



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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 2 pieces of poster board, writing supplies, painter's tape

2**FIND IT IN THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****DAVID AND JONATHAN****(1 SAMUEL 20)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, printable pages

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, 2 sleeping bags, painter's tape

5**LARGE GROUP WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: Welcome, everyone! Let's play a game called This or That. I'll give you two choices. If "this" comes first, go touch the wall with the "This" sign. If "that" comes first, go touch the wall with the "That" sign.

Call from this list:

- What comes first in the morning?
This: Brush your teeth OR **That:** Eat breakfast
- After school?
This: Eat a snack OR **That:** Start homework
- Making a picture?
This: Draw first OR **That:** Pick colors
- Birthday party?
This: Open presents OR **That:** Eat cake
- Recess?
This: Find friends OR **That:** Choose a game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 2 pieces of poster board, writing supplies, painter's tape

PREP:

Write "This" on one piece of poster board and tape it to one wall. Write "That" on the other piece of poster board and tape it to the opposite wall.

ADAPTATION:

For larger groups, have kids stand and point at the chosen sign.

Say: Great choices! Today's story is about two friends who both put the same thing first—God's plan!



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Hiking is hard enough without trying to carry a plant! Isaiah should have never tried to go on that hike.

Discuss: Have you ever had to choose between two sets of plans?

Say: In all things, one set of plans must always be most important. Today's Brite Idea is: God's plan comes first.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Why should God's plan come first?



Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: Joshua Prays & Sun Stands Still

Say: We started this month by learning about the time the sun stood still and how God does what He says.

Show teaching image: Barak Asks Deborah to Come With Him

Say: Two weeks ago we learned about the judge Deborah and how God is victorious.

Show teaching image: God Calls to Samuel

Say: Last week we learned about Hannah and Samuel and how God cares about us.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of 1 Samuel. 1 Samuel is found in the Old Testament between the books of Ruth and 2 Samuel.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Kings" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened during the reign of Israel's first king—King Saul!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on the powerful truth that God never fails.

Say: This week we are learning about a beautiful friendship between David and Jonathan and how God's plan must always come first.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of 1 Samuel. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (1 Samuel 20).

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.

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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.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, 2 sleeping bags, painter's tape

PREP:

Tape a starting line and a finishing line at the front of your space.

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose two volunteers for each question and have them stand at the starting line. Give each player a sleeping bag. After you ask the question, players must climb into their sleeping bags and hop to the finish line. The first one to finish gets to answer the question.

1. **After Saul disobeyed God, who was anointed to be the next king? (David)**
2. **Was Jonathan angry that God chose David to be the next king? (No)**
3. **Who did David promise to always protect? (Jonathan's family)**

4. **Who did Jonathan protect even though it meant he would never be king? (David)**

5. **Why should God's plan come first? (God's plan is most important.)**

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

6. **Do we have to live out God's plan on our own? (No)**

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



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



Why should God's plan come first?

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

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



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.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, Your plan comes first. You are most important, and Your ways matter most. Surround us with friends who love You and encourage, help and strengthen us as we follow You each day. Amen.