

## Lesson 2: King David: David's Character Continues to Grow

### Scripture Reference: I Samuel 24

#### Today's Big Idea: David Spares Saul's Life.

#### Lesson Time:

**Introduction:** When we last left David, he was still a young man. There would be many years before David became King even though God had already blessed David through the prophet Samuel. There are many remarkable stories in David's life from the time when he first began to serve in Saul's courts until the time when David became the King of Israel. One of the most well-known stories is the story of young David defeating the Philistine giant Goliath. David becomes famous for his defeat of Goliath and the Israelite victory over the Philistine army.

**Ask:** In David's fight against Goliath, he says these words to the giant before defeating him, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." What do David's words teach us about his character and about his relationship with God?

**Share:** David continued to follow God faithfully. His reputation grew and he became great friends with King Saul's son Jonathan. As David became more popular, King Saul became more jealous of David. King Saul's jealousy boiled over to the point that he wanted to kill David. David had to flee for his life. He spent the next chapter of his life hiding out in the wilderness. During this time, David evades King Saul and performs heroic deeds to help others. Finally, King Saul discovers where David is and sets out with 3000 men to corner David and kill him. Let's find out what happened next.

#### Read: I Samuel 24

**Ask:** What does David do when he encounters King Saul in the cave? What would you have done if you had been in David's position? What do David's words and actions teach us about his character? Do you think that David took a big risk when he brought himself before King Saul in verse 8? What was the risk that David took? What might King Saul have done to David?

#### Activity: When Risk is Right

**You will need:** When Risk is Right worksheet, pen or pencil.

**Introduce:** It can be risky to have character like David did. Having good character means doing the right thing, even when what is right may be difficult or costly. To take a risk like David did can require great faith in God. Let's think of a situation where it is risky to do the right thing. We'll use that situation as an example for our worksheet. In the first circle, you'll describe the situation.

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In the box that follows think about what the risks are. Maybe doing the right thing means admitting a mistake you made or standing up for someone who has been mistreated. Finally, read through the proverbs in the box labeled “wise words to guide us.” Select a proverb that you think applies to your situation and write that proverb down in the final box.

**Debrief:** *Spend a few minutes sharing and talking about the responses the kids gave. Use this as an opportunity to reflect on the challenge of doing what is right and the importance of doing what is right.*

David trusted God. When he chose to do the right thing, he understood that God would see him through. From David’s life we learn that doing the right thing is not always easy, but it is important.

### **Close in Prayer**