



Lesson 14

Patience Is Rewarded

Large Group Lesson & Games

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>David Spares Saul's Life</p> <p><i>1 Samuel 24</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four corners or spots in the room labeled A., B., C. and D.• A squishy ball• 40 – 50 small paper cups
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”</p> <p><i>2 Timothy 1:7, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive godly self-control.</p>	



Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

Saul was the King of Israel. He was a good king...until he was not. So, God chose someone else to be king. He chose David. David was going to be king after Saul died.

David started becoming more and more popular. He was a great warrior, and all the people loved him. Of course, that made King Saul jealous. The people liked David more than they liked him, so he went out with his best troops to try and kill David.

On his journey, Saul went into a cave to go to the bathroom. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!

What do you think David and his men did next?

Assign each of the following answers to a corner of the room and invite the children to stand in the corner that corresponds to their answer.

- A. They hid in the corner, shaking with fear.**
- B. David's men pressured David to go and kill Saul.**
- C. They started screaming and crying.**
- D. They charged after Saul with swords and spears.**

B is the answer! "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the Lord is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish."

What do you think David did next?

Assign each of the following answers to a corner of the room and invite the children to stand in the corner that corresponds to their answer.

- A. David struck down Saul in one blow.**
- B. David did nothing and waited for Saul to exit the cave.**
- C. David gave permission to his men to go and kill Saul without him.**
- D. David snuck up on Saul but only cut off a piece of Saul's robe.**

D is the correct answer! So, David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe. But then David's conscience (You know that little voice in our heads that tells us whether we're in the right or the wrong? Yeah, that one.) began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbids me from doing such a thing. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen Saul to be king." So, David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.



After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way...

What do you think David did next?

Assign each of the following answers to a corner of the room and invite the children to stand in the corner that corresponds to their answer.

- A. David ran after and confronted Saul without doing Saul any harm.**
- B. David fell asleep in the cave because he was tired from the day's events.**
- C. David, feeling regret that he missed the opportunity, sent his men after Saul to kill him.**
- D. David asked God to send fire down from heaven to kill Saul.**

A is correct! David came out and shouted after him, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes that isn’t true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, ‘I will never harm the king—he is the Lord’s anointed one.’ Look at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn’t kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been looking to kill me.

“May the Lord judge between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. As that old proverb says, ‘From evil people come evil deeds.’ So, you can be sure I will never harm you. Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a single flea? May the Lord therefore judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!”

When David had finished speaking, Saul called back, “Is that really you, my son David?” Then he began to cry. And he said to David, “You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil. Yes, you have been amazingly kind to me today, for when the Lord put me in a place where you could have killed me, you didn’t do it. Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today. And now I realize that you are surely going to be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will flourish under your rule. Now swear to me by the Lord that when that happens you will not kill my family and destroy my line of descendants!” So, David promised this to Saul.

What an incredible story! When someone seeks to hurt us (or already has) we tend to seek revenge to gain back power. Do you think it required more



power of David to kill Saul, or power to refrain from seeking revenge? Who do you think showed to be the man with more power, Saul or David?

Take student responses.

This is the kind of power God gives us: the power to show mercy to others even when it's really, really, REALLY, hard. We'll talk about this in our small groups today!

Dismiss children to their small groups.



Large Group Games

(25 Minutes)

SILENT SPEEDBALL

Materials needed: A squishy ball

Have all the students form a large circle. Players pass the ball to any player they choose. No one may speak at any time. If the player doesn't catch the ball or drops it after catching it, the player is out and must sit down where they were standing. If the player throwing the ball makes a bad throw (too short, over the head), that player is out. The last player standing wins. Variation: Have students spread out in a playing area instead of a standing in a circle. No one may move from their spot, however.

CUPS UP, CUPS DOWN

Materials needed: 40 – 50 small paper cups

Place all the cups across the floor of the playing area, half facing UP and half facing DOWN. Assign half the students as the "UP" group and the other half as the "DOWN" group. Have students line up randomly around the boundaries of the playing area. On the signal "GO," all the players will turn as many cups as possible either up or down, into the position of their team. When the leader yells "STOP," count how many cups are up and down. The team with the most cups in their position wins the round. Play multiple rounds.

