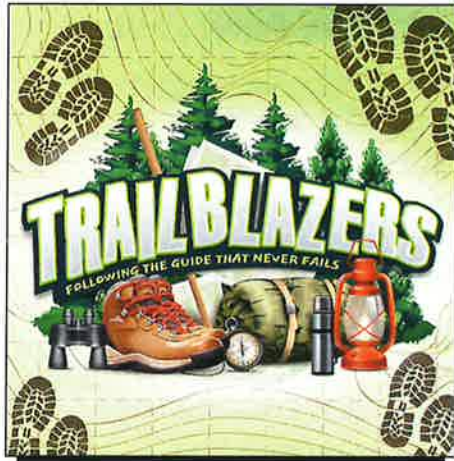




DAVID AND JONATHAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 20

FOCUS VERSES: Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5–6;
Hebrews 10:24

Summary: Saul was still the king of Israel, but God had anointed David to replace him. Saul brought David to live in his house. Saul's son Jonathan and David became best friends and promised to always take care of each other. Saul grew very jealous of David and tried to kill him multiple times. David and Jonathan made a plan to figure out if Saul truly intended to harm David. Jonathan helped David escape. Jonathan was a good friend to David even though that meant he would never be the king himself.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



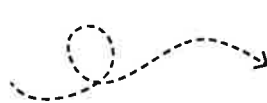
God's plan comes first.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



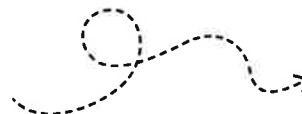
WHY SHOULD GOD'S PLAN COME FIRST?

God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.



DO WE HAVE TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN ON OUR OWN?

God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: OUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. Our words have the power to negatively affect a kid's self-esteem or to encourage them and build up their confidence. Let's be intentional with the words we use, calling out the strengths of each child.

- **Praise publicly, correct privately.** Correction is best done in a quiet corner of the room, out of earshot of others. Public correction can cause shame, which can increase undesirable behavior.
- **Look for ways to say "yes."** "Yes" is a powerful word. While there are times we must say no, look for opportunities to respond with a yes or use a positive response. For example if a kid wants to get out the toys, instead of saying no, which can result in a power struggle, reframe your response with, "yes, we will play with the toys after large group."
- **Call out the good in each kid.** Kids who have difficult behavior often receive negative feedback everywhere they go, which can impact their beliefs about themselves. Be the one to point out the unique gifts that God has given them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: CHOOSING FRIENDS

Research shows that 20 percent of elementary-age kids have difficulty making or keeping friends. Friendships are crucial for kids' social development and mental health. In today's lesson, kids will learn about David and Jonathan and their commitment to God and to each other. You may have kids in your group who struggle with having close friends. Some kids choose friendships that are not healthy. You can help kids begin to create a definition for Godly, healthy friendships. Your group can be a safe place for kids to develop friendships. Utilize "Belong" experiences to help kids connect with each other and discover similarities. When kids work in partners or groups, help pair them in varying groups so they have the opportunity to know others. Most of all, help kids understand that great friendships help them grow closer to God.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Anoint: chosen by God for a special job

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Providence: God's active involvement in the world today

Bible TEACHING

DAVID AND JONATHAN 1 SAMUEL 20



PRAY: God, thank You for this powerful story of two friends who put Your plans first. Help us learn from them and choose Your way over our own. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages

PREP:

Print the printable pages.

Ask for three volunteers to come to the front. Have one hold the "God's Way" sign, another hold the "Their Way" sign and the third hold the arrow, standing between the two signs.

Say: Some people in our story chose to follow God's way, while others chose their own way. Each time we come to a choice, point the direction you want the arrow to face. The arrow will turn the way most people choose.

Say: God had used judges to lead the Israelites, but they demanded a king. Were the Israelites choosing God's way or their way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel, but soon after, Saul disobeyed the Lord. God told Saul that he would lose the throne. Did Saul choose God's way or his own way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: God sent Samuel to anoint a shepherd boy named David to be the next king.

Say: David killed a great giant and saved the Israelite army. Afterwards, he became famous in Israel, and Saul brought him to live in his home.

Say: David and Saul's son, Jonathan, became best friends.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Show teaching illustration: Jonathan and David Become Friends

Say: As the son of the king, Jonathan should be the next king. But Jonathan understood that God's plan was for David to be king, and Jonathan put God's plan first by giving up his right to be king. Did Jonathan choose God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "God's way."

Say: David made a covenant with Jonathan, promising to always protect his family. Did David choose God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "God's way."

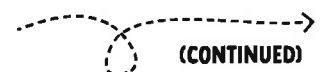
Say: As time went on, Saul grew very jealous of David. One day, David was playing the harp for him when Saul became angry and hurled his spear at David. David dodged it and was not harmed. Do you think Saul was choosing God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: Jonathan talked to his father and told him that David was not a danger. Saul promised not to hurt him, but the next time David was playing the harp, Saul threw his spear at David again! This time, David left the house. Do you think Saul was choosing God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: Jonathan still did not believe that his father really wanted to harm David, so the friends made a plan. David would hide in the field during an important dinner. Jonathan would watch Saul's reaction to determine if Saul actually wanted to hurt David. Jonathan would then have a servant shoot arrows into the field. If he said, "The arrows are to the side of you," David would know he was safe. If Jonathan said, "The arrows are farther ahead of you," David would know he was in danger.



Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: At the meal, Saul became extremely angry when he saw that David was missing. He yelled at Jonathan, "Don't you know that as long as David is alive you can never be king!"

Say: This time Saul threw his spear at Jonathan.

Say: Jonathan hurried to the field. He told the young boy with him to go out into the field and shot an arrow ahead of him as he ran. Jonathan yelled to the boy, "The arrows are farther ahead of you!" signaling to David to escape. Did Jonathan choose God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "God's way."

Show teaching illustration: Jonathan Puts God's Plan First

Read 1 Samuel 20:41–42 directly from the Bible: *And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.*

Say: Jonathan put God's plan first and protected David, even though that meant he would never be king. David escaped from Saul.

Say: Eventually David became the rightful king of Israel, just as God had promised.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Not only was David the king of Israel, but God promised him that the throne would always belong to his family. One day one of his descendants would be the forever King who would always be on the throne. That descendant was Jesus. God's perfect plan was to send Jesus to rescue us from our sins.



GOD'S WAY



THEIR WAY

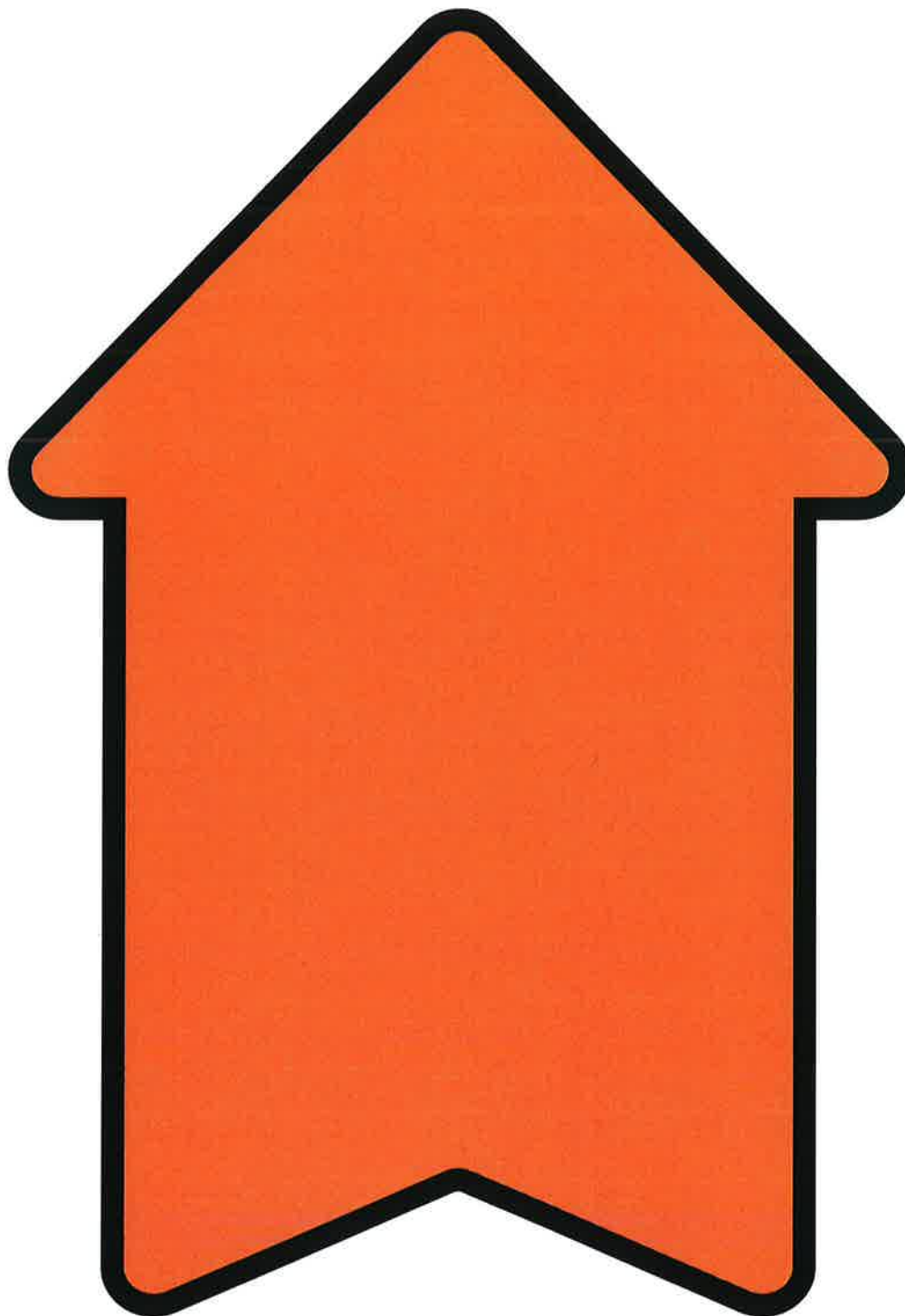


BIBLE TEACHING

ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 3 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable pages.



Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

FIND A FRIEND

SUPPLIES: None

OR

BETTER TOGETHER

SUPPLIES: Timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

HELP ME

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, scissors, blindfold (1 per 2 kids)

OR

GOD'S PLAN IS UNSTOPPABLE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper, writing supply

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

BUILD A COMMUNITY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, LEGO® bricks (several per kid), permanent markers (1 per kid)

OR

PRAYER SCRAMBLE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, worship music, music player



FIND A FRIEND

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Adjust the number of kids in each group and the tasks as needed to best fit the size of your small group.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with attention problems, support by giving them the number to find and then what they should do in the group. You could also repeat expectations repeatedly.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God never fails. How have you seen this week that God hasn't failed you?
4. **Say:** Let's work together with our friends to complete some challenges.
5. *Invite kids to scatter around your space. Explain that you will call out a number and a task, then they are to group together in that number and successfully complete the tasks.*
6. **Numbers and Tasks:**
 - 5—Make a star shape laying on the floor using your bodies.
 - 2—Sit on the floor back-to-back and stand up without using your hands.
 - 3—Hold hands and sing "Ring Around the Rosey."
 - 4—Play leapfrog.
 - 7—Group hug.
7. **Discuss:** Was it easy to complete the tasks with your friends? Why or why not? Could you have done any of these tasks alone?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

In today's story, we are learning about some best friends who really worked well together to follow God's best plan.



BETTER TOGETHER

SUPPLIES:

Timer

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Strategically divide kids into groups with stronger peers who could naturally assist.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God never fails. How have you seen this week that God hasn't failed you?
4. **Discuss:** Do you prefer doing things with others or by yourself?
5. **Say:** Let's think of things that you can't do by yourself but have to do with other people. In groups, you will have one minute to come up with as many activities as you can think of. Keep track of how many activities you came up with!
6. *Divide kids into four groups.*
7. *Start a one-minute timer and help kids brainstorm in groups as needed.*
8. *If kids need help, ask the following questions and tell kids they can list each specific game or activity, e.g., soccer, football, monopoly, uno, catch.*
 - What sports do you need to play with others?
 - What board games do you need to play with others?
 - What card games do you need to play with others?
 - Other ideas: give a hug, have a conversation, partner dance, put sunscreen on your back, carry something heavy.
9. *Once the timer has gone off, invite each group to share what they brainstormed and how many activities they came up with.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Doing things alone is good, but doing things with others can be so much more fun! Today we are learning that God gave us people to help, encourage and strengthen us.



HELP ME

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, scissors, blindfold (1 per 2 kids)

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Print the printable page and cut out (1 per 2 kids).

LEADER TIP: Rubber band or paper clip each verse set to make prep easier.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with hearing and vision needs, support by allowing them to write words or use their preferred mode of communication.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God accomplish His plan for David to be king? What impossible thing did God accomplish?
3. **Discuss:** If God has a plan for us, what does this verse tell us about God's ability to accomplish that plan?
4. **Discuss:** Why should God's plan come first?
5. **Say:** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.
6. **Say:** Let's play a game to practice our verse! You will need a friend because you won't be able to do this on your own!
7. **Say:** I will give each pair a set of the words of the verse. One partner will put on a blindfold and the other partner will mix up the verse words and then help their partner put the verse words in the correct order. You can only direct your partner by speaking.
8. *Divide kids into pairs and pass out a blindfold and verse set to each pair.*
9. *Give kids time to complete the activity, and then have the pairs switch roles and do the activity again.*
10. *Recite the verse together as a group.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God has a good plan for us. Our verse reminds us that God will accomplish the plan He has for us. Nothing is impossible with Him!



GOD'S PLAN IS UNSTOPPABLE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, paper, writing supply

PREP:

Write "God's Plan" on the paper.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow extra space and time for specialized equipment or buddy them up with a familiar friend to assist.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids on one side of your space and stand on the other side holding up the "God's Plan" sign.*
2. **Discuss:** How easy would it be for you to walk to this sign?
3. **Say:** Looks easy to just walk right on the path to God's plan for your life. But let's consider David's life. God had a plan for David, but Saul tried to stop that plan.
4. **Discuss:** Did Saul stop God's plan? How did Saul try?
5. **Discuss:** Why should God's plan come first?
6. **Say:** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.
7. **Say:** Let's put some obstacles in the way to get to God's plan.
8. *Choose a handful of kids to become obstacles in the path, e.g., one kid lays down so kids have to jump over them; two kids make a bridge that kids have to go under; two kids stand side by side that kids have to go around.*
9. *Have kids walk through the obstacle course one at a time. You can swap out the kids who create obstacles with others so all kids can walk the course.*
10. *Point to the "God's plan" sign.*
11. **Discuss:** Did God's plan change because there were obstacles?
12. **Say:** His plan isn't affected by all the things that might seem like obstacles in our life, because God's plan is most important and He will make it happen.
13. *Lead kids to find Jeremiah 29:11 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
14. **Discuss:** What does this verse say about God's plan for our lives?
15. **Discuss:** How does knowing that God has a good plan for you help you?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God promises that He has a plan for us. His plan is most important and He will make it happen.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: How can scholars prove that a person really existed long ago?

Say: One way scientists learn about people from long ago is through archaeology. Even though King David existed thousands of years ago, there is archeological evidence of his existence. Excavations in Jerusalem have uncovered many structures that date to the time when David was king, as well as artifacts that point to David and his family. For example, a rock fragment called the “Tel Dan” was found in 1993 with the inscription “House of David.” These archaeological discoveries give us strong support that what we read about David in the Bible is true.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... CHOOSING FRIENDS?

Discuss: Share about how you met your best friend.

Discuss: What are some characteristics of true friends?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: Friendships are very important and are a gift from God. We can all think of friends who have helped us in many ways. But you can likely also think of friends you have had who have gotten you into trouble. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says: *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”* In other words, if we spend a lot of time with people who aren’t living like God wants them to, we are likely to end up not making great choices as well. Our friends influence us a lot, so it is important that we spend time with people who help our relationship with God. It is hard enough to follow God’s plan in our lives. Imagine how much easier it would be if you had a friend group who encouraged that? Show love to all people, but be picky in who your closest friends are.



BUILD A COMMUNITY

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, LEGO® bricks (several per kid), permanent markers (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: Nail polish remover can be used to remove marker from the bricks.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids with fine motor needs may have difficulty writing on bricks. Assist by providing hand-over-hand assistance and encouragement to persevere.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Did David have to live out God's plan on his own? Who helped David?
2. **Discuss:** Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?
3. **Say:** God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.
4. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 10:24 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Say:** This verse reminds us that it is so important to encourage each other!
6. *Give each kid a pile of bricks and a permanent marker.*
7. *Challenge kids to think of people who help them follow God's plan. Ask them to write one name on each brick.*
8. *Once they have each brick with a name, challenge them to build something out of their bricks that represents who they are as a person, such as something that represents their hobbies, families or favorite things.*
9. *After they are finished, invite kids to share what they designed and a little about the people who have helped them follow God.*
10. **Discuss:** How have these people helped you follow God's plans? How does God help you follow Him?
11. *Lead kids to find Proverbs 3:5-6 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
12. **Discuss:** What are some ways we can pray for each other to trust God's plan?
13. **Pray:** God, thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Help us remember that Your plan comes first. You will make it happen because You never fail. Amen.
14. **Say:** God's plan comes first. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



PRAYER SCRAMBLE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, worship music, music player

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids who are sensitive to sound, headphones can be helpful during this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Did David have to live out God's plan on his own? Who helped David?
2. **Discuss:** Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?
3. **Say:** God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.
4. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 10:24 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Say:** This verse reminds us that it is so important to encourage each other!
6. *Invite kids to mingle around your space while you play the music. When the music stops, they will find a partner to pray through the prayer prompt. Continue starting and stopping the music until all the prompts have been prayed for with new partners each time.*
7. **Prayer prompts:**
 - Pray that your partner will feel the love of God.
 - Pray that your partner will trust God's plan even when it's hard.
 - Pray that your partner will have good encouraging friends.
 - Pray for any impossible situations your partner is facing.
8. **Discuss:** Why do we need to pray for others to follow God's plan? Who is someone that you know prays for you? How does prayer for others help them?
9. **Say:** Our church is filled with people who love you and want to help you put God's plan first. Just like David had Jonathan, God has given you friends and adults who can help you grow closer to God.
10. *Pray for the entire group, mentioning each kid by name.*
11. **Pray:** God, thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Help us remember that Your plan comes first. You will make it happen because You never fail. Amen.
12. **Say:** God's plan comes first. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



HELP ME

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out (1 per 2 kids).

FOR

NOTHING

WILL

BE

IMPOSSIBLE

WITH

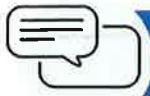
GOD.

(LUKE 1:37)



CUSTOMIZABLE **PREP:** Print the printable page and cut out (1 per 2 kids).

(LUKE 1:37)



TAKE-HOME

DAVID AND JONATHAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 SAMUEL 20 Saul was king, but God chose David to replace him. As David lived with Saul, Jonathan became his closest friend. When Saul grew jealous and tried to kill David, Jonathan helped him escape, choosing God's plan over becoming king.

POINT TO JESUS: God promised David that the throne would always belong to his family. One day one of his descendants would be the forever king who would always be on the throne. That descendant was Jesus. God's perfect plan was to send Jesus to rescue us from our sins.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*For nothing will be
impossible with God.*

(LUKE 1:37)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!

?

**WHAT IS ONE THING THAT MADE YOU
SMILE TODAY IN YOUR GROUP?**

HE

WHY SHOULD GOD'S PLAN COME FIRST?

God's plan is the most important,
and He will make it happen.

WE

**DO WE HAVE TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN
ON OUR OWN?**

God gives us other people who can
encourage us, strengthen us, love
us, and help us.

HOW IS GOD INVITING

ME

TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

☐ I can talk to God about ...

☐ I wonder ...

☐ I can remember ...

☐ I can ...



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Have each family member use six words to describe a great friend. Challenge each other to be those six words for your friends this week.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Choosing friends can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. britecurriculum.com/tough-topics

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week! Read each passage and answer the three questions.

☐ **DAY 1**

**Read: 1 Samuel 20:1-4,
18-23**

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 2**

Read: 1 Samuel 20:35-42

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 3**

Read: Proverbs 19:20-21

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 4**

Read: Psalm 115:1-3

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

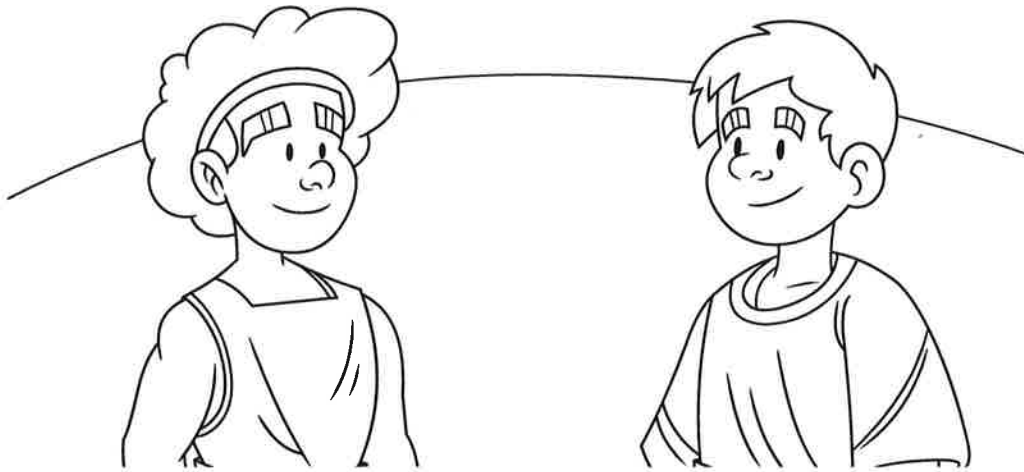
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TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

DAVID AND JONATHAN

COPY THE PICTURE



WORD SCRAMBLE

HANNATOJ

LASU

PEESCA

GRACEENOU

ELIARS

Jonathan, Saul, Escape, Encourage, Israel

SIM GAME

- Find a partner.
- Use different colors.
- Take turns drawing a line from one dot to another.
- The first player to make a triangle in their own color loses!

