



David's Heart: David Spares Saul

Lesson Aim: To trust God for justice over our enemies.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Knows Our Hearts

THE WORD

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 24:2-13

What He has done: God helped David spare Saul's life.

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 24:12

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Romans 12:19

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

Unit 8: The King Who Knows Our Hearts			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Samuel and Saul, 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 10:1, 6-7, 9, 20-24	God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel.	To know God has chosen us to do special jobs for Him.
39	David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4-9, 32-42, 45, 47-50	God gave David the victory over Goliath.	To know God prepares us for our challenges and spiritual battles.
40	David, Jonathan, and Saul, 1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-5; 20:13-24, 30-34, 41-42	God gave David a brave friend that helped him through hard times.	To build deeper friendships that honor God.
41	David's Heart: David Spares Saul, 1 Samuel 24:2-13	God helped David spare Saul's life.	To trust God for justice over our enemies.
42	David and Mephibosheth, 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7, 9-11	God helped David keep his promise.	To promise to show kindness.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 28:1-9. Please join us in praying, "Lord, You know our hearts. Fill us with Your Spirit so that our hearts might worship You and trust You with everything. Help the children to be boys and girls after God's own heart. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Trust Me	Blindfolds, two different types or colors of wrapped candy
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Chosen People" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Change My Heart, O God" "Open the Eyes of My Heart" " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 28:7	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 41 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: 1 Samuel 24:2-13	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Romans 12:19	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Trust Towers	Cookies, frosting (or crackers and creamy dip), plastic knives
	Up to 5	Game: Thumbs Up!	None
	Up to 10	Game: Robe of Trust	Large scrap of fabric, safety scissors
	Up to 10	Craft: Swords of Trust	Sturdy paper (poster board or cardboard recommended), colored paper, tin foil, crayons or markers, tape, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Discussion: Respect Leaders	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Shepherd Psalm Shuffle	Note cards, timer, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Psalm 23 Balloon Toss	1 inflated non-helium balloon, Bible, optional: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity Discussion: Psalm 23	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: Who is someone you trust?

GAME: TRUST ME

Purpose: Introduce the concept of trusting God with everyday life just like David did.

Supplies: Blindfolds, two different types or colors of wrapped candy

Prepare: Mix candy and scatter it around the room on the floor.

Optional: Instead of candy, use two colors of 1-inch squares of paper, marbles, or buttons.

Let's go on a treasure hunt! But instead of looking for candy treasure with your own eyes, you will have to trust your partner to help you collect it. Those of you who are treasure hunters must listen to and trust your guides. Those of you who are guides must trust your treasure hunters to listen to your directions and pick up the right candy. If a treasure hunter steps on a piece of candy, the guide must take all of the candy you have collected, scatter it on the floor, and start again.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into two teams. Assign a candy type or color to each team.
2. Within the teams, children choose partners.
3. One partner puts on a blindfold and is the treasure hunter. The other partner is the guide.
4. On your signal, guides tell their treasure hunters where to go and which candy to pick up. Guides cannot touch the treasure hunters or the candy before the treasure hunter picks it up.
5. If a treasure hunter steps on a piece of candy, the guide must scatter all the candy they have collected on the floor and start again.
6. After all of the candy has been collected by both teams, have the children divide the candy so everyone gets an equal amount.

You did a great job trusting your partners to help you collect the candy treasure. David knew how to trust, too. David trusted God to keep him safe and to judge King Saul for trying to hurt him.



The King who knows our hearts

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the King who knows our hearts. God knew that David's heart trusted Him. David worshiped God with all his might by singing, praying, writing psalms, playing instruments, and dancing before the Lord. His worship was just for God, so David didn't mind if it seemed strange or undignified to others. David showed us how to worship God all the time by trusting and obeying Him in every choice. What is your favorite way to worship God? (Singing, offering, praying, reading the Bible, serving others, etc.)

An offering is something you give to God as your way of worshiping Him. When we trust God with our money—that's worship, too. As the offering is collected, sing: "You Will Seek Me."

Psalm 23 shows us all the ways David trusted God. Let's sing Psalm 23 and ask God to help us trust Him as our Shepherd. Sing: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd" and "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."



Read Psalm 28:7.



You may also choose to sing songs that focus on trusting God.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 41.



David spared Saul's life

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out David (Circa 1020 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned David and Jonathan were true friends. What did David and Jonathan promise to do for each other's families?** (To show kindness forever.)

Today, we will hear about David and his mighty men in the En-Gedi wilderness where they hid from King Saul. King Saul was trying to hurt David because he was jealous that the people liked David more than him. If a map is available, point out Jerusalem and the En-Gedi wilderness about 30 miles SE of Jerusalem, on the western shore of the Dead Sea. **The En-Gedi wilderness was filled with rocks and caves that provided good hiding places for David and his mighty men when King Saul came from Jerusalem to hunt for him.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 1 Samuel 24:2-13. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: 1 Samuel 24:12.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read 1 Samuel 24:2-13.



Trusting God as judge

THE WAY

How many men did King Saul choose to hunt for David? (3,000.) **Who was hiding in the back of the cave when King Saul came in alone?** (David and his mighty men.) **David could have killed King Saul. What did he do instead?** (Cut a piece from King Saul's robe.) **Why do you think David felt bad about cutting his robe?** (David knew he had been disrespectful to the king God had chosen.)

In the cave, what did the mighty men think David should do to King Saul? (Take revenge on King Saul by killing him while he had the chance.) **Why did David say he would never kill King Saul?** (Because Saul had been anointed by God as king of Israel.) **David loved and respected God too much to harm his choice for king.**

An enemy is anyone who tries to hurt you on purpose. The mighty men wanted David to take revenge on King Saul for his attacks. Revenge means harming someone to pay them back for doing harm. Revenge is not self-defense; revenge is planned. Have you or your friends ever wanted you to take revenge on someone who has hurt you? (Children respond.)

Taking revenge is a wrong choice. Because David was a man after God's own heart, he was always focused on what God would want, not what he wanted. Who did David trust to be the judge over himself and Saul? (God.) **When you take revenge on someone, you are taking God's job as their judge. Why would God as "the King who knows our hearts" be a better judge than you?** (He knows the true reasons why we did wrong. He knows if we are truly sorry. He knows if we will truly repent.)

In everything he did, David trusted God. He trusted God as his shepherd to keep him safe. He trusted God as his judge to deal justly with his enemies. You can trust God in those same ways. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. With each phrase, think about how you can trust God as your shepherd, too. Say Bible Memory Verse together: Psalm 23.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over one thousand years later, the Bible tells us why David was right to trust the Lord as the judge over his enemies. Let's see what the Bible says about that.



FIND IT FIRST > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 12:19. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Romans 12:19.**

David may have wanted to take revenge on King Saul, but he trusted that God had a plan for his enemies. One day, Jesus will come back to judge everyone for their actions. That is when He will make everything fair and perfect.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a "Trust in God" mosaic. Take it home and color it. Let it remind you to trust in God as David did.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 41 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of David cutting off a piece of King Saul's robe.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: TRUST TOWERS

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Cookies and frosting (or crackers and creamy dip), plastic knives

David trusted God. Let's build trust towers with our snack. As we build, think about how each cookie depends on the frosting and other cookies to stay up. Our towers may fall, but you can always trust God because He will never fail you!

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children use cookies and frosting to make towers on their plates.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you trusted God?"**

GAME: THUMBS UP!

Purpose: Review the facts of the story about David sparing Saul's life.

Supplies: None

Let's see how much you can remember about today's story. I'm going to read some statements about the story. Raise your thumbs up if you believe the statement is true; give me a thumbs down if you believe the statement is false. If the answer is false, be ready to correct it. Move quickly through these, keeping the pace lively and challenging!

Directions:

1. **Jonathan was hunting for David to harm him.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Who was hunting for David to harm him?** (King Saul.)
2. **David and his men were in a deep well.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Where were David and his mighty men?** (In a cave.)
3. **David cut off a corner of King Saul's robe.** (Thumbs up.)
4. **David decided to get revenge against King Saul.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **What did David do to King Saul?** (He let King Saul live.)
5. **David let King Saul live because he did not want to harm anyone who was anointed by God.** (Thumbs up.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: ROBE OF TRUST

Purpose: Children will share a way they have trusted God.

Supplies: Large scrap of fabric, safety scissors

In today's story, David cut a piece from King Saul's robe. David was close enough to harm King Saul but he chose to trust God and spare King Saul's life. He trusted God to judge King Saul for trying to harm him. As we pass the fabric around the circle, cut off a small piece to take home as a reminder that you can trust God like David did. If you are comfortable, share a time when you have trusted or prayed to God for help with a problem.

Directions:

1. Sit with the children on the floor in a circle.
2. Begin by sharing a time when you have trusted or prayed to God for help with a problem. Cut a small piece from the fabric.
3. Go around the circle allowing each child to share a story and cut off a piece of the fabric.

CRAFT: SWORDS OF TRUST

Purpose: Children make swords to remember to trust God like David did.

Supplies: Sturdy paper (poster board or cardboard recommended), colored paper, tin foil, crayons or markers, tape, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut the shape of a sword from sturdy paper for each child. Cut tin foil squares large enough to wrap around the blade of the sword. Print the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse on colored paper for each child. Older children may copy the Bible Memory Verse themselves from the poster.

Optional: Fold under the edges of the tin foil to avoid contact with any sharp edges. Use silver paint or markers instead of tin foil. Create a sword template and have children trace and cut out their own swords. Provide additional craft supplies for decorating the handle. For example: craft jewels, glitter, craft foam, beads, buttons, etc.

David had the perfect chance to hurt King Saul. What reason did David have to want to hurt him? (King Saul tried to kill him.) **What did David do?** (He let King Saul live.) **One day, who will justly punish all evildoers in the world?** (Jesus.) **You can trust Jesus for justice over evil doers. Let's make swords to remind us to trust God just like David did! While you are making your swords, let's talk about the ways David trusted God in Psalm 23.**

Directions:

1. Color the sword's handle.
2. Carefully wrap foil around the blade of the sword.
3. Tape foil to secure in place.
4. Tape the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse to the sword's blade.
5. Say Psalm 23 together as a class.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: RESPECT LEADERS

Purpose: Children learn to respect God by respecting the leaders He has chosen.

Supplies: None

David's mighty men knew King Saul was not a good king; he had not earned their respect. But David knew we should show respect to our leaders, even if they are poor leaders, because God put them in that position. God chose King Saul and David trusted God's choices no matter what. So for as long as Saul was King, David knew he should respect God's choice by not harming King Saul.

Sometimes God allows poor leaders to rule for reasons we don't understand. But we can trust all His choices because the Bible promises in Romans 8:28 that all things work together for good to those who love God.

Who are the leaders in your life? (Parents, teachers, coaches, policemen, government officials, etc.)
What are some ways we disrespect our leaders today? Have you ever been disrespectful to one of your leaders? If they have not earned your respect, how does knowing God put them in that position help you act more respectfully toward them?



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

GAME: SHEPHERD PSALM SHUFFLE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Note cards, timer, Bible Memory Verse Poster

Prepare: Divide Psalm 23 into brief three to six word phrases. Print each phrase on a separate note card. Display Bible Memory Verse poster.

Option: To make the game more challenging, cover the Bible Memory Verse poster, so the teams must order the cards from memory.

Directions:

1. Read or recite Psalm 23 together.
2. Divide the children into 4 teams.
3. Shuffle the note cards.
4. Toss the cards in the air so they land scattered on the floor.
5. On your signal, start the timer. The first team races to see how fast they can lay out the cards in the correct order.
6. When the cards are in the correct order, stop the timer.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until each team has a turn. The team with the fastest time is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PSALM 23 BALLOON TOSS

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible, optional: Bible Memory Verse poster

Option: To make the game easier, allow each team to tap the balloon two or three times as they recite their verse, and display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Divide children into six teams.
2. Assign one verse of Psalm 23 to each team.
3. Give teams time to memorize their verses.
4. Children stand in a circle.
5. The first team tosses a balloon high into the air. They must recite their verse before the balloon touches the floor. Team members may help one another remember their verse.
6. As soon as the team completes its verse, a member of the next team taps the balloon as high as possible. That team recites their verse before the balloon touches the floor.
7. Continue until all six verses have been recited.

DISCUSSION: PSALM 23

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster

Teacher Tip: For older children, divide the children into seven teams. Assign each team one of the sentences below. Ask teams to brainstorm the meaning of their sentence and share it with the class.

Our Bible Memory Verse is Psalm 23. There are 150 psalms in the Bible. Psalms are songs or poems that were used to worship God. Do you know who wrote many of the psalms? (David.) David was the second King of Israel. He loved to worship God. Let's put each part of Psalm 23 into our own words. Lead children in discussion of each phrase.

- **"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."** (God will take care of all of my needs, just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.)
- **"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul."** (God makes sure my body and soul get rest.)
- **"He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."** (God shows me how to follow Him and do what is right in His eyes so more people will know who He is.)
- **"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."** (Even in hard times, I don't have to be afraid, because You are with me. I don't have to be afraid of evil, of death, or of my enemies. Your rules and the way You lead me will keep me calm when I am worried.)
- **"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."** (You have a good plan for me even when I'm surrounded by those who want to hurt me.)
- **"You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."** (You have chosen a special job for me to do. My heart is like a cup that is filled and overflowing with blessings from You.)
- **"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."** (God will always be good to me and love me. I will always be a part of His family.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) God called to Samuel when he was a boy in the temple. God chose him to be a prophet and judge for the Israelites. What did the Philistines capture while Samuel was judge? (The ark of God.) Why did they return it? (Their Dagon statue broke and their people became sick when the ark was in their town.) What did Samuel name the stone used to remember God's help? (Ebenezer stone.)

Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul. What does anoint mean? (To anoint someone means to put oil on a person to show that God has chosen him or her to do a special job for God.) What happened to Saul's heart when the Holy Spirit came upon Saul in power? (God changed his heart.) Later, Saul disobeyed God and the Spirit left him. After the Spirit left Saul, who did Saul try to kill? (David.)

David (Circa 1020 B.C.) David had been anointed by Samuel. David trusted God to save him from his enemies. What was the name of the giant Philistine David defeated? (Goliath.) Who was David's true friend? (Jonathan.) What promise did they make to each other? (To show kindness to each other's families, including their children and grandchildren.) What did the mighty men want David to do when King Saul entered the cave alone? (Kill him.) What did David do? (He cut off a piece of King Saul's robe.) Who did David trust to judge King Saul for his evil acts? (God.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.