

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.

"For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations." Psalm 145:13

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus, thank you for your love and mercy. Soften our hearts so that we can be more like David, showing mercy to those who are unkind to us.
Amen

PRAYER

#1 How is David similar to Jesus in this story?

#2 What does this story teach us about how to treat others that hurt us?

#3 Is it easier to act like David in this story or like Saul?

APPLICATION

DAVID SHOWED MERCY

1 SAMUEL 24

DAVID SHOWED MERCY EVENTHOUGH SAUL HATED HIM

David was hiding in the wilderness. He had served King Saul and won many battles, but now Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him. Saul took three thousand men and went looking for David.

David and his men were hiding in the back of a cave when Saul happened to pass by. Saul decided to go inside. David's men saw Saul and said, "Look! God said He would hand your enemy over to you. This is the day! You can do whatever you want to him!"

David got close to Saul and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe. Saul didn't realize that David was there. David felt bothered about what he had done, and he told his men, "I won't fight the king. God chose him." So David did not let his men fight against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way.

David left the cave and called to Saul, "My lord the king!" Saul turned around, and David knelt low before him. "Why do you believe people who say I'm trying to hurt you?" David asked. "See, God handed you over to me today in the cave. I had a chance to kill you, but I showed mercy." David showed Saul the corner of the robe that he had cut.

"I have done nothing against you," David said. "God might punish you, but I will never harm you. Let God decide who is right and who is wrong. May He protect me from you."

When Saul heard David's words, he cried. "You are more righteous than I," Saul said, "because you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. Most people would kill an enemy, but you have let me go. May God reward you for your kindness."

Saul realized God was with David, and he knew David would be the king of Israel. "Promise me you won't kill my family," Saul said. So David promised. Then Saul went home, and David and his men returned to their hiding place.

