

**Preschool**  
**David showed Mercy**  
*Parent Devo & Bible Study*

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 24

**STORY POINT:** David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 145:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

**Parent Devotional**

David's relationship with King Saul was complicated. Early on, David served the king by playing the lyre for him whenever he felt unwell. After David killed Goliath, he became good friends with Saul's son, Jonathan. But David's success made Saul jealous. Saul could see that David was rising in popularity. He won victory after victory. Saul made several attempts on David's life, and David fled to the land of Moab.

David wasn't alone. His family and other men—anyone who was “desperate, in debt, or discontented” (1 Sam. 22:2)—joined David, and he became their leader. About 400 men were with David. Once in Moab, the prophet Gad instructed David to return to the land of Judah. When Saul found out David's location, he pursued David, intending to kill him. Yet God protected David from Saul.

Saul was in pursuit of David when he stopped to relieve himself. Imagine David's surprise when Saul entered the very cave in which David and his men were hiding. This was David's chance! Saul was outnumbered and could easily be defeated. David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe, but he did not allow his men to hurt Saul.

When Saul left the cave, David followed after him. He acknowledged Saul's authority—“My lord the king!” (1 Sam. 24:8)—and showed Saul the corner of his robe, proof of David's passed-up opportunity. Saul wept upon realizing David's mercy toward him. God had put Saul in David's hand, and David let him go unharmed. Saul realized God had clearly chosen David to be Israel's king.

David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan. As you teach, point kids to Jesus, who also trusted His Father's plan. He died on the cross so His enemies could experience God's mercy and live forever as part of God's family.

**David Was Anointed**  
**1 Samuel 24**

David was hiding in the hills. He had served King Saul and won many battles, but now Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him. Saul went looking for David.

David and his men were hiding in the back of a cave when Saul happened to pass by. Saul decided to go inside the cave. David's men saw Saul. "Look!" they said. "God said He would give you your enemy. This is the day! You can do whatever you want to him!"

David got close to Saul and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe. Saul did not see David. After that, David felt upset about what he had done. He told his men, "I will not fight the king. God chose him."

Saul left the cave and went on his way. David followed him and called out, "My lord the king!" Saul turned around, and David knelt low before him. "Why do you think I'm trying to hurt you?" David asked. "Look, I had a chance to hurt you, but I showed mercy." David showed Saul the corner of the robe that he had cut.

Saul began to cry. "You are more righteous than I," Saul said, "because you have done what is good to me even though I have done what is evil to you. Most people would hurt an enemy, but you have let me go. May God reward you for being kind."

Saul knew God was with David and that David would be the king of Israel. Saul said, "Promise me you will not hurt my family when you are king." So David promised. Then Saul went home, and David and his men went back to the hills.

Christ Connection: David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan. Jesus trusted His Father's plan too. He died on the cross so His enemies could have God's mercy and live forever as part of God's family.

**Memory Verse:**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.  
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.