

# Large Group

# October 22

## **Bible Teaching: David and Jonathan**

**Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 20**

### **Bible Teaching Summary**

Saul was still the king of Israel, but God had chosen 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.

**brite\* Idea: God's plan comes first.**

### **Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6b**

*I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.*

### **He Question: Why should God's plan come first?**

God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen. When we put His plan first, we acknowledge that His way is best.

### **We Question: 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. He gives us the church as a community that can serve Him together.

### **Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?**

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

## **Leader Tips: Get Creative**

When it comes to reducing behaviors that are distracting or derailing the group, don't be afraid to try new approaches. For example, if the kids are fidgeting a lot, try inserting a movement break with a few quick exercises or a game of Simon Says. If kids are regularly interrupting each other while speaking, consider using an item to pass that lets the group know whose turn it is to speak or having a code word, such as "Oops" to gently acknowledge the interruption and redirect the conversation. If transitions are hard, try turning it into a game, counting down to see if the group can quickly and quietly prepare for what is next. When we choose to approach redirecting behaviors as an adventure rather than a challenge, we can be creative, are more likely to remain calm, and can remember that the goal is progress rather than perfection.

## **Navigating a Broken World: Choosing Friends**

A 2017 survey revealed that as many as ⅓ of elementary age kids have a difficult time building friendships.\* It is likely that this problem has worsened post-pandemic. At the same time, 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. You may have kids who choose friendships that are not healthy. You can help kids begin to create a definition for Godly, healthy friendships. You can also help your group be a safe place for kids to develop friendships. Look for opportunities to build community within your group by creating a "family" feel. Utilize "Belong" experiences to help kids connect with each other and discover similarities. Consider hosting gatherings for your group outside of church. 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.

<https://www.shadac.org/news/kids-health-data-highlight-difficulties-making-or-keeping-friends-2016-infographic>

# Large Group Experiences Overview

**Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: Large piece of paper (1 per kid participating), markers, video player*

**Find it in the Bible:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

A brief overview of the Bible teaching will go here.

*Supplies Needed: Bible, disposable cups (one per 10-15 kids), paper (1 per kid), large bucket*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

# **SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

## **Kid's Enter**

Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

## **Gather kids into their age groups**

Do the "Belong" activity with the 2 groups

**Play Countdown** when groups are winding down with their "Belong" activity and gather them into the main teaching area

Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos

**Video: "Good Good Father"**

**Video: "Same God"**

**Offering**

**Theme Slide**

Ask all to sit, then teach through "Bible Teaching" section below

# Welcome

**Supplies:** Large piece of paper (1 per kid participating), markers

**Prep:** You can either have all kids participate, partnered with a friend, or pull three pairs of friends up front. Give each participating kid a marker and piece of paper.

**Say:** Today, we are going to test how well you know your friend. The older of the two of you will be answering questions about the younger one. I will ask a question and you will both write down an answer, then we will compare to see if you were right!

*Ask the following questions:*

- *What is your friend's favorite color?*
- *What is your friend's favorite food?*
- *Where was your friend born?*
- *How many pets does your friend have?*

*Compare answers and determine which friends had the most correct answers.*

**Say:** Some of you knew a lot about your friends! Today's Bible story focuses on a special friendship, but before we dive into that, let's check out what's going on with our friends on Sugar Rush.

## Intro Video

*Play the Intro video, then follow the script below.*

**Say:** Gracie had some crazy ideas to put in her state fair plan!

**Ask:** Have you ever planned something that didn't go quite like you wanted?

**Say:** Sometimes things don't go according to our plans, but today's Brite idea reminds us that God's plan is the most important. God's plan comes first.

**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?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

# Find It in the Bible

## What is the Bible?

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

## What is God's Bigger Story?

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned, so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don't do anything to earn it and we don't deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

## Play "These Are The Books Of The Bible" Song video

The video can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwDywQ5gaqM> or on our Brite page.

## Where is today's Bible story?

The book of 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament and is a book of history. It tells the story of Israel's first kings.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of 1 Samuel. Then, show them how to get to today's Bible passage (1 Samuel 20).*

Last week, we learned about Samuel's birth and how God developed him to be a great prophet of Israel. God used Samuel to select the first kings of the nation.

# Bible Teaching: David and Jonathan

**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 20

**Supplies:** Bible, disposable cups (one per 10-15 kids), paper (1 per kid), large bucket

**Prep:** Have kids sit in mixed-age circles of 10 to 15. Place a cup in the center of the circle. Give each child a sheet of paper, and have them crumple it into a paper ball. Have circles spread out enough so it will be extremely difficult for kids to toss paper balls into the cup in the center of their circle. Explain to kids that the cup represents a target, and throughout the Bible story, when you tell them, they'll be making attempts to "hit the target" by tossing their paper ball in the cup from where they're sitting. You can also adapt by having kids up front attempt to throw the ball into one cup instead of having groups participate.

**Say:** God had used judges to lead the Israelites, but the people demanded a king.

**Read 1 Samuel 8:19-20 directly from the Bible,** *But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."*

**Say:** Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel, but soon after, Saul disobeyed the Lord.

*Have everyone make an attempt to "hit the target." After everyone has tried, have them retrieve their paper balls and return to their spots in the circle.*

**Say:** Saul missed the mark, or the target when he disobeyed. God told Saul that he would lose the throne. 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 well-known in Israel and Saul brought him to live in his home. Saul's son, Jonathan, and David became best friends.

**Read 1 Samuel 18:1 directly from the Bible,** *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*



**Say:** As the son of the king, Jonathan should be the next in line for the throne. But Jonathan understood that God's plan was for David to be king. Jonathan gave David his own robe, sword, and armor, showing that he knew God's plan was most important. He gave up his right to being king. David made a covenant with Jonathan, promising to always protect his family.

**Say:** Saul grew very jealous of David. David was playing the harp for him. Saul became angry and hurled his spear at David.

*Have everyone make an attempt to "hit the target." After everyone has tried, have them retrieve their paper balls and return to their spots in the circle.*

**Say:** Saul, again missed the mark—he didn't live in a loving way, as God calls all of us to do. Thankfully, David managed to move out of the way twice. Saul was afraid of David. He knew that the Lord was with David and had turned away from him.

**Say:** Jonathan talked to his father and told him that David was not a danger to him. Saul promised not to hurt him, but the very next time David was playing the harp, Saul again threw his spear at David, trying to kill him.

*Have everyone make an attempt to "hit the target." After everyone has tried, have them retrieve their paper balls and return to their spots in the circle.*

**Say:** Again, Saul missed the mark and sinned by trying to harm David. He was afraid of God's plan. David escaped and left the house.

**Say:** Jonathan still did not believe that his father really wanted to harm David. The friends made a plan to find out how Saul really felt. David would hide in the field during an important dinner. If Saul got very upset that he wasn't there, Jonathan would see that he intended to hurt David. Jonathan would come back and 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.

**Say:** At the meal, Saul became extremely angry when he saw David was missing. He yelled at Jonathan.

**Read 1 Samuel 20:31-33,** *"For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he*

*shall surely die.” Then Jonathan answered Saul, his father, “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death.*

*Have everyone make an attempt to “hit the target.” After everyone has tried, have them retrieve their paper balls and return to their spots in the circle.*

**Say:** And I’m sure you know I’m going to say—Saul missed the mark again. Jonathan went to the field, just as he promised. He had the boy with him shoot arrows and he yelled, “The arrows are farther ahead of you!” signaling to David to escape. Jonathan protected David, even though that meant he would never be king. Because Jonathan put God’s plan first, David escaped from Saul and eventually became the rightful king of Israel.

#### POINT TO JESUS

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.

*Have everyone make an attempt to “hit the target.” After everyone has tried, have them retrieve their paper balls and return to their spots in the circle.*

Like Saul, we also sin and miss the mark. But the good news is, we all can put God’s plan first but by choosing His way over our own and trusting Him as our Savior. We’re forgiven and cleaned, so through Jesus, we can hit the mark.

*Have adult leaders bring around the large bucket so all kids can get their paper balls into it.*

# Bible Teaching: Review

**Watch the Bible Story Review video** and then play the game below.

Have kids partner up. They will answer the question by working together to make a “T” out of their bodies for True and an “F” out of their bodies for False.

1. **David was Israel's first king. (False)**  
*Saul was the first king but disobeyed God. David was selected by God to be the next king, but Saul was still on the throne.*
2. **David moved into Saul's home and Saul grew more and more jealous. (True)**  
*David would play music for Saul, but Saul grew angry and began throwing spears at David, trying to kill him.*
3. **David and Saul became the very best of friends. (False)**  
*David became best friends with Saul's son Jonathan. They made a covenant, or promise, to take care of each other.*
4. **Jonathan gave up his right to be the king by protecting and helping David. (True)**  
*As the son of the king, Jonathan would be the next king. He understood that God's plan was for David to be the next king instead. He put God's plan first.*
5. **Jonathan and David made up a sign using arrows for Jonathan to let David know if he was safe. (True)**  
*The friends made an elaborate plan to determine if Saul was really going to kill David. Jonathan signaled to David with arrows and a helper that David had to escape.*
6. **My plan for my own life should be more important than anything else. (False)**  
*God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen. When we put His plan first, we acknowledge that His way is best.*
7. **God expects us to live out His plan all on our own with no one to help. (False)**  
*God gives other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us, and help us. He gives us the church as a community that can serve Him together.*

# Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** God's plan comes first.

## 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.

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Isaiah 44:6b*

## Teaching Wrap-Up

**HE QUESTION: Why should God's plan come first?** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen. When we put His plan first, we acknowledge that His way is best.

**WE QUESTION: Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?** God gives other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us, and help us. He gives us the church as a community that can serve Him together.

## Prayer

Lord, we thank You that You know how life works best. Help us to always put Your plan first. Help us to live life Your way instead of our own. Help us find friends who point us to You and encourage us to put Your plan first. Amen.

**As time permits...**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

Do the "Believing" activity with the 2 groups

AND/OR

*Do the "Becoming" activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE*

***HAND OUT TAKE HOME SHEETS at end of class***