



THE BIG IDEA | We can show others mercy.

SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 24:1-18

So far, we learned about how God helped David be brave by choosing him to become the king, and using David to take down the giant Goliath. Today, we'll see how David showed he was brave by showing mercy and how we can show mercy to others, too.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Look up 1 Samuel 24:1-18 in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!*

In the chapters leading up to today's passage, David had become a hero in the eyes of the Israelites, especially after he fought and defeated Goliath. Saul, who was king at the time, became jealous of David's success and popularity, so much so, that he wanted to harm David. David knew this, so he ran and hid from Saul, and that's where we pick up the story.

- How many troops did Saul send after David?
- Where did Saul and David end up together?
- What did David's men want David to do to Saul?
- How did David respond?
- David could have used that opportunity to get rid of Saul for good. After all, his own life would have been spared. But David chose another way. He showed mercy to Saul.
- How did Saul respond to David?
- Two lives were changed that day: David showed mercy to someone who wanted to harm him and Saul received mercy that he did not deserve.
- The same thing happens when we show mercy to someone. We feel at peace and the other person feels gratitude.

ACTIVITY | Mercy Mosaic

INSTRUCTIONS: Give each kid a four-by-four square of light-colored construction paper. Encourage them to think of ways we can show mercy and compassion to others and write them on these paper squares. Then, make a mosaic by attaching the papers to a poster board or larger piece of paper to remind the kids to show others mercy often.

DISCUSSION

How can you respond to someone who has hurt you?

Read Luke 6:36. How has God been merciful to you this week?

Do you know anyone who needs to be shown compassion? How can you show compassion to them?

PRAYER

Dear God, we are so glad You show us mercy every day. You love us so much and you are very kind to us. God, please help us to show mercy to others.

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)



