Preschool–Grade 6

# David Spares Saul

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

**Main point:** Be good to others, even when they are not good to you.
**Bible passage:** 1 Samuel 24. Read 1 Samuel 24:1–22 yourself before class.
**Memory verse:** "thou hast rewarded me good" *1 Samuel 24:17 (KJV).* **Rewarded** means paid back. **Thou** means you.
**You need:** a Bible, a blanket over a table to make a "cave," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** put the blanket over the table so kids can crawl under it. Put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 24.

## 1. Opening game: Quiet in the Cave (5 minutes)

Kids crawl into the "cave" under the table. Say: "Shh! We have to be very, very quiet." Walk slowly past the cave with heavy footsteps. If everyone stays quiet until you walk away, cheer! Play two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about David hiding very quietly in a cave."

## 2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 24. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

King Saul was angry at David. He went to look for David (1 Samuel 24:1–2). *(Hand over your eyes; look around.)*
David and his men hid in a cave (24:3). *(Crouch down small.)*
Then Saul came into the same cave! (24:3) *(Make a surprised face.)*
David's men wanted him to hurt Saul (24:4, 24:10). *(Shake your head no.)*
David tiptoed up and cut a piece off Saul's robe (24:4). *(Snip with two fingers.)*
David would not hurt the king God chose (24:6). **Say it with me: "I will not hurt him!"**
Saul went out of the cave (24:7). *(Walk in place.)*
David called, "My lord the king!" and bowed down (24:8). *(Bow down.)*
David held up the piece of the robe (24:11). *(Hold up your hand.)*
Saul cried (24:16). *(Rub your eyes.)*
Saul said David was good to him, but he had been bad to David (24:17). *(Point to a friend, then to yourself.)*
**Say it with me: "I will be good, even when others are not!"**


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## 3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did David hide? *(In a cave, 1 Samuel 24:3)*
2. What did David cut? *(A piece of Saul's robe, 24:4)*
3. Did David hurt the king? *(No! 24:6–7, 24:12)*

## 4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "King Saul said to David, 'thou hast rewarded me good.' That means, 'You were good to me.'" Teach the motion: put your hand on your heart, then hold it out open to a friend. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Samuel 24:17" and clap three times.

## 5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

## 6. Activity: The Cave (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big cave in the rocks. They color the rocks gray and the inside of the cave brown. While they color, ask: "Who hid in the cave? Did David hurt the king?" Kids who finish early can play Quiet in the Cave again.

## 7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, help me be good to others,
even when they are not good to me. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Tips for little ones:** keep the story moving and let every child crouch, snip and bow with you. If they get wiggly, play Quiet in the Cave again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.


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