



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What makes you angry?

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

HOST SUPPLIES

- Four volunteers
- 20 "game board spots" – these can be pieces of cardstock, paper plates, or something similar
- Exercise ball
- Cardboard boxes from Week 2
- Oops! My Bad! Action Cards

STORY SUPPLIES

- Numerous volunteers
- Handkerchief

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HAPPY NEW YEAR

- none

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Graves Into Gardens

Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & Way Maker

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Graves Into Gardens

Week 5 - Real Love & Way Maker

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood
David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What makes you angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm excited to worship God with you today.

AUDIO: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

AUDIO: WAY MAKER

Host enters . . .

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (latest Marvel movie, etc.), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: Welcome back to Mission Kids, friends! Let's jump right into it."



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"Anyone like board games? *(Pause for response.)* Is anyone super competitive? Yeah, sometimes I get a little bonkers when I lose—I mean, I know I can't win every time, but I REALLY WANT TO. One of the most frustrating games I've ever played is "Sorry!". Anyone ever play that one? You could be right at the end of the game, ready to enter the safety lane, and someone lands on your guy and sends you back to the beginning and you have to start the whole thing over!"

"And they only thing they say is 'sooo---rry.' Ugh! So frustrating!"

"So, in typical [Name of Environment] fashion, how about some of you come to the stage and experience that amazing frustration along with me. This is the way. Let's play a game I like to call, 'Oops! My Bad!'"

SLIDE: "OOPS! MY BAD!"

Choose four volunteers to join you at the front.

"There are 20 spots on the floor here, marking our 'game board.' Some spots are normal, but some spots will give you an 'Action Card.' You'll have to do whatever the action card says!"

"To begin, each player will take turns throwing the exercise ball at the stack of cardboard boxes. The number of boxes you knock down is the number of spaces you'll move! If you land on the same spot as another player, you have to say, 'Oops. My bad,' and send them back to the beginning! Ready? Let's play!"

Play the game, and whoever reaches the goal at the end is the winner.

HOST: "Hilarious and frustrating all at the same time! Let's hear it for our volunteers! Thanks for playing everyone, and now let's do something that's not frustrating . . . worship! Let's sing!"



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Ahh, board games. I love playing board games! What are some of your favorites?"

Pause for response.

"It's super fun to unplug from the tech for a while and play some "Monopoly," "Ticket to Ride," or "Clue," right? But when it comes to games, whether you're playing them online or at the kitchen table, some games can be *really* frustrating."

"Turn to someone around you and tell them about a time you got really angry while you were playing a video game with yourself or a board game with friends or family."

Allow time. Then, if applicable, share a story of your own when you got frustrated with technology of some kind.

"Games are great, but wow, can games be frustrating. If something doesn't work immediately, like literally instantly, we tend to get super angry super quick! And while getting super angry might feel good in a moment, getting super angry and taking it out on others doesn't ever really work out well for us, does it?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "I'm sure we could come up with a huge list of all the wrong ways to deal with our anger, right? Punch a hole in the wall or take your brother's toy and hide it . . . these are all wrong ways to deal with your anger."

"We all know the *wrong* ways—but what are some right ways to deal with anger? Anger is a natural emotion that we will feel from time to time. If that's true, then the question becomes: how do you channel it? How do you keep your anger from hurting yourself or those around you? These are pretty good questions to think about. When we have good questions to think about, the best place to start is the Bible—even when it comes to questions about our anger. Believe it or not, even the writers of the Bible learned a thing or two about how to respond to our anger. They were people, too, and even got angry sometimes! God inspired them to write down some of these experiences so others could learn from them too."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today that takes us to the book of 1 Samuel. You might know the people in this story already—David and Saul. This is the same David who was anointed to become the next king of Israel and took out Goliath, the Philistine giant, with a rock and a sling."

"At this time, Saul was the king, but he was an inconsistent ruler with massive mood swings. He wasn't the greatest king. In fact, he made a lot of choices that put other people in danger, including David."

"Let me set up what was happening here. I'm wondering if I could get a few volunteers to help me out."

Choose a kid volunteer, someone outgoing and not afraid to make a fool of himself, to join you.



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"Perfect! You'll be Saul!"

"Now, Saul came from a wealthy family. He was very tall and handsome. He LOOKED like a king. Everyone thought he would make a great ruler. [Name of Volunteer], give us a little walk showing how amazing and handsome you are!"

AUDIO: "SOMETHING WONDERFUL"

Encourage the volunteer to strut his stuff.

"Yep, that's pretty much King Saul to a 'T.' Here, Saul, you'll need this for later. Put this in your back pocket."

Hand "Saul" a handkerchief.

Then choose another kid volunteer, someone outgoing and not afraid to make a fool of himself, to join you.

"Now, King Saul was a super jealous person. And one person he was jealous of was none other . . . than David!"

AUDIO: "ORCHESTRAL SUSPENSE CLIMAX ACCENT"

"After David showed no fear in defeating Goliath, he enlisted in Saul's army. Even though he was young, he was gifted on the battlefield. David even won several big battles. In fact, he did so well that the people cheered for David more than they did for Saul! While they cheered for Saul . . ."

Hold a hand over Saul's head, encouraging the large group to cheer.

". . . they cheered even louder for David!"

Hold a hand over David's head, encouraging the large group to cheer loudly.

"Saul . . ."

Hold a hand over Saul's head, encouraging the large group to cheer.

"David. Saul, David. Saul, David."

Hold a hand over David's head, encouraging the large group to cheer loudly. Go back and forth quickly a few times between the two of them to get the kids to alternate cheering loudly and softly.

"You get the picture. The people loved David, and Saul got extremely jealous! He looked right at David. Right in his face. And he was overcome with such extreme jealousy!"

AUDIO: "SOAP DRAMA"



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Let this track play for a good 10-15 seconds.

“Saul was so jealous of David and so afraid that David would take over his throne and become more popular than him that he decided that there was only one thing to do. He had to kill David!”

AUDIO: “DRAMATIC MOMENT ORCHESTRA STING”

“Saul decided to take action. David and his men were camped in the Desert of Maon. [Name of Volunteer], find three others and go make camp somewhere in the room!”

AUDIO: “BAD GUYS ROLL IN”

“Saul decided to take his own soldiers and chase after them! [Name of Volunteer], find three others and go chase after David!”

AUDIO: “ASSEMBLY LINE”

The kids run after one another for a moment, then stop them.

“Stop right there! Big news just came in! As Saul and his men were closing in on David, Saul received word that the Philistines were attacking Israel. He had to give up the chase and head back home to deal with the attack! [Name of Volunteer], stop the chase and head back to where you started! However, David and his men hid out in a safe place near En Gedi. Quick! Find a good hiding place!”

AUDIO: “CARTOON ACCENT: DETECTIVE SUSPENSE”

“A messenger brought the news to Saul about David’s hiding spot. We’re told that Saul was so enraged that he hadn’t caught David yet that he took 3,000 men to swarm where David was hiding. The goal was simple: scare him out of hiding, capture him, and put him to death! David caught wind of this, and hurried to hide in a nearby cave!”

Encourage David and the other volunteers with him to find another hiding spot.

“Now, here’s where the story gets interesting. Saul and his men were looking all over the place for David, but couldn’t find him. (*Encourage the volunteers to act this out.*)

AUDIO: “DRAMATIC UNDERWATER VIBRAPHONE TONE”

“Saul then told his men to halt and wait for him for a moment. Saul then crept into the very same cave where David and his men were hiding. Thankfully for David, Saul didn’t see them! In fact, Saul only went in there for one reason. Anyone have a guess why Saul went into the cave?”

Optional: take a few guesses from the kids.

“Well, actually . . . Saul . . . had to go . . . to the bathroom.”

“It’s true! Listen to this right from the Bible. I’m not making this up.”



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Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 24:3-4 (NIRV) and read.

"[Saul] came to some sheep pens along the way. A cave was there. Saul went in to go to the toilet. David and his men were far back in the cave. David's men said, "This is the day the LORD told you about! He said to you, 'I will hand your enemy over to you. Then you can deal with him as you want to.'""

"Basically, David's men were telling him that God had delivered Saul into his hands! Instead of Saul killing David, now David was in a position to kill Saul, take the throne, and put an end to Saul's reign!"

"David was angry that Saul was trying to kill him. He was frustrated that the king he had served was turning on him in such a nasty way. If anyone had a reason to be totally angry, it was David! Maybe he should listen to his men and take Saul out!"

"But that's not what David did. Instead, while Saul was busy doing his business . . .

Ask the volunteer for the handkerchief sticking out of his back pocket.

". . . David crept up behind him. Instead of attacking him, David cut off a small piece of his robe, and then returned to where his men were hiding.

Have the volunteer take the handkerchief from you.

"Saul never noticed. I guess he really had to go badly."

"After Saul was finished, he went back out and joined his men. Then David came out and confronted Saul!"

AUDIO: "DRAMATIC MOMENT ORCHESTRA STING"

"David called out to Saul!"

Wait for the volunteer to call out to Saul.

"Then David bowed low. He lay down flat with his face toward the ground."

Wait until the volunteer bows low.

"Listen to what David said here. It's pretty amazing."

AUDIO: "SOMETHING WONDERFUL"

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 24:10-13 (NIRV). Read this next passage very dramatically and over the top as the music plays.

"This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD handed you over to me in the cave. 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



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king." Look, my father! 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. I haven't turned against you. I haven't done anything to harm you. But you are hunting me down. You want to kill me. 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. People say, "Evil acts come from those who do evil." So, I won't do anything to hurt you."

Stop the music.

"David might have been frustrated and angry. David had the chance to give into his anger, get even, and take out Saul. Instead, he honored Saul because Saul was still the king. Saul, moved by David's words, started weeping very loudly.

Wait until the volunteer weeps very loudly. Then open the Bible to 1 Samuel 24:16-21 (NIRV). Read it very dramatically again, while the music plays.

AUDIO: "SOMETHING WONDERFUL"

"My son, David. . . . You are a better person than I am," he said. "You have treated me well. But I've treated you badly. You have just now told me about the good things you did to me. The LORD handed me over to you. But you didn't kill me. Suppose a man finds his enemy. He doesn't let him get away without harming him. May the LORD reward you with many good things. May he do it because of the way you treated me today. I know for sure that you will be king. I know that the kingdom of Israel will be made secure under your control. Now make a promise in the name of the LORD. Promise me that you won't kill the children of my family. Also promise me that you won't wipe out my name from my family line."

"And then we can imagine they did their most famous secret handshake."

Wait while Saul and David figure out a handshake. Then, acknowledge all of the volunteers that helped with the story.

"Ladies and gentlemen, give a big round of applause to all of our volunteers!"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "David made that promise to Saul. Even though David had every reason in the world to take his anger out on Saul, he didn't let the anger take over. Instead, David paused."

"Lots of things can make us angry, right? Someone borrows something and doesn't give it back—or even worse, takes something of yours without asking. Someone says something that hurts your feelings. Or you can't make it past a level in your favorite video game. Pretty much every time you get angry can be boiled down to something not going the way you want it to go."

"So instead of losing your cool and letting your anger get the better of you, just pause. Wait. Think about the wise way to respond to the situation. Ask God to help you have self-control. With God's help, you can take control of your anger instead of letting it control you!"

"You know, Jesus Himself got angry. He even flipped over tables because of how He saw people taking advantage



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of others. He had good reasons to get angry. And so do we sometimes—like when you or someone you know is being treated unfairly. However, it's never a reason to completely lose your self-control. God can help you discover ways to control your anger and not make the situation worse."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As you head to Small Groups, think about this question:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What makes you angry?" What things really get under your skin? Can you pinpoint certain things, or situations, or people that just push your buttons and make you lose it? You'll talk more about this in Small Group, but before you head out, let's pray. Let's ask God to help us recognize these situations, to help us find out what things make us angry and then ask for His help to keep control of our emotions instead of having them control us. Let's pray."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP