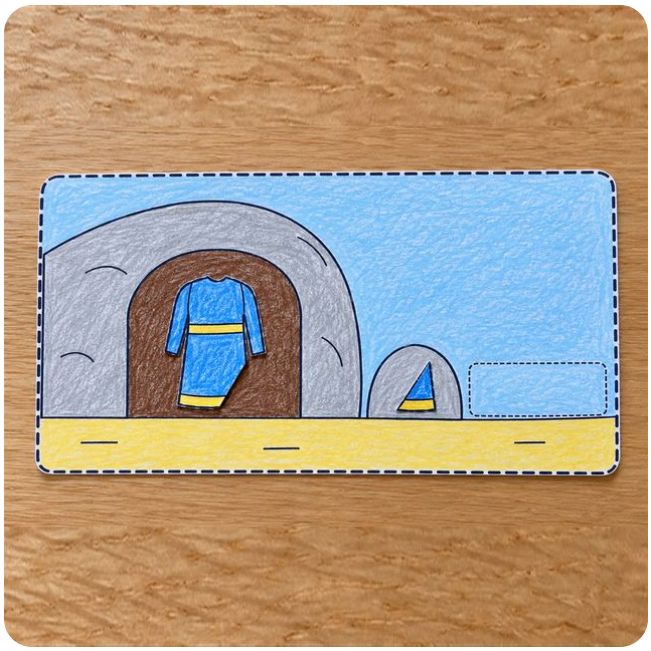
Preschool–Grade 5

David Spares Saul Craft

Mine hand shall not be upon thee · 1 Samuel 24 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



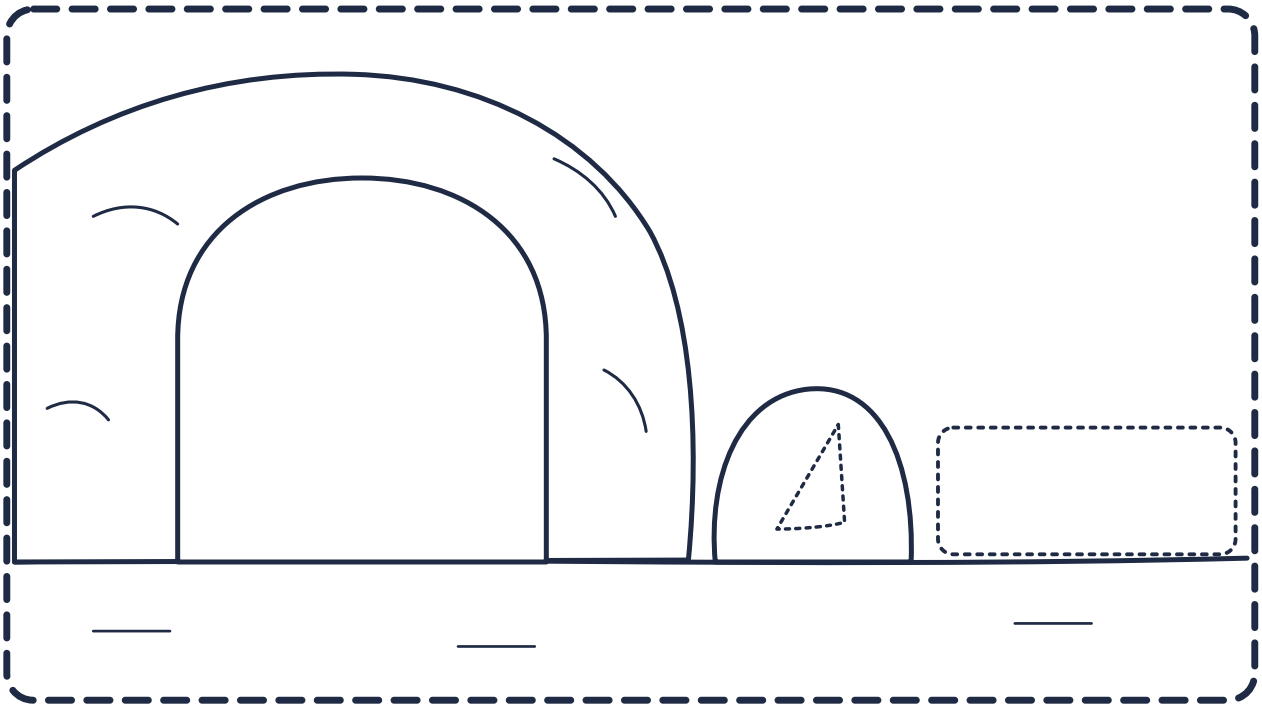
Harder

Both levels are a wide card: a light blue sky, yellow ground, a big gray rock hill with a brown cave opening on the left, and a smaller gray rock on the right. A blue robe with a yellow belt and hem band is glued inside the cave, with one bottom corner cut off, because David "cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily" (1 Samuel 24:4). The little cut-off piece is glued on the rock outside the cave, for "see the skirt of thy robe in my hand" (24:11). Medium (left): the cave card. Harder (right): the same card with a brown stone sheepcote on the ground at the right, for "the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave" (24:3).

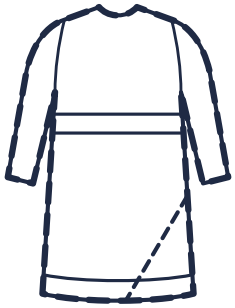
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, rocks gray, inside of the cave brown, ground yellow
(the dotted shape on the rock is where the skirt goes; the dotted band is for the harder level)



robe: blue; belt and hem band yellow.
Then cut off the skirt on the short line.

And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

1 Samuel 24:17 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

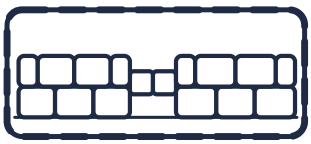
Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the robe and the verse strip. Then cut off the skirt of the robe on the short dashed line.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Sheepcote (harder level)



stones brown, sky above the wall light blue, ground strip yellow

How to add the sheepcote

1. Make the cave card from page 2 first, with the robe in the cave, the skirt piece on the rock and the verse strip on the back of the card.
2. Color the stones of the sheepcote brown, the sky above the wall light blue and the ground strip yellow. Cut out the strip on the dashed line.
3. Find the dotted band on the ground at the right of the card. Put glue on the back of the strip and press it on the dotted band.
4. Tell it: Saul "came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in" (1 Samuel 24:3). A **sheepcote** is a pen where sheep are kept. David and his men "remained in the sides of the cave" (24:3), very quiet and very close to the king.
5. Then point to the skirt piece on the rock. David could have hurt Saul, but he said, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed" (24:6).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/david-spares-saul-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, gray, brown, yellow and blue crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the robe and the verse strip, and cut the skirt corner off each robe. Keep each skirt piece with its robe in an envelope or paper clip so none get lost.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's card, robe and verse strip, and cut off the skirt corner. Kids color the card and the robe, glue the robe in the cave and glue the skirt piece on the rock. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color and cut out the pieces themselves, and cut off the skirt of the robe on the short dashed line. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the cave card like the medium level. Then add the sheepcote from page 3 on the dotted band, for "the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave" (1 Samuel 24:3). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** the sky light blue, the rocks gray, the inside of the cave brown and the ground yellow.
2. **Color the robe** blue, and its belt and hem band yellow.
3. **Cut:** cut out the card, the robe and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Cut off the skirt:** cut along the short dashed line across the bottom corner of the robe, and keep the little piece. Say, "David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily" (1 Samuel 24:4).
5. **Glue:** glue the robe inside the cave, because Saul went into the cave where David and his men were hiding (24:3). Then glue the little skirt piece on the dotted shape on the rock outside the cave, because David went out and said, "see the skirt of thy robe in my hand" (24:11).
6. **Verse:** turn the card over. Glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** point to the robe in the cave and the piece outside as you say David's words, "mine hand shall not be upon thee" (24:12).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who was looking for David? *(King Saul, with three thousand chosen men, 1 Samuel 24:2)*
- Where did Saul go to seek David? *(Upon the rocks of the wild goats, 24:2)*
- Point to the cave. Where were David and his men? *(In the sides of the cave, 24:3)*
- What did David's men want him to do? *(They said God had delivered his enemy into his hand, 24:4)*
- Hold up the skirt piece. What did David cut off? *(The skirt of Saul's robe, 24:4)*
- How did David feel afterward? *(His heart smote him; he felt bad, 24:5)*
- Why would David not hurt Saul? *(Saul was the LORD'S anointed, 24:6)*
- What did David do when Saul looked behind him? *(He stooped with his face to the earth and bowed, 24:8)*
- What did David say about his hand? *("mine hand shall not be upon thee," 24:12)*
- What did Saul say to David? *("Thou art more righteous than I," 24:17)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** the **skirt** of a robe is its edge or corner; **privily** means secretly, quietly; **smote** means struck, so "his heart smote him" means he felt bad inside; the **LORD'S anointed** is the king God chose; **righteous** means doing right; **rewarded** means paid back; **whereas** means but.
- **What the Bible says:** 1 Samuel 24 does not say what Saul's robe looked like, what color it was, or which corner David cut. The colors and shapes are the craft's simple picture of the story. The robe in the cave stands for Saul in the cave (24:3); the piece on the rock is the skirt David held up outside (24:11).
- **No one is drawn on the template.** The robe and its cut-off skirt tell the story without drawing Saul or David.
- **Cutting:** the skirt corner is small. Cut slowly on the short dashed line, and keep the piece in a cup until it is glued down.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, including the skirt corner. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child hold up the skirt piece and say, "mine hand shall not be upon thee."
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free David spares Saul lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/david-spares-saul.

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