



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 4, Unit 11, Lesson 2: David Showed Mercy

**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 24

### Personal Preparation

David's relationship with King Saul was complicated. Early on, David served the king by playing the lyre for him whenever he felt unwell. After David killed Goliath, he became good friends with Saul's son Jonathan. But David's success made Saul jealous. Saul could see that David was rising in popularity. He won victory after victory. In his jealousy, Saul made several attempts on David's life, and David fled to the land of Moab.

David wasn't alone. His family and other men—anyone who was “desperate, in debt, or discontented” (1 Sam. 22:2)—joined David, and he became their leader. About 400 men were with David. Once in Moab, David was instructed by the prophet Gad to return to the land of Judah. When Saul found out David's location, he pursued David, intending to kill him. Yet God protected David from Saul.

As he was pursuing David, Saul stopped to relieve himself. Imagine David's surprise when Saul entered the very cave in which David and his men were hiding. This was David's chance! Saul was outnumbered and could easily be defeated. David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe, but he did not allow his men to hurt Saul.

When Saul left the cave, David followed after him. He acknowledged Saul's authority—“My lord the king!” (1 Sam. 24:8)—and showed Saul the corner of his robe, proof of David's passed-up opportunity. Saul wept upon realizing David's mercy toward him. God had put Saul in David's hand, and David let him go unharmed.

Saul realized God had clearly chosen David to be Israel's king.

David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan. As you teach, point the individuals to Jesus, who also trusted his Father's plan. He died on the cross so his enemies could experience God's mercy and live forever as part of God's family.

Take time to reflect on how God has been merciful to you. Praise him for sending Jesus to die for our sins as his greatest act of mercy. Pray that the individuals would understand God's mercy towards them and rejoice in it.

### Memory Verse

Start the lesson by reviewing the memory verse with the group.

#### Psalm 145:13

*“For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.”*

### Points of Emphasis

1. David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.
2. Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of Kings.

### Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

## Video

We learned that when the Israelites wanted a king, God warned them before choosing Saul as their first king. Saul was disobedient, and as a result, God decided that Saul's family would lose the kingdom. Last week, we learned that God chose David to be king instead of Saul. God gave David the power to defeat Goliath and planned to make David a great king. But in our story today, Saul was still king, and he hated David. Let's learn more.

Play the video for the lesson titled "David Showed Mercy."

## Bible Lesson

Even though David had served Saul loyally, Saul hated David. Saul was jealous of David's success, and he did not want David to be king. Saul wanted to be king, and he wanted his son Jonathan to be king after him. So Saul decided to kill David!

However, Jonathan and David were best friends—practically brothers! Jonathan helped David escape from Saul, and David went into hiding. That's why David was in a cave in the wilderness instead of living in a palace. God had promised that David would be king, but God did not promise that it would happen right away.

While hunting for David, Saul walked into David's cave without knowing David was there. David's men suggested that God had provided David a chance to hurt or kill Saul. But David made a different choice. He chose to show mercy to Saul.

You see, David knew that God's plans and God's timing are best. David didn't want to hurt Saul, whom God had chosen as Israel's first king. David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.

When David approached Saul outside of the cave, he took a big risk. Saul might have said

something like, "Who cares if you showed mercy? I'm still going to kill you!" and called his army to attack David. But God protected David. Saul realized that his anger and hatred were wrong. Saul even agreed with God that David would be the next king!

## Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

## Christ Connection

David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan. Jesus also trusted his Father's plan. He died on the cross so his enemies could experience God's mercy and live forever as part of God's family. The Bible tells us that we are born dead in sin, enemies of God. When we trust in Jesus, we are given new life and adopted as sons and daughters of God! We go from being enemies of God to God's family! That's great news.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on David. Today's episode asks if it's wrong to feel afraid.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Point to where David was hiding from Saul.** Cave
2. **Point to who entered the cave while David was hiding there.** Saul
3. **Point to who showed Saul mercy by not killing him.** David
4. **Point to who shows mercy to us.** God

## Group B

- 1. Where was David hiding from Saul?** He was in a cave.
- 2. What did David do to Saul?** David cut the corner of his robe.
- 3. What did Saul do when David explained what happened?** He wept aloud and said David was more righteous for showing mercy.
- 4. How is David similar to Jesus in this story?** Just as David showed mercy to an enemy, Jesus came to show us the ultimate act of mercy while we were enemies of God. Jesus died for sin and rose again to show mercy to us even though we do not deserve it.
- 5. Do you think God wants us to seek revenge when people hurt us?** The Bible teaches us to love our enemies and do good to those who hurt us. God is good, righteous, and just. We can trust him to end evil someday. We are guilty of sin just as those who may hate us are. Everyone needs Jesus.
- 6. Is it easier to be kind or cruel to people who hurt us?** It's natural to have intense feelings of anger when we are wronged. When we feel angry, we can pray and ask God for help to show his amazing love, mercy, and grace to those who hurt us.

## Group C

- 1. Why did David show mercy to Saul?** David trusted God's plan. God had chosen Saul as Israel's king, and Saul was anointed. The time had not yet come for David to become king, and David did not want to rebel against Saul or the Lord.
- 2. How do we know God is merciful?** Discuss ways God shows kindness to people who have done wrong. Jesus showed mercy by responding out of love to people in need. He healed the sick, welcomed the sinner, and forgave those who killed him. God the Father showed mercy to sinners by sending his Son. Jesus died and rose again to rescue people who need forgiveness from sin.
- 3. What are some ways you could show mercy to someone?** Encourage the

individuals to think of examples that they could carry out with their friends or family members. Prompt them to think beyond forgiving those who have wronged them. Suggest they consider ways they can show love and kindness to people in need.

## Group D

## Advanced Learner

- 1. What does this story teach us about God?** God is merciful. Jesus died on the cross so we—his enemies—could experience God's mercy. God forgives everyone who confesses their sin and trusts in Jesus. In Jesus, we have life forever as part of God's family.
- 2. What was surprising about David's actions?** The men told David this was his chance to do whatever he wanted to Saul. David could have killed him! But David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.
- 3. Why shouldn't we want revenge on people who have wronged us?**
- 4. To whom can you show mercy this week?**

## Prayer

**Lord God, thank you for your Word. We see that David showed mercy even though Saul hated him, and we are reminded of the mercy you show to us. As sinners, we were your enemies! But you loved us and sent your Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. Soften our hearts so we would extend mercy to others. We love you. Amen.**

