



Grades 4–5 • Lesson 79

Saul Hunts David


1 Samuel 21:12–15, 23:14–17, 24:4–7, 26:1–25

Help David reach the safety of the cave without running into Saul or his soldiers!

Name

Finish




Memory Verse

Practice saying the memory verse to a friend or family member this week!

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8–9

What You Heard *In the Word*

- David had to run from place to place to keep away from Saul, who wanted to kill him.
- When David and his men had opportunities to kill Saul, David chose to spare Saul and to wait for God's timing to receive the kingdom.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

What if your friend said she is going to get back at someone who hurt her feelings? **What could you say?**

I'm sorry that you were hurt. People say and do hurtful things and many times don't even realize it! Even if someone did something mean on purpose, the Bible teaches that we shouldn't try to get revenge. Jesus set the example of mercy and forgiveness, even to those who put him to death! Other people like Joseph and David showed forgiveness and mercy to those who tried to harm them. We should follow their example and leave revenge up to God. He knows and cares about you and the person who hurt you. We must forgive as Jesus commanded us to. This is hard, but God will help you if you ask him.

HomeWord *For Parents*

After Jonathan warned David to flee from Saul and the city of Gibeah, David began a journey that would have him crisscrossing the country, even venturing into Moab and Philistia to escape from Saul. Along the way, God continued to protect David (1 Samuel 23:14).

David's first opportunity to get revenge occurred in a cave in the oasis of Engedi. When Saul entered the cave, he was unaware that David and his men were hidden farther back in the cave. Ignoring the advice of his men to kill Saul, David cut off a piece of Saul's robe and then later showed it to Saul to prove he could have taken his life (1 Samuel 24:8–15). Saul showed remorse for his actions and returned home.

But it wasn't long before Saul again pursued David, this time with his commander and 3,000 men. David went with Abishai into Saul's camp where Abishai wanted to kill Saul with his spear. But David refused. He understood that Saul's death was in God's hands, and it would be a sin to kill God's anointed ruler. Instead, they took Saul's spear and jar of water (1 Samuel 26:7–12). After climbing a safe distance from Saul's camp, David showed the spear and jar to prove that he had once again been given the opportunity to kill Saul but hadn't (1 Samuel 26:13–16). Saul returned home with his men.

Although this was a difficult time as he waited on God's timing, David wrote many wonderful psalms during this time in his life (e.g., Psalm 18, 34, 52, 54). These psalms feature God as a refuge and stronghold for those who trust in him, and they encourage us today.

