

The Spear

Big Idea David did not hurt King Saul when he had an opportunity to do so.

Bible Passage David Respects King Saul—1 Samuel 26

Lesson Summary

When life is hard, it is easy to question God's sovereignty. When God seems slow to act, it is tempting to take matters into our own hands and bring about the things we want. When David was anointed king over all Israel, he had no idea how difficult his life would become before he wore the crown. Faced with nights of sleeping on the ground, days of living in fear of Saul's army, and years of being away from home, he must have been tempted to take steps to speed up the process.

On two separate occasions, the opportunity to take charge of his future presented itself to David. In 1 Samuel 24 and again in 26, he had opportunities to take Saul's life and make a clean getaway. Both times, David's well-meaning soldiers encouraged him to kill his enemy and take what he deserved. But David refused, calling Saul "my master," "the LORD's anointed," and "my lord the king."

Interestingly, these situations parallel Saul's own life. The major failures of his rule had been instances when he chose not to wait on God (1 Samuel 13) or to try and improve upon God's plan (1 Samuel 15). But where Saul made decisions based on what he thought the results might be, David made decisions based on godly principles. He did the right thing, regardless of the consequences.

David was convinced that God had chosen Saul to lead Israel, and only God could remove him from that position.

He believed that God places rulers in their positions of power. This principle guided his actions. Rather than being power-hungry, David learned that true godliness means the ability to submit to authority. This included submitting to the Lord, Whom he called "my King and my God" (Psalm 5:2).

For many of us, respecting leaders does not come naturally. It is difficult, for preschoolers and adults, to submit to the authority of other people. Encourage your children to show respect for their parents, pastors, and teachers. Remind them that these leaders are gifts from God.

Pray for Wisdom

Bless the leaders in my life today, Lord. Help them to make decisions prayerfully and considerately. Lead them to You as they are challenged.

Often children are frustrated that everyone else is "in charge" of them. Help them see that the leaders in their life are there to care for them. Help me love them as You would, and help them have respect for the people who take care of them. In Jesus' name, amen.



DISCIPLE TARGETS

In this lesson, children will...

KNOW

- When King Saul was sleeping, David showed that he respected and wanted to protect the king.

FEEL

- Grateful for their leaders.

DO

- Show respect to the people who lead them.

SUPPLIES

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides (pages 45-48), Lesson stickers
Pencils, markers, crayons, puppets (optional)
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Welcome & Worship Time

•THANKS FOR LEADING: none

Bible Time

Teaching Picture—The Spear
•SNACK: pyramid-shaped cheese, pretzel sticks
•DAVID WENT TO SAUL: none

Disciple Time

Teaching Picture—Following the Leaders
•SPEARS: empty paper towel tubes, construction paper, glue sticks

Welcome & Worship Time

Teacher—Welcome each child warmly. Encourage children to bring their offerings to the Lord.

Learn By Doing—Thanks for Leading

(For alternate ideas to introduce this lesson, refer to the *Additional "Learn by Doing" Activities* on page 81.)

As the children arrive, help them begin to play "Follow the Leader." Choose one child to be the leader and the rest should follow him or her around the room. Encourage the leader to try different types of movement—tiny steps, giant steps, crawling, or walking sideways. After a short time, choose another child to be the leader, but make sure the rest of the children say "Thank you for leading us" to the child who just led. Tell them that today they will be hearing about how someone treated a leader.

Sing With Joy

Move the children to worship with a favorite song. Select one below or use a preschool songbook or recording.

- *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* (traditional)
- *Doxology* (hymn)
- *Be Kind* (traditional)
- *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* (traditional)

Rehearse the Verse

Use the suggested idea below to help your children learn the Bible words. The preschool-friendly paraphrases are based on the Bible verse. Decide which will work best for your children, or use a verse of your choice from the Bible version you prefer.

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 26:23

"David did not hurt King Saul."

Monthly Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 20:42

"Jonathan and David promised to be friends."

Quarter Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

"The LORD looks at the heart."

Verse Activity: Have your children say the words in a whispering voice while tiptoeing.

Seek God's Blessing

Talk with God about your time together with the children today, about the Bible story, and about any special needs.

As you pray, use meaningful and simple words from your heart. The children will learn to pray by listening to you.

Bible Time

Teacher—Bring your preschoolers to the Lord. Encourage them to apply Biblical truths in practical ways.

Tell the Truth



Open your Bible to the passage and place it on your lap. Show the Teaching Picture—*The Spear* as you tell or read the story. (The Bible story is printed on page 78 and on the back of the Teaching Picture.)

The story, *The Spear*, is based on 1 Samuel 26. It captures the interest and attention of older preschool children. If you are teaching younger preschoolers, you may want to use the shorter *Summary/Review*.

Have your children quietly snore when you tell them about how David and Abishai sneaked through Saul's camp of sleeping soldiers.

Disciple Guide—page 45

Place the appropriate stickers (from the sticker page) on the picture as you reinforce the Bible story.

Talk and Snack

Consider serving a cheese pyramid on the end of a pretzel stick to look like the spear David took from Saul.

While you eat, talk about the Bible story. These questions will help you get started.

- Who crept quietly past Saul's sleeping soldiers?
- What did David's friend want to do to King Saul?
- Why didn't David want to hurt Saul?
- What did King Saul tell David?

Play and Move

Have one child lie down facing away from the other children and pretend to be sleeping. Quietly choose another child to sneak up and tap the sleeping child and rush back to join the others. The sleeping child then guesses who tapped him or her. The child who tapped the other then becomes the next sleeper. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.

Disciple Guide—page 47

Talk with the children about who would lead each group pictured on the page. Have them place the leader stickers from the sticker page near the group he or she would lead.

Learn By Doing—David Went to Saul

(For alternate ideas to reinforce the Bible story, refer to the Additional "Learn by Doing" Activities on page 81.)

Teach your children this song to the tune of *A Sailor Went to the Sea, Sea, Sea*.

*Oh, David went to Saul, Saul, Saul
Who slept with his spear and water jug.
But all that David did to Saul, Saul, Saul
Was take his spear and water jug.*

Pray for People

Pray that your students would be grateful for their leaders.

Lesson 12

Bible Story—The Spear

(based on 1 Samuel 26)

David and his men were hiding from King Saul in the hills. King Saul looked and looked for David. But he couldn't find him anywhere!

One day, some men told Saul just where David was hiding. King Saul took General Abner and 3,000 soldiers to catch David. Saul's men marched all day. That night they were very tired. Soon everyone was fast asleep. King Saul and Abner slept right in the middle of all the soldiers. Saul's spear and water jug were right beside him.

David knew where Saul's soldiers were sleeping. He said to his men, "Who wants to help me sneak into Saul's camp?"

Abishai, one of David's friends, said, "I'll go! I will help you, David." So the two men tiptoed past the sleeping soldiers. They went right to the place where King Saul and Abner were sleeping.

Abishai whispered to David, "Saul is your enemy. He wants to kill you. I'll take that spear and kill him right now. Then he'll never chase you again!"

"No," David said. "We can't do that. God chose Saul to be king. He is our leader. But let's surprise him another way. Take Saul's spear and water jug."

So David and Abishai grabbed the spear and water jug. They tiptoed past all the sleeping soldiers. They climbed up a hill. Then David shouted as loud as he could, "Wake up, Abner!"

General Abner called out sleepily, "Who are you?"

"Your job is to keep the king safe!" shouted David. "You didn't do a very good job. Where are the king's spear and water jug?"

Abner looked around and wondered where they had gone.

Then he looked and saw David holding the spear and water jug high above his head.

King Saul heard David's voice, "Is that you, David?"

"Yes, my king," David answered. "Why are you trying to catch me? I haven't done anything wrong. See, I had a chance to hurt you, but I didn't do it. Please stop chasing me. All I want to do is go home."

Saul hung his head. He was sorry for the mean things he had done to David.

"Send someone to get your spear and water jug," David said. "They are yours, not mine."

"I was wrong to chase you, David," said the king. "I have not treated you fairly. I will go home now and leave you alone. You can come home, too."

The Spear (Summary/Review)

King Saul's soldiers went to catch David. One night, all of Saul's men were fast asleep.

David and his friend tiptoed past the sleeping soldiers. David's friend wanted to kill the king while he slept.

"No," David said. "God chose Saul to be king. Let's take his spear and water jug."

David and his friend quietly crept away. Then David shouted, "Wake up! Look what I have." David held up Saul's spear and water jug.

David told King Saul, "This is your spear and water jug. See, I don't want to hurt you. Please stop chasing me."

"David, I was wrong to chase you," said the king. "I will go home now and leave you alone. Please come home, too."

Disciple Time



Teacher—This special application story complements the Bible story. Select either the narrative or the puppet script on the following page.

Think and Share

After the Dee-Cy-Paul story, talk with your children using these or similar questions.

- Who had come to take care of Cy and his sister?
- What did Aunt Jane and Cy decide to do?
- Who are the most important leaders in Cy's life?
- What did Cy make to show appreciation to his mom?

Review the Bible Story

Read the Bible Story *Summary/Review* or creatively revisit the Bible story with drama, flannelgraph, or one of your own ideas.

Learn By Doing—Spears

Supplies: empty paper towel tubes, construction paper, glue sticks, scissors

(For alternate ideas to reinforce the Bible story, refer to the *Additional "Learn by Doing" Activities* on page 81.)

See activity description on page 81.

Remind the children that David could have hurt King Saul, but instead he just took his spear and water jug.

Pray for Life-Change

Ask God to help your children show respect to the people who lead them.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Following the Leaders"

"Thanks for all your help, Jane," said Mr. Yung to his sister. "I don't know what I would do without you!"

"It's no problem, Jim," answered Cy's Aunt Jane. "I'm glad I could help!"

"See you later, Cy!" called his dad.

"Bye!" Cy waved as his dad left the house. Cy's parents were spending the whole day together alone on a date. So Cy's aunt Jane had come to take care of him and his sister. "So, what are we going to do today, Aunt Jane?" wondered Cy.

"Well, Uncle David's school is having a special Leader Appreciation Day next week," Jane answered. "All the students are making gifts to show their teachers that they appreciate them. I thought that you and I might make gifts for Uncle David to show him how much we appreciate him, too."

Aunt Jane's husband, David, was a teacher. He always had lots of fun stories and activities for his class. "Uncle David is going to get a lot of gifts!" said Cy. "He's a great teacher."

"Yeah, you're right," said Aunt Jane. "Uncle David will get so many gifts from his students, he won't need any more from us!" She thought for a moment. "What about the leaders you know, Cy? Maybe we could do our own Leader Appreciation Day!"

"Yeah—that's a great idea!" Cy agreed.

"Who are your leaders, Cy?"

"Oh, I don't know. I guess my school teacher, Miss Raymond, and my Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Angela," he answered.

"Yes, your teachers are your leaders," agreed Aunt Jane. "But who else?"

"Who else?" repeated Cy. "That's it!"

"Are you sure?" asked Aunt Jane. "I think there are probably a few more leaders in your life."

"Nope, I think that's all," Cy answered.

"Well, what about your pastor?" asked Aunt Jane. "Isn't he a leader you respect?"

"Oh, yeah!" said Cy.

"And his wife takes care of you after school sometimes, doesn't she?"

"Yeah, and Mrs. Shepherd also helps me with my math homework sometimes," said Cy. "She's really good at it!"

"And there's the man who stops traffic when you cross the street on your way to school," suggested Aunt Jane.

"Oh, yeah—Mr. Beaumont, the crossing guard!"

"Does your school have a nurse?" wondered Aunt Jane.

"Yes—she gave me a bandage just last week when I got a paper cut," said Cy. "It was a really bad one!"

"And what about the people who help you more than anybody?" Aunt Jane asked. "Who are the people who help you make decisions and guide you every day?"

"Hmmm.... Who helps me more than anyone else?" thought Cy. "My parents! My mom and dad help me every day!"

"That's right," Aunt Jane said. "Your parents are the most important leaders in your life."

"Well, we'd better get started," said Cy. "We have lots of gifts to make for the leaders in my life!"

"Okay," said Aunt Jane. "Whose gift would you like to make first?"

"I think I'd like to start with one of my favorite people who leads me," said Cy.

Aunt Jane was puzzled. "Who is that?"

Cy smiled. "You!" he answered. "What kind of gift would you like, Aunt Jane?"

"I think you just gave me the best gift you could give, Cy," she said, giving him a hug. "Thanks! Now, how about making some paper flowers for your mom?"

"Great—I'll get the glue!" he said as he ran for the cupboard.



The Spear

David Respects King Saul
1 Samuel 26

Name: _____

David did not hurt King Saul when he had an opportunity to do so.

King Saul's soldiers went to catch David. One night, all of Saul's men were fast asleep.

David and his friend tiptoed past the sleeping soldiers. They found King Saul sleeping.

David's friend wanted to take Saul's spear and kill him.

"No," David said. "God chose Saul to be king. Let's take his spear and water jug." David and his friend quietly crept away.

Then David shouted, "Wake up! Look what I have." David held up Saul's spear and water jug. David told King Saul, "Please stop chasing me. See, I don't want to hurt you. Here is your spear and water jug."

"David, I was wrong to chase you", said the king.

"I will go home now and leave you alone."



#12—David Respects King Saul

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David Respects King Saul - 1 Samuel 26



Parent Partners

Lesson Focus: David did not hurt King Saul when he had an opportunity to do so.

Ways to reinforce this truth with your child:

ASK:

- Who crept quietly past Saul's sleeping soldiers?
- What did David's friend want to do to King Saul?
- Why didn't David want to hurt Saul?
- What did King Saul tell David?

ACT:

- Read the Bible story together (or read the summary on the front of this page).
- Learn the Bible words: **1 Samuel 26:23.**
"David did not hurt King Saul,"
- Plan a way to show appreciation to your child's teacher.