

# DAVID

A man after  
God's Heart



## Lesson 6: David Spares Saul's Life

Teacher's Prep: (set aside at least 2 hours prior to teaching)

1. **PRAY!** For yourself, and for the children!!
2. **Read** 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 26:1-25 from the Bible. (15 min.)
3. Read pages 45-49 in the **Teacher Resource book** at least 2-3 times. (30 min.)
4. Read and study the story **outline** on the opposite page. Prepare your Bible: put the bookmarks in their proper place, and read over each bookmark, practicing what you will teach the children! (30 min.)
5. Prepare your **extra activities** or visuals, if any are listed on your bookmarks. (10-15 min.)
6. **Practice** your lesson out loud, and **TIME YOURSELF!** Practice using your visuals, and make sure you hit all bookmark points. (18-20 min.)
7. **TIME TO TEACH!!!** Be sure to **teach** the information found on each bookmark!!! (18-20 min.)

### TEACHER'S TIP

*A glimpse into the mind of a child: "A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"*

## Story Outline Lesson 6: David Spares Saul's Life

1. **Introduction:** Have you ever been so upset with someone that you wanted to get even?  
**LINK:** David knew how it felt to be mistreated. One day David had a chance to get even. What would he do?
2. Fearing for his life, David hid from King Saul in several towns and caves.  
**LINK:** Now Saul was determined to kill David. Sin causes people to do terrible things! Each of us is born under the control of sin.  
**GOSPEL BOOKMARK**
3. Saul took 3,000 men to search for David in the wilderness.
4. Saul stopped to rest in a cave where David and his men were hiding.
5. David cut off part of Saul's robe, not killing the king as his men had urged.
6. David restrained his men, refusing to harm God's anointed leader.  
**LINK:** David's men thought this was David's perfect chance to get even with King Saul. What do you think? Have you ever wanted to get even with someone who mistreated you?  
**GROWTH BOOKMARK #1**
7. David showed Saul the piece of cloth to prove he had spared his life and to ask Saul to stop pursuing him.
8. Saul repented, acknowledging David's appointment as king.
9. Saul resumed his pursuit of David into another wilderness area.
10. At night David and a servant went into Saul's camp where Saul was sleeping.
11. David's servant asked to kill Saul, but David refused to strike God's anointed king so he took Saul's spear and water jug from the camp while the enemy slept.  
**LINK:** David demonstrated love and respect for his enemy and trusted God to take care of the situation. If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God wants you to do good even to those who mistreat you.  
**GROWTH BOOKMARK #2**
12. David showed the stolen items to Saul, proving he had again spared his life.
13. **CLIMAX:** Because David chose to forgive and do good instead of seeking revenge, King Saul finally gave up his deadly chase.
14. Saul and David parted peacefully.  
**LINK:** David was truly a man after God's heart! God wants you to be a person after His heart.  
**GROWTH BOOKMARK #3**  
**INVITATION BOOKMARK**

# GROWTH BOOKMARK #1



## Rom. 12:21

David Spares Saul's Life: Lesson 6

### Note to Teachers:

**Remember:** *simply telling a Bible story - no matter how animated and alive you make the story - is not enough. You must TEACH truths to the children through the application points found on these bookmarks. These applications allow the children to take the story and APPLY it to their lives, which is the REASON you are teaching them a LESSON, not a story. When you isolate these application points away from the story, children are not likely to pay attention or grasp the importance of these truths. However, when you weave these points WITHIN an exciting story, children can make connections and identify with the main character(s), thus enabling them to apply these teachings to their lives. DON'T neglect the teachings on these bookmarks: this is the MEAT of your lesson!!*

**LINK:** David's men thought this was David's perfect chance to get even with King Saul. What do you think? Have you ever wanted to get even with someone who mistreated you?

1. Maybe a friend embarrassed you in front of others, or perhaps someone said things about you that weren't true.
2. Maybe someone deliberately tried to get you into trouble. How do you feel when someone wrongs you?
3. When someone hurts you, your first response might be to get revenge - to get even. But God hates our desire for revenge because it shows that we are not trusting Him to handle the situation.
4. **If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior,** God wants you to do good even to those who mistreat you. God's **TRUE** Word says: **(READ Rom. 12:21)**
5. **We are not to seek revenge.** Instead of letting someone's unkindness control your thoughts and feelings, God can help you show love and kindness to that person.
6. It's not easy to love and forgive someone who's hurt you - especially when you did nothing to deserve it.

**LINK:** Your first response might be to look for a chance to get even. David had done nothing to deserve Saul's meanness, and now he had a perfect chance to get even.

(Go back to story)

## GROWTH BOOKMARK #2



### Matt. 5:44

David Spares Saul's Life: Lesson 6

**LINK:** David demonstrated love and respect for his enemy and trusted God to take care of the situation. **If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior**, God wants you to do good even to those who mistreat you.

1. You need to remember that revenge is not your responsibility. In His own way and time, God will take care of those who mistreat others.
2. Your responsibility is to love and forgive. What would happen if, instead of getting even, you show love and kindness to the person who mistreated you? (discuss)
3. Even if that person doesn't change, you need to do as God has told you.
4. As you obey God by forgiving and showing kindness, He will honor you. **You may even have an opportunity to explain why you are able to forgive**, and that person may come to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior!
5. Remember our memory verse?  
**QUOTE Matt. 5:44 with the children.**
6. When you are tempted to get even, think about this verse. Ask God to help you forgive the person who hurt you. Then look for something kind you could do to show God's love to them.
7. As you respond in love, you are showing how you are a person after God's heart! Think about how much God has forgiven you!

**LINK:** It's not easy to forgive and show kindness to your enemy. You need to trust God will take care of the situation. David trusted God to take care of his situation.

(Go back to story)

## GOSPEL BOOKMARK



### Eph. 1:7

David Spares Saul's Life: Lesson 6

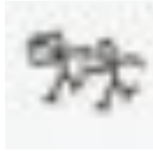
**LINK:** Now Saul was determined to kill David. Sin causes people to do terrible things! Each of us is **born** under the control of sin.

1. There is something inside us that wants to sin. **Sin is something you think, say, or do that makes God unhappy or breaks God's laws.**
2. What are some **examples** of sin?
3. You may not think your sin is bad, but God can't accept any sin - your sin **separates** you from God. God is **holy** (perfect) and cannot be around sin. God hates sin.
4. But God **loves** you because He **made** you, and He also made a way for your sin to be forgiven. He sent His **perfect Son** Jesus to pay for your sin and mine by giving His **blood** on the cross!
5. The Bible says: (**READ Eph. 1:7**)
6. Jesus didn't deserve to be **punished**, but He took our sins on Himself so we would not have to be punished.
7. Jesus **died** and was **buried**. After that, He came back to **life** again. You can believe on Him - trust completely in what He did for you on the cross - and be saved from the punishment of sin!

**LINK:** Then He will change your life. You do not have to be controlled by sin any longer. King Saul was controlled by his sin of jealousy.

(Go back to story)

## GROWTH BOOKMARK #3



### Matt. 5:44

David Spares Saul's Life: Lesson 6

**LINK:** David was truly a man after God's heart! God wants you to be a person after His heart.

1. That means doing things the way He wants you to do them. What are some things we have talked about the past few weeks that you can do to show you are a person after God's heart? (*review*)
2. Today we learned that forgiving and loving enemies is another way to show you are that kind of person.
3. **If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior**, God wants you to do good even to those who mistreat you.
4. This week, if you are tempted to get even with someone who mistreats you, think about our memory verse. Let's say it together.  
**QUOTE Matt. 5:44 with the children.**
5. Ask God to give you His love for that person and help you forgive. Think of something you can do to show kindness to that person.
6. Perhaps you are thinking right now of someone who has hurt you. You can talk to God about that person, and **next week** you can share how God helped you show His love to that person.\*

**LINK:** You cannot show God's love and forgiveness to others until you first experience it yourself.

(Go to INVITATION BOOKMARK)

*\*changed from the book: it might be easier to wait for this prayer for another time in club, because after the prayer the children's attention spans might be lost, and you still have to do the invitation!*

## INVITATION BOOKMARK



### Acts 16:31

David Spares Saul's Life: Lesson 6

**LINK:** You cannot show God's love and forgiveness to others until you first experience it yourself.

1. **REVIEW:** If you know you have **sinned**, and if you ask Jesus to forgive you and believe with all your heart that He **died** on the cross for your sin, you can be saved today.
2. **READ VERSE:** Acts 16:31
3. **EXPLAIN VERSE:** Will you believe on Jesus today, and ask Him to take away the punishment for your sin? This verse tells us that if you truly believe in your heart that Jesus died for you and ask Him to be your Lord (to be number one in your life) and Savior (to save you from your sin), then you will be saved!  
  
Remember: Jesus is the **ONLY** way you can be forgiven from your sins and be saved from the punishment of sin, because the Bible tells us this and the Bible is 100% true and we can trust everything God put in the Bible.  
  
Once you are saved from your sin, **God will change you on the inside** and He will help you to do the right thing, such as forgive your enemies. Will you trust in Jesus completely today?\*
4. Please **bow** your heads and **close** your eyes.
5. If you have **NEVER** asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and you would like to know how you can be God's child, please **SHOW ME** by raising your hand. Everyone else keep your eyes closed.
6. If your hand is raised, **FOLLOW** me so I can show you from God's Word how you can be God's child. Everyone else **STAY** here while (next teacher) prays.

*\*Today's is longer because it is potentially the last invitation in your Good News Club, if you only go 6 weeks.*