

ALLEY SG – October 19-20, 2024

Today's Bible Story: You'd Better Think (David Spares Saul's Life) • 1 Samuel 24

Today's Key Question: When have you had self-control?

Today's Bottom Line: Think before you act.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.*

2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Paper plates (2 per kid), markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid two paper plates and a marker.
- Direct the kids to write "YES" on one plate and "NO" on the other.
- Explain that you will read some statements about today's Bible Story.
 - If they think the statement is correct, they will wave the plate with the word 'YES' on it.
 - If they think the statement is incorrect, they will wave the plate with the word 'NO' on it.
- If the kids wave their "NO" plates, invite them to explain the correct version of the statement.
- Inform kids that there's a catch: they must keep their arms outstretched throughout the entire activity.
- One by one, read each of the Story Statements below, giving kids a moment to respond after each one.

Story Statements

- Today's Bible Story about David sparing Saul's life is found in 1 Samuel. (yes)
- Saul was one of David's closest friends. (no—*They were enemies.*)
- Saul was clumsy and tore his robe when he fell off his camel. (no—*David cut a piece of Saul's robe off.*)
- King Saul was hunting for David to fix his robe. (no—*Saul was looking for David to kill him.*)
- Saul took 3,000 soldiers with him when he went to search for David. (yes)
- David was hiding from Saul in a large tree trunk. (no—*David and his men were in a cave.*)
- David cut off a lock of Saul's hair. (no—*David cut off the edge of Saul's robe.*)
- David's friends told him to kill Saul while he had the chance. (yes)
- The main reason David didn't kill Saul was because he was scared. (no—*David knew that Saul was God's anointed king, and he trusted God's plan.*)
- David showed us a good example of self-control in this story. (yes)
- After the review, congratulate kids for using self-control even though they had to keep their arms up the whole time.
- Invite conversation about the story. Ask:
 - Did David have good reasons to be upset with Saul?
 - How did David show self-control?
 - What would you do if you had the chance to get even with someone?
 - What situations will you face that you'll need to remember to stop and think?
- Inform kids that they can choose self-control by taking time to think, pray, and ask for God's help.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Pens, index cards (one per kid), dry erase board (one per bin), dry erase marker, and a die

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of a time when they showed self-control.
 - Prompt with ideas, if needed, for example: keeping their cool in a situation that made them mad, willingly letting someone else have the last of something they really wanted.
- Give each kid a pen and index card.
- Tell kids to write a short phrase or condensed statement of 5 words or less that describes their self-control example.
 - For example: “kept my cool with sister,” or “let someone else go first.”
- One by one let kids guess each other’s ideas in a word game similar to Wheel of Fortune and Hangman.
 - Invite one kid to draw lines on the dry erase board for each of the letters in the phrase on their card. Leave a clear amount of space between each word.
 - The remaining kids will then take turns rolling a die and guessing a letter.
 - If the guessed letter is in any of the words, the kid at the dry erase board should fill in the blanks wherever that letter occurs.
 - A correct guess earns the kid who guessed the number of points they rolled by as well as another turn. (Tell kids to keep track of their own points.)
 - If a letter that’s guessed is incorrect, another kid can roll the die and take a turn guessing a letter.
 - At any point on their turn, kids can guess the phrase, then roll the die again for additional points if they are correct.
- After a phrase is guessed correctly, invite kids to share the story behind it.
- Repeat the game if time allows, choosing a different kid to write on the board.

3. Discussion Questions

- When have you had self-control?
- When you have the opportunity to get even with someone who has hurt you, what is something you want to tell yourself before you act?
- Why can it be even harder to show self-control when it’s your friends tempting you to make an unwise choice?
- In what ways is Jesus an example of living with self-control?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, pens, balloons, paper (1 per kid)

***Make sure no one in your group is allergic to latex. If so, SKIP the balloons portion of this activity.**

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- Prompt kids to begin writing out the verse.
- Continue until the entire verse has been written by all the kids and discussed.

- **Questions while kids are writing:**
 - Describe something a foolish person might do.
 - When might a foolish person lack self-control?
 - What are some unwise choices we make when we're angry?
 - What are some situations that seem to trigger anger?
 - Describe a wise person.
 - What can we do to keep ourselves under control?
 - What should we do when we mess up, act up, or make an unwise choice?
- After the kids have discussed the verse in its entirety, give each of them a balloon.
- Give each kid a balloon and direct them to inflate it then hold the end so the air doesn't escape.
- Direct the kids to line up, shoulder to shoulder on one end of your group space.
- At your signal, tell kids to let go of the end of their balloons and begin saying Proverbs 29:11, trying to complete the entire verse before their balloon hits the floor.
 - Direct kids to "follow" and retrieve their balloon after it touches the floor.
 - Repeat as desired.
- Ask:
 - How might the balloon remind us of someone who lacks self-control?
 - What can you do to avoid acting like a wild balloon next time you're tempted to lose it?
- Challenge kids to picture their balloons flying around wildly the next time they feel like losing their cool, then choose to take a moment to calm down and think before they act.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...
 "God, thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit to be our Helper. Because of Your power and strength, we know we can **think before you act**. No matter what we face this week, remind us of the opportunity we have to be more like Jesus—whether we're sad, hurt, angry, or even excited! Thank You for wanting to use us to show the world Your kindness and strength. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage each kid to recite the memory verse.