per toddler). Allow toddlers to use dot markers to decorate their paper. Read the key passage phrase out loud as the toddlers work. Show the Bible Story Poster, and review the story.

**SAY** “David showed King Saul mercy. God is great! God showed us mercy when He sent Jesus to rescue us from sin.”

### 3 PRAISE GOD IN A CAVE

Cover the table with a bed sheet to make a cave. Invite toddlers to crawl into the “cave.” Remind them that David hid from Saul in a cave. Sing to the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”: “LORD, there is no one like You. / There is no one like You. / There is no one like You. / LORD, You are great!” Read the Bible story in the cave.

**SAY** “Does God show us kindness and mercy? Yes, He does through Jesus! God was kind and showed us mercy by sending Jesus to rescue us from death! There is no one as great as Him!”

### 4 FIND THE BIBLE

Place a children’s Bible in an empty shoebox. If possible, place a Key Passage Phrase Card at 1 Samuel 24. Cover the Bible with scraps of fabric or scarves, and place the lid on the box. Show the box to the toddlers, and choose one toddler to open it. Encourage him to feel the different fabrics. Remind them that David cut off a corner of King Saul’s robe. Turn to the Bible story as you retell the story. Reset the items in the box, and replay as interest allows.

**SAY** “When David saw King Saul in the cave, David showed mercy by not hurting Saul. David only cut off a piece of Saul’s robe. God shows us mercy too when we believe in Jesus!”

### 5 SEEK AND FIND CARDS

Cut apart the “Kind and Unkind Cards” printable, and hide them around the room. Tell toddlers to look for the pictures and bring them to you. Show each picture as it is found. Talk about how each action shows kindness or how the action could be changed to show kindness. Find pictures, and discuss each action until all cards are found. Rehide the pictures and replay. Review the Bible story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “Does God show us kindness and mercy? Yes, He does through Jesus! God was kind and showed us mercy by sending Jesus to rescue us. God wants us to be kind to others too.”



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### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY WITH PLAY DOUGH

Gather people-, crown-, and heart-shaped cookie cutters. Engage toddlers in rolling out play dough and using cookie cutters to cut shapes. As toddlers play, comment on their shapes. Say things like “Saul was king and would have worn a crown,” “David showed kindness to Saul” and so forth. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers work.

**SAY** “ Did David hurt King Saul? No! David showed kindness and did not hurt Saul. God showed kindness by loving us and sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

“LORD, there is no one like You.  
There is no one like You.  
There is no one like You.  
LORD, You are great!”

**SAY** “ David led the Israelite army. His men wanted to fight King Saul, but David showed the king mercy. God shows us mercy too! ”

### 3 MAKE A FABRIC COLLAGE

Cut several 1- to- 2-inch fabric pieces. Provide glue sticks and construction paper (one per toddler). Write David quietly cut off a piece of Saul’s robe on each paper, if desired. Assist toddlers in gluing pieces of fabric onto their papers. Show the Bible Story Poster, and review the story.

**SAY** “ Could David have hurt King Saul? Yes! But did David hurt King Saul? No! David chose to show mercy and kindness. He only cut off a piece of Saul’s robe. God was kind and showed us mercy by sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. ”

### 4 SEEK AND FIND WITH THE BIBLE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Card at Jeremiah 10:6 in several Bibles (one per toddler). Invite toddlers to take a Bible and hide around the room. Close your eyes as toddlers hide. Signal that you are ready to find them. Find a toddler, and say, “I found you!” Open his Bible and read the phrase aloud with him. Let him help you find other toddlers. Repeat for all toddlers.

**SAY** “ David hid from King Saul in a cave. David chose not to hurt him. God shows us kindness and mercy too! There is no one as great as God! ”

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.