

Lesson 79

Saul Hunts David

Saul sought to kill David, but David trusted God for protection.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you because . . .
(insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an

opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who should we worship? The one true God.
When can we trust God? All the time.
What should we do if we love God? Obey him.
What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? Wise.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell

students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 78 Flip Chart. In our last lesson we saw a great friendship between David and Jonathan.

Who was Jonathan's father? King Saul.

Both friends loved and trusted God. They were good friends and knew they could count on each other. God used their friendship to protect David from King Saul, who was very jealous of David.

What did Jonathan do to warn David that his father wanted to kill him? Pretended to practice shooting arrows in the field where David was hiding. His instructions to the boy gathering the arrows were really messages for David.

The two friends were very sad when David had to leave in such a hurry. Today, we'll start by talking about some of the places David ran to as he tried to hide from King Saul.

David Flees from Saul

The first place David ran to was the Philistine city of Gath.

Do you remember who the Philistines were? Were they friends or enemies of the Israelites? Enemies.

Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. Goliath was a Philistine. And who killed Goliath? David.

Right! So these guys hated David and the Israelites. But David knew he had to find someplace to hide. But there was one

problem. The servants of the Philistine king knew who David was—the Israelite commander who had killed thousands of Philistines!

Uh oh! Do you think David was safe there? No.

David was afraid for his life! He had to think of something—quick—so they would send him away without hurting him!

So David pretended to be a crazy person! He scratched at the city gate and drooled on his beard. The king saw how David was acting and thought he really was crazy and made him leave. Whew! That was close.

After David escaped, he ran to a cave where a group of about 400 men joined up with him. David was now commander of these men, and they stayed with him and helped him.

Refer to the top of the Lesson Flip Chart. With God's help, David and his men stayed ahead of Saul. One time, Saul almost caught up to David. Saul was on one side of a mountain while David and his men were hurrying to get away on the other side of the mountain. Just as Saul's men were closing in, a messenger came with bad news. Saul had to leave right away, and David was safe—for now.

David Spares Saul in the Cave

It wasn't long before Saul went after David again. One day, while David and his men were hiding in the back of a big cave, Saul came in but didn't know David and his men were there!

1 Samuel 24:4

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read from 1 Samuel 24 to find out what David's men wanted him to do. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

David's men told him that this was God giving David a chance to kill Saul.

Did David kill Saul? No.

What did David do instead? Cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

David's men told him that he should kill Saul. This was his chance! But David would not do it. Instead, he crept quietly toward Saul and cut off a corner of his robe.

After Saul left the cave, David came out and called to him. He showed Saul the piece of robe he had cut off to prove he had been close enough to kill him in the cave—but didn't.

Have you heard the word revenge? What does it mean? Allow answers.

Revenge is when you try to get back at someone or make them pay for doing something mean to you.
How about mercy? Does anyone know what that means? Allow answers.

Mercy is when you forgive others and don't punish them for something—even when they deserve it.

Saul understood that David had shown mercy to him. David did not hurt Saul when he could have taken revenge. After that, Saul finally went home. But David and his men stayed there in the wilderness.

David Spares Saul in the Camp

Sometime later, Saul decided to go and hunt David again. He and his army commander, Abner, gathered 3,000 men, and they came and camped on a hill. David's spies saw them and told David that Saul was camped nearby.

Have props and costumes ready for the skit.

Sleeping Saul Skit (1 Samuel 26)
We'll act out what happened next. Read the Sleeping Saul Skit. Have an assistant guide the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished, continue with the lesson.

Who sneaked into Saul's camp? David and Abishai.

Refer to the Flip Chart. David and Abishai were able to creep into Saul's camp and get right next to Saul without anyone waking up!

What did David say when Abishai wanted to kill Saul with his own spear? David told him no.

What two things did they take to prove they had been in Saul's camp, close enough to kill Saul? Spear and jar of water.

Right. The men took Saul's spear and jar and left the camp. David went up a hill across from Saul's camp and called out to them.

What did Saul think when he saw that his spear and jar were taken by David? What did that prove? He realized that David had spared his life again.

This was the second time David spared Saul's life when he could have taken revenge and killed him. David showed mercy even though Saul continued to break his promises and chase David. But David believed it was more important to obey God and trust him instead of taking revenge on Saul.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 78 Flip Chart. In our last lesson we saw a great friendship between David and

Jonathan.

Who was Jonathan's father? King Saul.

Both friends loved and trusted God. They were good friends and knew they could count on each other. God used their friendship to protect David from King Saul, who was very jealous of David.

What did Jonathan do to warn David that his father wanted to kill him? Pretended to practice shooting arrows in the field where David was hiding. His instructions to the boy gathering the arrows were really messages for David.

The two friends were very sad when David had to leave in such a hurry. Today, we'll start by talking about some of the places David ran to as he tried to hide from King Saul.

David Flees from Saul

David ran for his life while Saul chased him every step of the way. First, he ran to a city where many priests lived. The high priest gave David some bread and the sword that had belonged to the giant, Goliath. But David couldn't stay there; he had to keep running.

He finally went to the Philistine city of Gath. Do you remember who the Philistines were? Were they friends or enemies? Enemies.

Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. Goliath was a Philistine. And who killed Goliath? David.

Right! So these guys hated David and the Israelites. But David knew he had to find someplace to hide, and Saul couldn't follow him into the enemy's city. David was safe at last—or was he? There was one problem. The servants of the Philistine king knew who David was—the Israelite commander who had killed thousands of Philistines!

Uh oh! Do you think this was a good place for David to hide? No.

David was afraid for his life! He had to think of something—quick—so they would send him away without hurting him!

1 Samuel 21:12–13

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from 1 Samuel 21 to find out what David did so the Philistines wouldn't kill him. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read 1 Samuel 21:12–13.

David pretended to be a crazy person! He scratched at the gate and drooled on his beard. The king saw how David was acting and thought he was crazy and made him leave. Whew! That was close.

David escaped and ran to a cave. While he was hiding there, a group of about 400 men came to

join up with him. David was now commander of these men, and they stayed with him and helped him.

With God's help, David and his men kept ahead of Saul. David still helped others even while he was being chased by Saul. He and his men saved a city called Keilah from the Philistines. But Saul found out that David was in Keilah. "Ah ha!" he thought, "David is trapped inside the city. Now I've got him. We'll finally capture David." But God warned David that Saul was coming, so he and his men got away.

Refer to the top of the Lesson Flip Chart. One time, Saul almost caught up to David again. While Saul was on one side of a mountain, David and his men were hurrying to get away on the other side of the mountain. Just as Saul's men were closing in, a messenger came. "My king," he said, "hurry and come, for the Philistines have attacked the land." So Saul and his men left the mountain, and David was safe—for now.

David Spares Saul in the Cave

It wasn't long before Saul went after David again. One day, while David and his men were hiding in the back of a big cave, Saul came in—but he didn't know David and his men were there!

1 Samuel 24:4

Let's see what David's men wanted him to do. Listen to 1 Samuel 24:4. Read the verse.

David's men told him that this was God giving David a chance to kill Saul. This was David's chance to get Saul back once and for all.

Did David kill Saul? No.
What did David do instead? Cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

David understood that God had made Saul king and that he would be the next king. He knew God's timing was perfect, and he was willing to wait for God. He knew God would not be pleased with him if he took revenge on Saul for all he had done.

What is revenge? Does anyone know? Allow answers.

Revenge is when you try to get back at someone or make them pay for doing something mean to you.

How about mercy? Does anyone know what that means? Allow answers.

Mercy is when you forgive others and don't punish them for something—even when they deserve it.

After Saul left the cave, David came out and called to him. He showed Saul the piece of robe he had cut off to prove he had been

close enough to kill him in the cave—but didn't.

Saul understood that David showed mercy to him. David did not hurt Saul when he could have taken revenge. Saul finally went home, but David and his men stayed there in the wilderness.

David Spares Saul in the Camp

Sometime later, some people came and said to King Saul, "Did you know that David is hiding out in our area?"

Once again, Saul decided to go and hunt David down. He and his army commander, Abner, gathered 3,000 men of Israel, and they came and camped on a hill. David's spies saw them and told David that Saul was camped nearby.

Have props and costumes ready for the skit.

Sleeping Saul Skit (1 Samuel 26)

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What did Saul think when he saw that his spear and jar were taken by David? What did that prove? He realized that David had spared his life again.

This was the second time David spared Saul's life when he could have killed him. David showed mercy again, even though Saul continued to break his promises and hunt David. But David believed it was more important to obey God and trust him instead of taking revenge on Saul.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can

collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)

Two beanbags

Three laundry baskets or boxes

Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)

Three chairs set out for bases

Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Game Board
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
Rolled up socks
Masking tape
Ten sheets of paper
Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue

putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
White board or chalkboard
Markers/chalk
Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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