GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

David Chooses Mercy

1 Samuel 24:1-22



YOUR BIBLE READING

Mercy refuses revenge while still taking safety seriously.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Choice in the Cave

1 Samuel 24:1-22



King Saul was searching for David in the wilderness near En Gedi. He had brought soldiers with him, and David's life was in danger. David and his men were hiding inside a cave. A cave could offer shelter, but it could also leave people with very few ways to escape. The men waited in its deep inner part while the king continued his search outside.

Then Saul entered that very cave to be alone. He did not know David and his men were there. The person who had been hunting David was suddenly close by and unprotected. David's men saw an opportunity. They urged him to act against Saul, even describing the moment as though God had handed his enemy over for David to do whatever he wanted.

David crept forward, but he did not attack Saul. Instead, he cut off a piece from the edge of the king's robe. Saul did not notice. The small piece of cloth would become evidence of how near David had been. Yet even cutting the robe troubled David afterward. The chance to strike back had not made every possible action right in his eyes.

David reminded his men that Saul was the king who had been anointed for his position. He would not take Saul's life, and he would not allow the others to attack him either. His decision was more than simply waiting for someone else to act. He used his words to restrain his men. Saul got up and left the cave unharmed, unaware of the choice just made. David had treated the king's life as something he was not free to take.

Remember: I can choose mercy without returning to danger.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Mercy and a Safe Distance

1 Samuel 24:1-22



Once Saul was outside, David came out after him and called to the king. He bowed respectfully. Then he asked why Saul listened to people who claimed David wanted to harm him. David held the piece of robe in his hand. The cloth showed that he had been close enough to attack. Instead, he had chosen to let Saul leave the cave alive.

David explained the difference between what had been possible and what he had done. Other men had urged him to kill Saul, but David had refused. He had not been plotting to take the king's life. Now he asked God to judge fairly between them. David would not pretend that Saul's pursuit was harmless, but neither would he make revenge his answer to the wrongdoing.

Saul recognized David's voice and began to weep. He admitted that David had shown goodness while he himself had done wrong. He could see that David had let an enemy go safely, even when that enemy had been within reach. Saul also spoke of David's future as king and asked him not to destroy his family. David gave his promise of kindness toward Saul's household.

The conversation ended, and the two men went different ways. Saul returned home. David and his men went back to a protected place. David's mercy had not required him to forget the danger or move into Saul's house again. The story allows both things to stand together: he refused to take revenge, and he continued to use a place of safety. A merciful decision could still be a careful one. Distance did not undo his promise, and his promise did not remove the need for protection.

Pause and think: What could a merciful and safe response look like when someone has treated you unfairly?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Mercy Can Be Wise



David's men treated an opportunity as if it automatically proved what God wanted. We can learn to pause before making that leap. Having the power to embarrass someone does not mean we should use it. Knowing a hurtful secret does not make spreading it kind. A good choice considers what is right, rather than asking only what we can get away with doing.

Mercy does not mean that harm is unimportant. If someone repeatedly frightens, threatens, or hurts you, tell a trusted adult and ask for protection. You do not have to meet that person alone to prove you are forgiving. David went back to a protected place. His example helps us see that refusing revenge and keeping a wise distance can belong together.

Think of an ordinary disagreement in which you wanted to get even. Perhaps someone grabbed a toy or laughed at a mistake. A merciful next step might be asking an adult to help, speaking honestly, or choosing not to answer with another insult. Such choices do not make the first wrong acceptable. They keep another wrong from becoming your own response.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Mercy refuses revenge while making room for honesty and safety.

What could a merciful and safe response look like when someone has treated you unfairly?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What did David take from Saul's robe?

2. Where did David go after speaking with Saul?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ David showed Saul the cloth, then returned to safety.
- ☐ David spared Saul and cut only a piece of his robe.
- ☐ Saul entered the cave where David was hiding.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw David holding a small piece of cloth outside the cave.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can choose mercy without returning to danger.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 1 Samuel 24:10-12,22

A thoughtful conversation

Forgiveness and mercy do not require a child to stay near someone unsafe. David did not move back into Saul's household after this conversation.

Activity answers

1. A small piece of its edge.
2. Back to a protected place with his men.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us refuse revenge and choose safe, merciful actions. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 1 Samuel 24:1-22. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 09_1Sa_24_04_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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