

David Plays for Saul

Lesson 1



Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Bible Memory: Proverbs 17:17

“A friend loves you all the time.” (ICB)

“A friend loveth at all times.” (KJV)

Focus: ♥ God wants us to help others.











Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

David is described as an accomplished musician, a brave warrior, one who looks good and speaks well—desirable traits, indeed. But the last description of David in our text is most important: “And the Lord is with him” (1 Samuel 16:18). What a way to be known in one’s community! May God so work in you that this thought comes to the minds of others when they describe you.

Bible Background for the Teacher

Because of Saul’s disobedience, God had rejected him as king. God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem, where he privately anointed Jesse’s son David to be the next king. Notice how God worked through Saul’s ailment to bring David into the king’s court, where David could learn firsthand about government, intrigues, war, and daily life at court. David was free to come and go when he was not needed to serve Saul.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 GETTING STARTED Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore music</i>.</p>	 Quick Step Song Circle  Craft Jingle Circles  Wonder Guest Appearance	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources CD • none • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout puppet, CD player • poster board, scissors, hole punch, yarn, jingle bells, stickers • guest musician
<p>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY Use all these activities to help children <i>tell how David helped Saul</i>.</p>	 Sing & Pray  Bible Time David Plays for Saul  Bible Review  Bible Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources CD, Teaching Picture 1, Resources sheet 1 David and Saul Bible story signs 1a-1d, Resources CD “David Plays for Saul” and Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD player, Bible
<p>3 GROW AND GO Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>name ways they can help others</i>.</p>	 Quick Step Sit and Tell  Art Bible Memory Collage (unit center)  Craft Helping as I Go <p>Closing the Hour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • Make-n-Share for lesson 1 and stickers • Heart Tugs issue 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • unit center posters, magazines, blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks • blunt-tip scissors, washable markers • none

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore music.

Welcome

- Use a Scout puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step Song Circle

SAY: Today we will learn how a young person named David helped someone by playing music. ♥ God wants us to help others. I'm going to ask you to help me as we sing and make music.

Have children stand in a circle. Play “God Teaches Us to Care.” Lead children in singing with Scout. Have Scout applaud. Encourage children to choose other favorite songs about God or Jesus to sing with Scout.

- ASK: We made music. When are some other times you make music?
How did our music make you feel?
How can we use music to help others?**

Jingle Circles

Before class, cut a 5" poster board circle for each child. Punch three holes in each circle. Thread 5" lengths of yarn onto jingle bells. Prepare three bells per child. Make a sample jingle circle to show.

SAY: Today we will learn about a young man who could play beautiful music. He helped people with his music. ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's help one another as we make our own instruments to play.

Give children circles and prepared bells. Show how to thread the yarn through the holes and tie it. Provide stickers for decorating the circles. Guide children in helping others as they work.

- ASK: What is your favorite kind of music?
What are some other instruments that make music?
How can we use music to help others?**

Especially for 4s!

Have 4s help you thread the yarn through the hole. Someone else can help them tie the yarn as they say, “♥ God wants us to help others.”

Guest Appearance

Before class, invite a musician to perform for your class. The musician could be a parent, staff person, or older child who sings or plays an instrument.

SAY: Today's Bible story tells about someone who played music. Our guest will play some music for us now. ♥ God wants us to help others, so let's help our guest by being good listeners.

Have the musician play a song. The musician might also talk about his instrument and how he learned to play the instrument.

- ASK: What kind of instrument did our guest use to make music?
How did the music make you feel?
How can we use music to help others?**

Focus

- ♥ God wants us to help others.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Scout puppet, *Resources* CD track 1, CD player

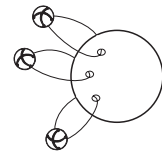


Teaching Tip

Decide beforehand how you will guide children's choices. If a song is one not many children know, ask the volunteer to teach it.

Materials

poster board (or plastic lids), scissors, hole punch, yarn, jingle bells, stickers



Teaching Tip

Instead of bells, help children staple two paper plates together with beans inside.



Because this activity uses smaller jingle bells, even children with sensitive hearing can make a joyful noise!

Materials

guest musician



Offer behind-the-head earmuffs or noise-canceling headphones for children with noise sensitivity. Be sure to inform your guest of these sensitivities so he won't be caught by surprise.

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell how David helped Saul.**

Materials

Resources CD tracks 1 and 4, CD player, Bible, Teaching Picture 1



Materials

Resources sheet 1 David and Saul Bible story signs 1a–1d, Bible



Before Class

Post the signs in three separate areas. Note: 1a and 1d fold back-to-back and will be turned as the story progresses.



Materials

Resources CD track 7 and “David Plays for Saul” printable file, CD player



Materials

Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file, Bible



Sing and Pray

Sing “God Teaches Us to Care” and “A Friend Loves You.”

PRAY: **God, we know that You want us to help others. Please show us ways to do that. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the teaching picture. SAY: **See the musician in this picture? God is using him to help this king. ♥ God wants us to help others. Let’s listen to our Bible story from the Bible book of 1 Samuel, chapter 16 (show 1 Samuel 16), to learn what happened with this musician and the king.**

Bible Time

SAY: **Today we will travel. When someone in our Bible story travels, we will travel too. I’ll say “Let’s travel!” and “Let’s stop.” Let’s practice.** Do so. **Let’s travel.** Move to sign 1a. **Let’s stop.** **King Saul was the king of Israel. Sometimes he didn’t feel well. He was sad. His workers told him to find someone to play music for him, to help him feel better. One worker said he had seen a young man named David play the harp. King Saul sent messengers to get David. Let’s travel.**

Move to sign 1b. **Let’s stop.** **The messengers went to the home of Jesse, David’s father. They asked Jesse to send David to the king. The messengers knew David could help the king. Jesse loaded a donkey with gifts and sent the gifts with David to the king. Let’s travel.**

Move to sign 1c. **Let’s stop.** **David spent much of his time watching sheep in his father’s fields. When David heard that he was needed to help the king, he took his harp and went with the messengers. Let’s travel.**

Move back to sign 1a. **Let’s stop.** **David helped King Saul by playing his harp. Whenever King Saul felt sad, David played his harp. Turn sign 1a to show 1d. Then the king felt much better. ♥ God wants us to help others, just as David helped King Saul.**

Bible Review

Before class, print a copy of “David Plays for Saul” from the CD. Listen to the activity and be ready to lead in the actions.

Play the activity and act out the motions with the children. Talk about the Bible story and ask review questions. Repeat the CD activity if time allows.

ASK: **Why did the king send for David?** (He did not feel well.)

What special thing did David do? (played a harp)

How did David help King Saul? (David played for the king.)

Bible Memory Proverbs 17:17

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

Point to the word *Bible* on your Bible’s cover. ASK: **What does B-i-b-l-e spell?** Allow responses. **Our Bible Memory is from the Old Testament book called Proverbs. Show Proverbs. The words tell about how David treated King Saul. Listen while I read them.** Do so. Have the children repeat the verse with you. Then begin teaching them the motions.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can help others**.

Quick Step Sit and Tell

SAY: **Just like David helped King Saul, ♥ God wants us to help others too. Let's play a thinking game. Think of one thing you like to do. Then we will think of some ways you can use what you like to do to help others.**

Have children take turns telling things they like to do. Guide other children to suggest ways the person telling can use what he likes to do to help others. (Examples: If a child likes to draw, he could make a card to help someone. If a child likes to watch TV, he could watch a Bible story video with a friend who is sad.)

ASK: **What can you do to help others?
Who can you help this week?**

Bible Memory Collage (unit center)

See unit 1 pages for preparing the posters and setting up a unit center.

SAY: **Our Bible Memory talks about friends. Let's cut out pictures of people who might be friends and add the pictures to our first Bible Memory poster. Just like David helped King Saul, we need to remember that ♥ God wants us to help others too, including our friends.**

Guide children to cut out pictures of children who look like they are friends and glue the pictures onto the first poster. Some children may want to draw themselves with a friend and add the picture to the poster. Say the Bible Memory as children work. Point to the words of the Bible Memory written on the first poster.

ASK: **What are some things friends do to help each other?
What can you do to help a friend?**

Especially for 4s!



Before class, cut out pictures for children to glue onto the poster.

Helping as I Go

SAY: **Just like David helped King Saul, ♥ God wants us to help others too. Let's make some cards that will remind us of places where we can help others.** Guide children as they work on their cards. Talk about ways children can help others in each place pictured on the cards. (Suggestions: Put away toys and make beds in their bedrooms. Play nicely in the backyard. Help set and clear the table in the kitchen. Share in the classroom.)

Instruct children to take their cards home and tape them in the appropriate places to remind them to help others. Post one of the church building cards in your classroom and practice helping others.

ASK: **Who are you going to help this week?
What are you going to do to help that person?**

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to find with their children the pictures of things that make music. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

Materials

none



Teaching Tip

Point out talents and traits you see in children. (Example: "Lucy, I've seen how you love to draw. How can you use your talent for someone else?")

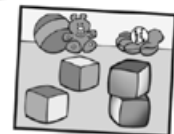
Materials

Bible Memory unit center posters (see unit 1 pages), magazines (or catalogs, store ads), blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks (optional: washable markers or crayons, drawing paper)



Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 1 and stickers, blunt-tip scissors, washable markers (or crayons)



David Plays for Saul

Lesson 1 Extra Hour



Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Bible Memory: Proverbs 17:17

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“A friend loveth at all times.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ God wants us to help others.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

David is described as an accomplished musician, a brave warrior, one who looks good and speaks well—desirable traits, indeed. But the last description of David in our text is most important: “And the Lord is with him” (1 Samuel 16:18). What a way to be known in one’s community! May God so work in you that this thought comes to the minds of others when they describe you.

Bible Background for the Teacher

Because of Saul’s disobedience, God had rejected him as king. God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem, where he privately anointed Jesse’s son David to be the next king. Notice how God worked through Saul’s ailment to bring David into the king’s court, where David could learn firsthand about government, intrigues, war, and daily life at court. David was free to come and go when he was not needed to serve Saul.

Lesson 1 at a Glance—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore music*.



Quick Step
Find the Music



David’s Music



Jingle Music

HeartShaper Materials

- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- *Teaching Picture 1, Resources CD*

- none

Other Materials

- pencils

- cereal boxes, scissors, large rubber bands, CD player
- jingle circles made first hour

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell how David helped Saul*.



More! Sing and Pray



Bible Time—Another Way!

David Plays for Saul



More! Bible Review



More! Bible Memory

- *Resources CD, Teaching Picture 1, Resources CD “David Plays for Saul” and Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable files, Resources sheet 1 David and Saul Bible story signs 1a-1d*

- CD player, Bible, Bible Memory unit center poster prepared first hour, camera

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *name ways they can help others*.



Quick Step
Scout’s Helping Day



Bible Memory Collage (unit center)

Saying Good-bye

- none

- none

- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- Scout puppet, nail, small toy, small blanket

- poster prepared in first hour Grow and Go, blindfold

- none

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore music.

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a name tag.
- Play some upbeat worship music. Give the children instruments and have them organize a parade.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation's policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step Find the Music

SAY: Today we are learning how a young person named David used music to help a king. ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's help each other with a puzzle. We'll find some ways music is used.

Give each child a copy of *Heart Tugs*. Find the ways music is depicted on the Find the Music activity. Have the children circle the items on their pages. Talk about various forms of music that children are familiar with.

**ASK: When do you hear music?
Who can make music?**

Especially for 4s!

With 4s, navigate through the page as a group. Find each musical item together. Circle it on the page. Talk about how the music is made.

David's Music

Before class, cut a round or oval hole in the side of each cereal box. (Tissue boxes will already have holes.)

SAY: Today's Bible story is about a musician named David. Show the teaching picture. David played a harp. Point to the harp in the teaching picture. Let's make and play some pretend harps. ♥ God wants us to help others, so we will work together to make our harps.

Guide children to work in pairs to stretch four or five rubber bands around a box and across the hole in the box to make a harp. Prepare a harp for each child. Play the harp music from the *Resources* CD as children play their harps.

**ASK: What did you like about the harp music? playing the harp?
What instrument does the harp sound like? look like? (guitar)**

Jingle Music

SAY: Today we are learning about a young person named David. David used music to help a king. ♥ God wants us to help others too. Let's help each other follow some directions as we make music with our jingle circles.

Be sure each child has a jingle circle. Guide children to shake the circles, following your verbal directions. (Examples: fast, slow, loud, soft, high, low, in a circle, or in a silly way)

**ASK: How do you like to shake your jingle circle?
What is your favorite type of music?**

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Heart Tugs issue 1,
pencils



Materials

Teaching Picture 1, cereal boxes (or tissue or shoe boxes), scissors, large rubber bands, *Resources* CD track 10, CD player



Extra assistance may be needed for children who lack the strength in their hands to stretch the rubber bands around their boxes.

Materials

jingle circles made first hour (see Jingle Circles)



Teaching Tip

Make several jingle circles before class for children who are only attending this hour.

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell how David helped Saul.**

Materials

Resources CD track 1, CD player, *Teaching Picture* 1, Bible



Materials

Resources CD track 7, Resources CD “David Plays for Saul” printable file, CD player, Bible



Materials

Resources sheet 1 David and Saul Bible story signs 1a-1d



Materials

Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file, Bible, prepared Bible Memory unit center poster (see first hour Grow and Go), camera



Teaching Tip

Be sure your church’s child safety policies allow you to take and post pictures of children. Obtain parental permission if needed.

More! Sing and Pray

Sing “God Teaches Us to Care.”

PRAY: **God, we know that You want us to help others. Thank You for helping us. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the teaching picture.

ASK: **What do you think is happening in this picture?**

What is the musician doing?

Today’s Bible story is from the Bible book called 1 Samuel, chapter 16. Show 1 Samuel 16. It’s about how this musician helped this king.

Bible Time—Another Way!

Before class, print a copy of “David Plays for Saul” from the CD. Listen to the activity and be ready to lead in the actions.

SAY: **Today’s Bible story is about a time when David helped King Saul. David was just a young man, but God used him to help a powerful king. Let’s act out our story with music. Then we will talk about how David helped the king.** Play the music activity from the CD. Go over difficult movements with the children before you begin. Repeat the music activity as you have time. After the music activity, SAY: **David played his harp to help King Saul feel better. ♥ God wants us to help others too.**

More! Bible Review

SAY: **Let’s review today’s Bible story using our signs.** Mix up the signs, and help the children put them in order. Then have them name the person shown and tell why that person is in need of help (the king) or how the person is helping someone (the messenger, Jesse, David).

ASK: **Why did King Saul need help?** (He was not feeling well.)

How did David help the king? (David played music when the king felt bad.)

How did David’s father Jesse help? (He sent David and some gifts to the king.)

More! Bible Memory Proverbs 17:17

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

SAY: **Our Bible Memory comes from the Old Testament book of Proverbs.** Help a child find Proverbs 17:17 in your Bible and point to each word as you read the verse to the children. Then say the verse together. **The first two words are written on this poster: “A friend.” Let’s take photos of our friends to add to the poster.** Take photos of the children signing the word *friend*. As you take the photos, have the children learn the rest of the motions. During the week, have the photos printed and then add them to the poster before your next class session.

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can help others**.

Quick Step Scout's Helping Day

Bring out Scout wrapped in a small blanket, holding the nail and toy.
SAY: **Hi, Scout. You look a little tired.** Scout nods and then rests his head on your shoulder. **Oh, Scout, you are tired!** Scout whispers to you. **Let me tell the children why you are so tired.**

Scout has been helping all day. First, Scout helped the mother in his family. She was hanging a picture, and she dropped the nail she was using. Guess who grabbed the nail and jumped to hand it back? Yes! Scout did! Scout nods and gives you the nail.

Next, Scout helped the father. The father wanted to mow the lawn, but there were toys in the grass. Guess who moved the toys out of the way? Yes, Scout did! Scout nods and gives you the toy.

Scout also helped the girl in his family. She wanted to play house, but she didn't have anyone to be the baby. Guess who jumped into the cradle? Yes, Scout did! Scout nods and gives you the blanket.

Scout helped so much that now he is tired. Let's let him take a nap. Scout waves good-bye. **Scout helped others, and ♥ God wants us to help others too!**

ASK: **Who can you help this week?**

What can you do to help someone this week?

Bible Memory Collage (unit center)

SAY: ♥ **God wants us to help others. Let's play a game using our Bible Memory poster. We'll name ways to help others.**

Show the poster made in first hour. Read the words on the first poster ("A friend"); then say the Bible Memory together. Blindfold a child, spin him around, and guide him to the poster. With the blindfold still on, the child should point to someone on the poster. Take the blindfold off the child. Ask him to name things he might do to help the person who was pointed to. Continue until each child has had a turn being blindfolded.

ASK: **How can you help this person?**

Who else can you help?

Especially for 4s!



If the children do not want to be blindfolded, simply have them take turns pointing to individuals on the poster. The other children can name ways to help the people.

Saying Good-bye

- Play a guessing game. Ask children questions such as, "Today I heard about a dog who helped his people family. Who was it?" (Scout) Give clues from the Bible story and other activities as well.

- Be sure children have projects made in class and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to find with their children the pictures of things that make music. Note: *A Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

Materials

Scout puppet, nail, small toy, small blanket



Children with special needs may identify with Scout as the recurring character in class each week. Use him at a specific time in each session or during a transition time that seems particularly difficult.

Teaching Tip

If you do not have a dog plush puppet, make a stick puppet or a paper-bag puppet, using the Teacher Helps files from the *Resources* CD.

Materials

prepared Bible Memory poster (see first hour Grow and Go), blindfold



Teaching Tip

If the poster was not prepared in first hour, place several people pictures from magazines onto the floor and let children toss beanbags onto the pictures.

Cleanup

Divide the children into pairs to clean up. Remind them they are helping each other as they straighten the room.

