



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! You can wear a robe while you read/tell the story for effect.*

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 hurt David. David knew this, so he ran and hid from Saul, and that's where we pick up the story.

- King Saul did not like David.
- King Saul was trying to hurt David.
- King Saul and his men were looking for David in the desert.
- When King Saul went in a cave, David and his men were there hiding.
- But King Saul didn't see David.
- David cut off a piece of King Saul's robe. (*Pretend to cut your robe with your fingers.*)
- David chose to show King Saul mercy. David could have hurt Saul, but he didn't. That is mercy – when you show love, care, and kindness to someone else.
- When King Saul heard David say that David had cut his robe but did not hurt him, King Saul cried.
- King Saul decided that David did something very kind when David showed him mercy.

ACTIVITY | Hide and Seek

INSTRUCTIONS: *Play a simple game of hide and seek with the kids. Talk about how David was trying to hide from King Saul when David was in the cave.*

DISCUSSION

- **Who did David see in the cave in the desert?** David saw King Saul.
- When David chose not to hurt King Saul, David chose to show mercy. David could have hurt King Saul, but he didn't. That is mercy. We can show mercy by being kind even when we don't want to.
- **Did David hurt King Saul?** No, David didn't hurt him.
- **What did David do?** David cut off a piece of King Saul's robe.
- **Did David show King Saul mercy?** Yes, David could have hurt King Saul, but he didn't. David showed mercy. We can show mercy to others, too, just like David did.

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 mercy? How can you show mercy 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)

