

BIG IDEA:	God wants us to live in peace, so we should avoid taking revenge on others.
BIBLE BASIS:	1 Samuel 23-24, 26, 31
KEY VERSE:	"Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else." 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV)

THE BIG BIBLE STORY—DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

Use the link to video or script below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41vnmcocZ1A>

Early in David's life, he was chosen to be the next king of Israel. He wasn't the king just yet, though. Saul was still the king and Saul had a *big* problem with David.

After David defeated Goliath, David became super popular. The people of Israel loved David even more than they loved King Saul and King Saul was *not* happy about that. He also wasn't happy that David had been chosen to be the next king instead of his son, Jonathan. After a while, King Saul became so jealous that he came up with a plan to kill David. Let me hear you gasp in horror. (*Gasp in horror along with kids.*) David had to do something, and he had to do it *fast!*

David ran away and hid from King Saul in a dark cave. But King Saul was determined to find David and put an end to him. And you know what? He almost did it!

(*Whisper the next few lines.*) King Saul and his army got really close to finding David—they were right outside of the cave where David hid! Then, something crazy happened—Saul had to go to the bathroom. And guess where he went? Inside the cave! (*Stop whispering.*) Saul was all by himself in the dark cave and he had no idea that David was right there.

David snuck up on Saul while he was in the cave and he took out a knife and he carefully, quietly cut a corner off of Saul's robe without Saul even noticing.

When King Saul was finished, he went back outside to his army, but David followed him. When Saul was at a distance, David called out to him and showed him the piece of his robe! It was David's way of showing King Saul that he could have killed him but chose not to. Look at what David said next.

Open Bible to 1 Samuel 24:12 and read aloud. It says, "May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord pay you back because of the wrong things you have done to me. But I won't do anything to hurt you."

When King Saul realized that David had shown him mercy, he cried! Then, he took his army and left without hurting David. Later on, King Saul tried to kill David *again*, and amazingly, David had another

chance to get revenge on King Saul. But do you think he took revenge the second time? (*Kids respond.*) Nope! Even though King Saul kept on trying to kill David, David never took revenge on him. God continued to protect David again and again. And eventually, just as God had planned it, King Saul died in a battle, and David became the next king of Israel.

BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers:

- Where was David hiding?
- What did David do to Saul's robe?
- Did David kill Saul?
- Do you think David did the right thing?

For Younger Kids:

- What was your favorite part of this story?
- Why do you think David didn't take revenge on Saul?

For Older Kids:

- What does this story teach us about God?
- If you were David, would you have taken revenge on Saul?

BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES

Prayer: Write a prayer to God. Tell him you'll do your best not to take revenge when someone hurts you.

Journal: Tell God about all the things you can do to live in peace with someone who hurts you.

Bible: Read it for yourself: 1 Samuel 24. Write to God your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you liked it.

Art: Draw the word "Revenge" in the most creative way you can think of. Revenge is ugly and messy, so make your drawing ugly and messy. When finished, draw a big "X" through "Revenge."