



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 27

DAVID ON THE RUN (1 SAMUEL 18-19)

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:5-9, 24

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Pool noodles, blanket, bean bag, Goliath bottles from previous lesson, table, balloons, timer, paper, tape

Ask:

- Who remembers what we learned about last week? (David and Goliath)
- Remember that David had been anointed king, but Saul was still the acting king of Israel at the time
- Today, we're going to find out what happened to David.

Read: 1 Samuel 18:5-9

Explain:

Saul doesn't seem too happy with David. Why? (He is jealous).

Much of the rest of 1 Samuel tells the story of David going on the run. Saul no longer just keeps a close eye on David, but decides he wants to kill him. Two times he throws a spear at David, trying to pin him to the wall. Finally, after being warned by Johnathan (Saul's son), David goes on the run.

In the course of that run, David endures a lot. We're going to go through an obstacle course to see some of the things David had to go through.

Obstacle Course Stations:

1. Have a station with a bean bag (stone) and the Goliath bottle from last week. This is the beginning station because this is where Saul's jealousy began.
2. Have the kid weave in and out of pool noodles to represent the spears being thrown at David by Saul
3. Have the kids run to a spot on the ground where they have to shout nonsense for 10 seconds (this represents when David had to live with the Philistines and pretend to be insane)
4. Have a table with a blanket over it that they must crawl through to represent the Cave of Adullam.
5. In between each station, have balloons that they must kick out of the way to represent the many battles David regularly fought against enemies during this time.

Obstacle Course Continued:

You can time the kids if they enjoy the competition, or just have each kid go through it while the others cheer for them.

Read: 1 Samuel 26

Explain:

Even though Saul tried to kill David, even though he hunted him down and chased him for years, David refused to pay back evil with evil. He could have easily killed Saul, but he spared his life. This is actually the second time that David spared Saul's life. The first was in a cave when Saul went to the bathroom. David crept up from deep in the cave and cut off a corner of his robe.

Likely the same spear that Saul tried to pin David to the wall with, David grabbed and did not hurt Saul with it. That is very impressive to me!

Apply:

In life you will meet people that bully you or are mean to you. They may pick on you or hurt your feelings. They may mock you or make you look bad in front of others. The list could go on and on.

I wonder if we could be like David in those situations. David was the rightful king. He was the one anointed by Samuel, and he was mighty in battle. But he didn't use his strength and power to repay evil for evil. He treated Saul far better than Saul was treating him.

Bullies are no fun. And I'm not saying you need to be near them and try to be their friends. Even David ran from Saul. But he never repaid evil for evil. He trusted that God's plans would come to pass, and that God would punish Saul, not him.

We're also called to trust God to deal with our enemies or bullies. Is there someone that you have repaid evil for evil? Maybe someone wasn't nice to you, and you weren't nice back. Let's take a minute to pray for forgiveness and ask God to help us trust that he will take care of our bullies and enemies.

Craft:

Make a paper spear to help remind the kids that we don't need to use the weapons that others are using against us to pay back evil for evil.

See the picture instructions to follow.

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids draw the story of David on the run. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

Memorize: 1 Samuel 24:12

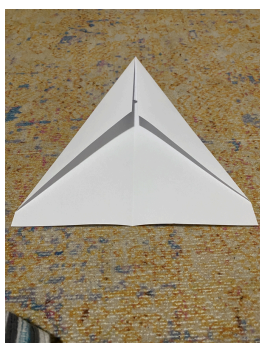
Close in Prayer



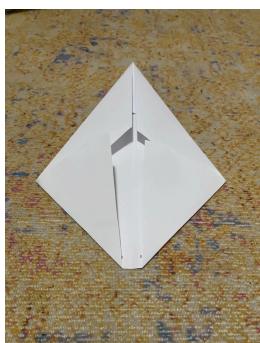
1. Fold the paper in half



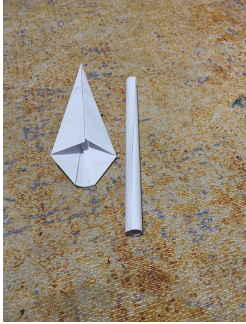
2. Open the paper and fold the top corners down to the center line



3. Fold the outer edge into the center fold again.



4. Mark $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on either side of the center fold at the bottom. Fold the bottom corners up, leaving the space in the middle that you marked.



6. Fold the top sides down once more and tape it on the seam to hold. Roll another piece of paper and tape it on the seam



7. Assemble the spear by inserting the paper roll into the spear head. Secure with tape.



8. Color it if you'd like.

For video instructions, visit:
<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Spear>