LESSON PLAN

DAVID SPARED SAUL

SERIES: Wisdom
THE POINT: A Wise Person Chooses Mercy and Trusts God
BIBLE STORY: David Spares Saul || 1 Samuel 24:1–22
AGE: Grade 3 - Grade 6

ABOUT THIS LESSON

In this lesson, children explore the story of David choosing to spare King Saul's life, even when he had the perfect opportunity to take revenge. Despite being hunted and treated unfairly, David chose to show mercy and trust God rather than take matters into his own hands. This lesson helps children understand that true wisdom means doing what is right, even when our emotions tell us otherwise. Children will discover that forgiveness, self-control and trusting God's timing are signs of strength, not weakness.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Learn, understand and retell the story of David sparing Saul's life.
- Understand that wisdom means choosing mercy and doing what is right, even when we have been treated unfairly.
- Recognise the difference between seeking revenge and trusting God to bring justice.
- Identify practical ways to show forgiveness, exercise self-control and make wise choices when others hurt us.

BIBLE CONTEXT

1 Samuel 24 takes place while David is fleeing from King Saul, who has become jealous of David and is determined to kill him. While searching for David, Saul enters a cave, unaware that David and his men are hiding inside. David's men encourage him to take the opportunity to kill Saul, but David refuses. Instead, he secretly cuts off a corner of Saul's robe and later feels convicted for even doing that.

David chooses to honour Saul as God's anointed king and trusts God to judge between them. When Saul leaves the cave, David reveals what happened, demonstrating that he could have taken revenge but chose mercy instead.

This story teaches us that wisdom isn't about doing whatever we can get away with. It is about trusting God, showing restraint and choosing what is right, even when we have been wronged.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 2:6 (NIV) “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

DAVID SPARED SAUL

START THE CONVERSATION
"Have you ever had someone treat you unfairly and wished you could get them back? What did you want to do?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 3–4
1. David had the chance to hurt Saul while Saul was in the cave, but he chose not to. What did David do instead, and why do you think he made that choice?

2. David trusted that God would deal with Saul in the right way. What does this story teach us about trusting God instead of getting revenge?

3. Sometimes people hurt our feelings or treat us unfairly. What are some ways we can choose mercy instead of trying to get even?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 5–6
1. David had every reason to be angry with Saul and the perfect opportunity to take revenge. Why do you think David chose to spare him, and what does that teach us about doing what is right even when it costs us something?

2. David trusted God to deal with Saul rather than taking justice into his own hands. Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God's timing, especially when someone has treated us unfairly?

3. Showing mercy doesn't mean pretending someone hasn't hurt us. How can we choose forgiveness over revenge while still standing up for ourselves and setting healthy boundaries?

FAITH IN ACTION
David showed that trusting God isn't just about what we believe, but also about the choices we make. Even when he had the opportunity to get revenge, David chose mercy and trusted God to handle the situation.

Think of one way you can follow David's example this week.
- "I can forgive someone who has hurt or upset me."
- "I can choose kindness even when someone treats me unfairly."
- "I can walk away instead of trying to get revenge."
- "I can pray and trust God when things don't seem fair."
- "I can choose to do what is right, even when others encourage me to do the wrong thing."

PRAY
Go around the class and ask the children if there is anything they would like prayer for. Encourage them to pray for one another and give them the opportunity to do so.
Pray that God would help each child show mercy, forgive others and trust Him when they face unfair situations. Ask God to give them the courage to make the right choices, even when it's difficult. Remind the children that trusting God doesn't mean ignoring hurtful behaviour, and that they can always ask a trusted adult for help.

Take note of any prayer requests that need to be passed on to the child's support network.

LESSON WRAP-UP
David had the opportunity to take revenge on Saul, but he chose mercy instead. He trusted that God was in control and that it wasn't his place to get even. David reminds us that **true strength isn't found in getting revenge, but in choosing to do what is right, even when it's hard.** When others hurt us or treat us unfairly, we can choose forgiveness, show mercy and trust God to guide us.

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