

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Don't be controlled
by your anger.**

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV**

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS: - HAPPY NEW YEAR

- NONE

HOST SUPPLIES

- Small Group Leader
- Blindfold
- Beach ball

STORY SUPPLIE

- Two volunteers: one boy, one male
Small Group
Leader
- Prop box containing:
 - Costume armor
(child size)
 - Royal robe
 - Crown
 - Fake Beard
 - A few action figures
 - Backpack
 - Piece of paper that says "Nod
your head,"

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker
Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost
Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing
Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Graves Into Gardens
Week 5 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & The Blessing

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood
David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Don't be controlled
by your anger.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV**

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Self-control—Choosing to do
what you should even when
you don't want to**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Everybody get on your feet! I love it when we come together to sing, move, and give praise to God. I can't wait to see all the things that God will do through us in the year ahead.

AUDIO: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

AUDIO: THE BLESSING

Host enters.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, everyone! I hope you're having a great day so far, because I totally am! I just love hanging out here with all of you. As you may already know, this month we're talking about self-control.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

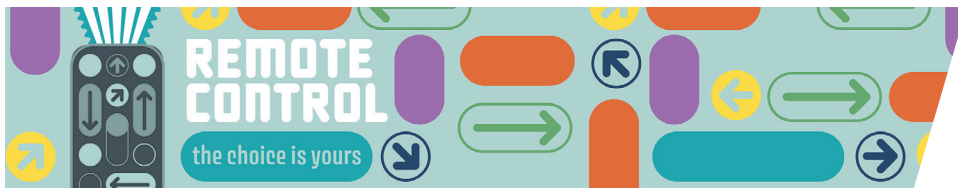
"Self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"It's not always easy to choose self-control. But with God's help, it's something we can all learn to do!

"Today's game will be another fun test of self-control. Are you ready for it? (Pause for response.) Okay, I need one Small Group Leader to join me up front.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Bring up a Small Group Leader and have him/her stand in front of the stage.

(to audience) "In this game, we'll all work as one team. We'll try to get [leader's name] to find and pick up a beach ball in this room. *(Hold up the beach ball.)* The tricky part is that [he/she] will wear a blindfold. *(to leader)* Here you go, [leader's name]—but don't put it on yet!

Give the leader a blindfold.

"Here's the other tricky part—and this is where self-control comes in. We can't use words to tell [leader's name] where to go. Instead, we'll use animal sounds!

SLIDE: ANIMAL SOUNDS KEY

"We'll use this slide so we know what directions we can give to [leader's name] and help [him/her] know where to move next.

Turn around so you're demonstrating actual directions not a mirror image.

"If you want [him/her] to turn to the left *(motion to your left)*, make a lion sound.

Demonstrate with a roar and turn to your left.

"If you want [leader's name] to turn to the right *(motion to your right)*, make a rooster sound.

Demonstrate with crowing and turn to your left.

"If you want [leader's name] to take one step forward, make a cow sound.

Turn back around so you face the kids. Demonstrate with a moo then take a step forward.

"And if you want [leader's name] to bend down and pick up the ball, make a snake sound.

Demonstrate by hissing and picking up the beach ball.

(to leader) "Do you have those sounds and motions memorized, [leader's name]? Okay, you can put on that blindfold. I'll place the beach ball somewhere in the room.

When the leader has the blindfold on, place the beach ball somewhere in the room.

"Now remember everyone, [leader's name] can't see anything. If [he/she] is coming toward you, make sure you move out of the way. Let's use our animal sounds *(point to the screen)* to help [leader's name] find the beach ball. Ready? Here we go!



10 MINUTES

Do the animal sounds along with the kids in order to direct the leader. If the leader has trouble, you may need to remind them what the different sounds mean. It's okay if there's some confusion with left/right turns because of the mirror image effect. Have fun with it!

Celebrate with the leader when they successfully pick up the beach ball. Dismiss the leader to their seat.

"Whoa, you all did a great job of helping [leader's name] find [his/her] way! And I think you might know what's coming next.

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! Today's story is an AMAZING example of self-control in action. And I need your help to tell it. Can I get a couple of volunteers who want to do some acting on stage?"

Choose an older boy to be David and a male Small Group Leader to be Saul. Give David the costume "armor." Give Saul the royal robe, crown, and fake beard (optional).

"Fantastic! Here we have David (reference the boy) and King Saul (reference the leader). David had been chosen by God as Israel's next king. (to the boy) Show me your best king pose, David.

"David" poses.

"Nice! But David wasn't king yet. At this point in time, Saul was still in charge.

Motion to "Saul" to strike a regal pose.

"David served under King Saul. He was a part of Saul's army, and he won many battles. You'd think King Saul would be really happy about that. But actually, Saul was jealous of David. (to the leader) King Saul, let me see you stomp your feet!

Saul stomps his feet.

"King Saul was out to GET David. So, David escaped into the wilderness.

Motion for David to walk to the other side of the stage or the side of the room.

"But at least David wasn't alone. Around 400 men joined him.

Hold up the action figures and backpack and walk to David. Put the action figures in the backpack, and put it on David's back.



25 MINUTES

“David had some friends there to help him. But I imagine he was pretty angry at King Saul for making him have to constantly run away and hide!”

DAVID ON THE RUN

STORYTELLER: “Saul heard that David and his men were camped in the Desert of Maon. Saul was like, ‘You know what? I’m the king. I’m awesome!’

Flex your muscles, then nod to Saul to do the same.

“‘I’m going to go get David, once and for all.’ So, Saul took soldiers to chase David and his men.

Run in place while facing David, then nod to Saul to do the same.

“Just as Saul closed in on David, he received word that Israel was being attacked! Saul was forced to stop the chase and go deal with the Philistines.

Turn around and run in place while facing away from David, then nod to Saul to do the same.

“David and his men decided to hide out in a safe place near En Gedi. A messenger brought news to Saul that David was there.

Throw the “Nod your head” paper airplane to Saul. Cue him to open it. Saul nods.

“Saul gathered 3,000 soldiers and set out to capture David.”

DAVID’S SELF-CONTROL

STORYTELLER: “David and his men hurried into a nearby cave.

Hand the lantern to David and switch it on.

“Saul was getting very close!

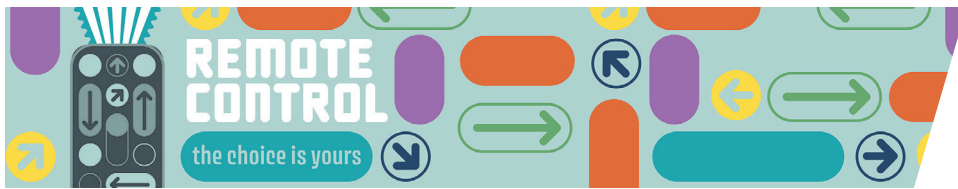
Cue Saul to walk toward David.

“Outside, near the sheep pens, Saul called for his men to stop. He entered the cave because he needed to . . . well . . . go to the bathroom.

Toss the toilet paper roll to Saul.

“David’s men told him, ‘THIS is your chance! You can get Saul while he least expects it!’

“David crept up close to Saul without being seen. But instead of attacking Saul, David simply cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.”



Hand the piece of fabric to David, and cue him to hold it up.

SAUL'S GRATITUDE

STORYTELLER: "David came out from the cave, and he bowed down before King Saul.

Nod to David to cue him to bow before Saul.

"David told Saul . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 24:10-11 (NirV) and read.

"Some of my men begged me to kill you. But I didn't. I said, 'I will never lay my hand on my master. He is the Lord's anointed king.'

Hold up David's arm with the piece of fabric.

"Look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe. But I didn't kill you. See, there is nothing in my hand that shows I am guilty of doing anything wrong.

Cue David to stand back up.

"David wanted Saul to see that he had chosen NOT to attack when he had the chance. Well, guess how Saul responded. He wept!

Nod to Saul to cue him to "weep."

"Saul told David . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 24:17-20 (NirV) and read.

"You are a better person than I am . . . You have treated me well. But I've treated you badly . . . I know for sure that you will be king. I know that the kingdom of Israel will be made secure under your control.

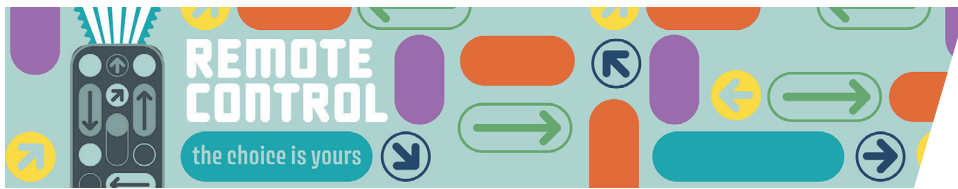
"In the end, David promised Saul that he would not hurt him or his family.

Nod emphatically, and make eye contact with both Saul and David to get them to nod as well.

"Saul took his men and went home . . . leaving David in peace.

"Let's give a big hand to our actors, David and Saul!"

Collect the props and dismiss both actors to their seats.



25 MINUTES

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "That was a pretty amazing story, don't you think? I mean, David had every reason to be angry at Saul. Saul was chasing him and making him live on the run! But when David had the chance to get back at Saul . . . he didn't. He chose to stay in control. He didn't let his anger control his actions.

"That's what we need to remember today.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Don't be controlled by your anger.

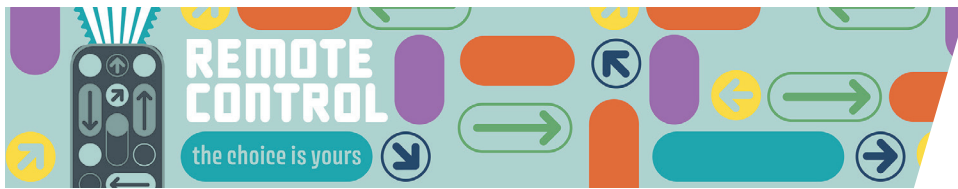
"All of us feel angry from time to time. But we don't have to ACT on that anger. We can choose to have self-control instead. We can find a way to solve the problem without letting our anger control us.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us with that."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for this great example of self-control that we can see in the way David treated Saul. David must have been so angry at Saul for always trying to get him! But he found a way to stay in control instead of letting his anger take over. Please show us how we can control our anger, too. Give us wisdom to ask for help when we feel angry and we're not sure what to do. Thank You for always being with us and helping us choose self-control. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



WEEK
THREE
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “What a story! Imagine what that moment must have been like for David when he had the chance to get back at King Saul—the one who had chased him and made him run for his life! Even David’s men told him that he should take the chance to attack.

“But even though David was angry at King Saul, he didn’t let his anger take over. He made a choice that WE can make, too. He stayed in control, so that no one would get hurt.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Don’t be controlled by your anger.

“The truth is, there WILL be times that you and I feel angry. And anger isn’t necessarily a bad thing. I mean, Jesus Himself got angry from time to time. But Jesus had good reasons to get angry. And so do we, sometimes—like when you or someone you know is treated unfairly.

“The important thing is knowing what to DO when you feel angry. You can learn how to calm down so that you don’t say or do something that makes the problem worse. So the next time you start to get mad, hit PAUSE! Think for a second and ask yourself, ‘What’s the WISE way to respond? If I want to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**, what should I do next?’

“Remember, you can’t rewind the things you’ve done or said. You can’t take them back. So let’s keep control of our anger instead of letting it control us. God will ALWAYS be there to help us.

“Let’s head to Small Group now and talk about how we can stay in control—in any situation!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP