

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

Today’s lesson is the first in a unit of lessons about David. God wants us to help others. You will help children learn that by modeling helpful behavior yourself. Praise children whenever they are helpful. Share ideas of ways they can help you and each other during your time together. Praise God that He made us to help whenever we can. What a wonderful God He is!

Bible Background for the Teacher

Because of Saul’s disobedience, God had rejected him as king. God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem, where Samuel privately anointed Jesse’s son David to be the next king. David was known for both his bravery and the music he played on his harp/lyre. Notice how God worked in getting David into the king’s court, where David could learn firsthand about government, intrigues, war, and daily life at court.

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>	<p> Quick Step Marching Music</p> <p> Musical Hands Craft</p> <p> Happy Songs Music</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 instrument cards 1a-1h • <i>Resources</i> CD Musical Hands printable file • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • scissors, craft sticks, crayons, glue sticks • digital voice recorder
<p>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY Use all these activities to help children <i>tell how David helped Saul</i>.</p>	<p> Sing and Pray Sing & Pray</p> <p> Bible Time David Plays for Saul</p> <p> Bible Review Bible Review</p> <p> Bible Memory Bible Memory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> CD, <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Saul turnaround puppet 1i and 1j and David puppet 1k, <i>Resources</i> CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD player, Bible, 2 rulers, tape
<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>	<p> Quick Step Frowns and Smiles</p> <p> Help a Friend Music</p> <p> Count the Ways Blocks & Buildings</p> <p>Closing the Hour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make-n-Share</i> for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> CD • <i>Teaching Picture</i> 1 • <i>Heart Tugs</i> issue 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blunt-tip scissors, clear tape, paper fasteners, crayons • Bible, CD player • building blocks, bucket • none

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

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

Welcome

- Use a Scamper 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 Marching Music

SAY: Today we will learn about how a young man named David used music to help someone. The Bible tells us that ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's make beautiful music.

Give each child (or pair of children) a card. Talk about what is pictured and what sounds the instruments make. Let children tell the others what their instruments are and what sounds they make. **Let's pretend that we are a band and make beautiful music together!** Encourage children to repeat their sounds as everyone marches around.

- ASK: **Which instruments helped us be loud?**
Which instrument was your favorite?
How can we use music to help others?

Musical Hands

Before class, copy and cut out a pair of hands for each child.

SAY: ♥ God wants us to help others, and with our hands there are lots of ways to do that. In today's Bible story, a young man named David used his hands to play music. Let's make some musical hands.

Give each child hand shapes and two craft sticks. Let children color or decorate the hands with stickers, then glue each hand to a craft stick. Model how to use the hands to clap in time to music or pretend to play various instruments (drums, guitar, harp).

- ASK: **How many hands did God give you?**
How can your hands make music? (by clapping or playing an instrument)

Happy Songs

SAY: Today we will learn about how a young man named David used music to help someone. The Bible tells us that ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's record our voices singing some happy songs that could help others feel happy. Record the children singing songs that they are familiar with. (Examples: "The B-I-B-L-E," "Jesus Loves Me," "Jesus Loves the Little Children") Sing the songs more than once, singing softer, louder, slower, or faster each time. Play the recording for the children to hear.

- ASK: **How did it make you feel to sing these songs?**
Which song do you think would make someone smile?
Can you think of another song that would make someone smile?

Especially for 2s



Many children are just learning the words to these songs but can sing along with a prerecorded CD track with vocals.

Focus

- ♥ God wants us to help others.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Resources sheet 1
instrument cards 1a–1h



Teaching Tip

Laminate the cards to keep them durable throughout the quarter.

Something More!

If you have Internet access, type "free musical instrumental sound effects" in the search engine. Play the sound effects, and let the children match them to the cards.

Materials

Resources CD Musical
Hands printable file,
scissors, craft sticks, crayons (or
stickers), glue sticks



Materials

digital voice recorder
(optional: Resources CD,
CD player)



Teaching Tip

Use your cell phone if it has this capability.

Cleanup

Sing a favorite song as the children help you clean up. When done, ask children to tell what they did to help.

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



Materials

Resources sheet 1 Saul turnaround puppet 1i and 1j and David puppet 1k, 2 rulers (or paint-stirring sticks), tape (or glue)



Something More!

Play the harp music found on the Resources CD, track 10, while telling the story. Keep the music low so it's not a distraction to the children.

Materials

Resources sheet 1 Saul turnaround puppet



Teaching Tip

Use the Bible story music activity "David Plays for Saul" included on the Resources CD.

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: **Dear God, thank You for how You help us learn to help others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

SAY: **Have you ever helped someone? The Bible book of 1 Samuel (show 1 Samuel) tells us that ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's hear about a young man who helped a king.**

Bible Time

Before class, tape the two sides of the Saul puppet back-to-back, with a ruler as a handle. Attach the David puppet to a separate ruler.

SAY: **The Bible, God's special book, tells us about a king named Saul. Saul was feeling sad.** Show Saul's sad face 1j. **King Saul had helpers who wanted to help King Saul feel happy again.** Show Saul's happy face 1i. **The king's helpers told Saul that listening to music might make him feel happy. When the king felt sad again (show Saul's sad face), he asked his helpers to find someone who could play the harp for him in the royal palace.**

One of the king's helpers said he knew a brave young man. This young man knew that ♥ God wants us to help others. His name was David. Show David. **The king sent his messengers to David's home.** Show David. **When they arrived, the messengers asked David's father if David (show David) could come play his harp for King Saul.** Show Saul's sad face. **Do you know how to play a harp?** Hold your arm out, slightly curved, and pretend to strum the strings of your "harp" while making the sound of a harp. Have children do the same. **What beautiful music you are making!**

David (show David) made such beautiful music on his harp that when King Saul felt sad (show Saul's sad face), David could make him feel happy. Show Saul's happy face. **David (show David) played such beautiful music that he was asked to become one of the king's helpers. Whenever Saul became sad (show Saul's sad face), David would play his harp (pretend to play your harp) and the king would become happy.** Show Saul's happy face. **David (show David) helped Saul (show Saul's happy face) because David knew ♥ God wants us to help others.**

Bible Review

SAY: **Let's review how David helped King Saul.** As the children answer the questions, turn the King Saul puppet to reflect their answers.

ASK: **How did King Saul feel at the beginning of the story?** (sad)
When did David play his harp for the king? (when the king was sad)
How did the king feel after hearing David play the harp? (happy)

Bible Memory Proverbs 17:17

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

Hold up the Bible. SAY: **This is God's special book. Let's see what it says about friends who help.** Show Proverbs 17:17. Point to each word as you read. Ask the children to try to say the words with you while you teach them the Bible Memory 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 Frowns and Smiles

Before class, cut out a face and a smile/frown for each child. Put a piece of tape over the X on the mouth pieces to keep them from tearing.

Help children color the faces and attach the smiles/frowns to the faces with paper fasteners. SAY: **Today we learned about how David helped King Saul. ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's think about some ways we can help others.**

Ask children to name times when someone might frown (when sad, hurt, or angry). As children name various situations, ask them to think of ways they could help turn someone's frown into a smile (playing with him, helping him feel better, stopping a fight). Have children use their pictures to show the frowns turning to smiles as they name each situation.

ASK: **Why should we help others?** (because ♥ God wants us to help others)

Especially for 2s!



Let children color on their pictures. Put the smiles/frowns on for them and show them how to change the frowns into smiles.

Help a Friend

Show Proverbs 17:17. Read the verse, pointing to the words as you say them. SAY: **Today we learned about how David helped King Saul. ♥ God wants us to help others. Let's help a friend learn our Bible Memory.**

Pair children and play "A Friend Loves You." Let the partners help each other say the verse. Encourage the children to praise their partners for doing a good job.

ASK: **What does the Bible say a friend does?** (loves you all the time)
Can you say one thing that would help someone?

SAY: **Let's all help our partners now by giving gentle hugs.**

Count the Ways

Use the teaching picture to review the story. SAY: **♥ God wants us to help others. In our story today, David helped King Saul by playing his harp. Let's name and count ways that we can help others.**

Have each child name a way to help someone and then drop a building block into the bucket. (Examples: give someone a drink, help pick up toys, share a the book, color a picture together) After children run out of ideas to share, take the blocks out of the bucket one at a time. Encourage the children to count along with you how many wonderful ideas they had.

ASK: **What was your favorite idea of how to help someone?**
Who is your favorite person to help?

Closing the Hour

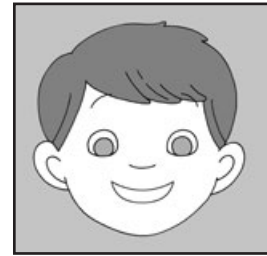
• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to use music as children help around the house. Note: *A Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 1, blunt-tip scissors, clear tape, paper fasteners, crayons (or washable markers)



Materials

Bible, *Resources* CD track 4, CD player



Materials

Teaching Picture 1, building blocks, bucket



David Plays for Saul

Lesson 1 Extra Hour



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.

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Bible Background for the Teacher

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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**
“I Can Help”
-  Helpful Harps
-  Exploring Music

HeartShaper Materials





- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

Other Materials

- none
- tissue boxes, musical note stickers, rubber bands
- various instruments

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

- CD player, Bible, harps made in More! Getting Started

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

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

-  **Quick Step**
Scamper Puppet Story
-  Happy Helpers
-  **Saying Good-bye**

- none
- none
- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- Scamper puppet, self-adhesive bandage
- none
- 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 arrivals, giving each a name tag.
- Gather children to have a music march. Parade around the room while everyone makes their own musical instrument sound.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation's policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step "I Can Help"

SAY: Today we are learning about how a young man named David used music to help King Saul. I want to teach you a special song. It helps me remember that ♥ God want us to help others.

Sing "I Can Help" from today's *Heart Tugs*. Sing the song a second time with the children joining in. Repeat the song, using different forms of music: humming, whistling, playing instruments, and so forth.

- ASK: When do you like to hear music?
How could you use music to help others?**

Helpful Harps

SAY: The Bible tells us that ♥ God wants us to help others. Today we are learning how a young man named David helped King Saul by playing his harp. Let's all make harps so we can play like David did.

Let children decorate their boxes with stickers. Then help them as they carefully stretch three rubber bands over the hole. Print each child's name on his box. When everyone is finished, show the children how to strum their instruments.

- ASK: How do you feel about making music?
What is your favorite kind of music to make?**

SAY: You are a good friend if you help someone. Our Bible Memory says that a friend loves you all the time.

Exploring Music

SAY: The Bible tells us that ♥ God wants us to help others. Today we are learning how a young man named David helped King Saul by playing music on his harp. Let's talk about some other instruments that make music. Show the children each instrument. Allow them to guess what kind of sound it makes. With supervision and direction, allow them to use the instruments.

- ASK: Which instruments were loud?
Which instruments were quiet?**

SAY: Your music makes me feel happy. How do you feel about making someone happy with music?

Especially for 2s!

Demonstrate the sounds that the instruments make. Allow the children to explore the feel of the instruments as you hold them.

Focus

- ♥ God wants us to help others.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

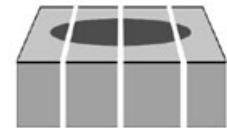
Materials

Heart Tugs issue 1
(optional: musical instruments)



Materials

tissue boxes, musical note stickers, rubber bands



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

Materials

various instruments



Teaching Tips

Remind children to be gentle with the instruments. Do not let them put instruments in their mouths, unless you clean the mouthpieces between each use.

For fun, have the instruments that are pictured on *Resources* sheet 1. Have someone hide and play the instrument, and let the children guess which pictured instrument is being played.

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, Bible



Materials

Teaching Picture 1, Resources CD track 7 and “David Plays for Saul” printable file, CD player



Materials

Helpful Harps children made in More! Getting Started



Teaching Tip

If you did not make harps during More! Getting Started, make them at this time.

Materials

Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file and track 4, Bible, CD player



More! Sing and Pray

Sing “God Teaches Us to Care.”

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for teaching us that You want us to help others. We love to read Your Bible. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SAY: **Do you like to listen to music? I do. It makes me feel happy. The Bible book of 1 Samuel (show 1 Samuel) tells about a time when a young man named David played his harp for a king named Saul.**

Bible Time—Another Way!

Before class, print “David Plays for Saul” Bible story music activity from the CD. Listen to the activity and be ready to lead in the actions.

SAY: **Today we are learning that ♥ God wants us to help others.** Show the teaching picture. **In our Bible story today, we can see how David helped King Saul. Let’s act out our story to music.**

More! Bible Review

SAY: **Let’s pretend that I’m King Saul. Whenever I look sad, play your harps so that I will feel happy.** Make sure each child has his harp. Seat the children in a semicircle in front of you. Begin by frowning, and then smile as the children play for you. When the children stop playing, frown until they start playing again. Stop whenever you sense them starting to get restless. **You all make such beautiful music.**

ASK: **Who in the Bible did not feel well?** (King Saul)

What instrument did King Saul’s helpers think he should listen to? (a harp)

Who in the Bible played a harp? (David)

When did David play the harp for King Saul? (when the king was sad)

What happened when David played the harp for the king? (King Saul felt better.)

More! Bible Memory Proverbs 17:17

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

Show Proverbs 17:17 to the children and point to each word as you read the verse. Teach the Bible Memory motions. Then play “A Friend Loves You.” Have the children do the motions as they sing the song.

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 “Someone Helps Scamper” Story

Before class, put the bandage on Scamper.

Bring out Scamper. SAY: **Scamper, why do you have a bandage?**

Scamper shakes head sadly. **Oh, that’s too bad. I’m glad someone was there to help you. Let’s tell the boys and girls why you have a bandage.**

Scamper was looking for a snack when he saw a little girl riding a scooter. Around in circles she went until her mom called for her to come inside. She did, but she left her scooter on the sidewalk. Scamper nods. **Scamper thought the scooter looked like fun, so he ran over to it. He sniffed it** (Scamper sniffs), **and jumped on!** Scamper jumps. **But scooters aren’t made to be jumped on. It scooted right out from under Scamper.** Scamper “flies” up in the air and lands on his tummy. **He fell and got a little boo-boo.** Scamper lowers his head sadly.

Scamper looked up and saw his friend Jumper running over. Jumper had seen what had happened and was coming back with a bandage. He gently bandaged Scamper’s boo-boo. Scamper was so happy that Jumper had helped him, he came here to tell us this story. Scamper nods excitedly.

ASK: **Why did Jumper help Scamper?** (Scamper was hurt.)

Why should you help someone who is hurt? (♥ because God wants us to help others)

Happy Helpers



SAY: **Today we learned how David helped King Saul. We’re going to play a game that will help us remember that ♥ God wants us to help others.**

Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be “It.” That child should walk around the circle, touching each child on the head as he passes, saying “happy.” When he touches a child and says “helper,” he should help that child up, and they should walk around the circle together. After walking once around the circle, the child who was It should name one way he can help someone and then sit down. The child he chose becomes the new It. Play until everyone has had a turn.

ASK: **How do you feel when you help someone?**

What special book tells us that ♥ God wants us to help others? (the Bible)

Especially for 2s!

With 2s, the teacher should be “it” each time. Play enough times for each child to get a turn at walking around the circle with the teacher.

Saying Good-Bye

- As you wait for parents, repeat the “I Can Help” song from *Heart Tugs*.
- Be sure children have projects made in class and this week’s *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to use music as children help around the house.

Focus

♥ God wants us to help others.

Materials

Scamper puppet,
self-adhesive bandage



Children with special needs may identify with Scamper as the recurring character in class each week. Use the puppet during a time of the day or transition that seems particularly difficult.

Teaching Tip

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

Materials

none



This positive and cooperative version of Duck, Duck, Goose allows children of all abilities a chance at learning how to help others.

Teaching Tip

If you have a smaller class, you can join the circle!

Cleanup

Give groups of two or three children specific tasks to help clean up the classroom. Rotate the responsibilities from week to week.

