

PERSEVERE

God Story:

David and Saul | 1 Samuel 25-31

Big Idea:

God helps us persevere in doing the right thing.

Key Verse:

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart. | 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

Find ways to weave the Big Idea into conversation with the students each week. All month long, look for opportunities to highlight that God will help us keep going even when we feel like we cannot.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **7 minutes**
Introduce the concept of perseverance by talking about times when the students did something that felt as if it took forever.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes ***
Read a variety of real-life scenarios the students may face, then prompt them to share whether they'd persevere or give up.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

Ms My Story

- 4. Application Activity** **12 minutes ***
Review the Key Verse for this series. Act out the story of David sneaking into Saul's camp (1 Samuel 26).
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **10 minutes**
Explain that David's story is a mini version of God's Story, then read Hebrews 12:1-3. Wrap up in prayer.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal** **2 minutes**

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Make sure the students understand what the word "persevere" means (e.g., to continue trying really hard for a long time, showing determination, dedication, and endurance).

Instructions:

- As the students arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask:
 - Have you ever done something that felt as if it took forever? Or maybe you were going somewhere and it felt like you would never arrive? What happened?
 - How did you feel when you had to keep on going? Did you make it in the end?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce this week's Big Idea: **God helps us persevere in doing the right thing.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Masking tape

Before the Activity:

- Before the students arrive, tape a long line on the floor in the middle of your group's space.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone to stand on the taped line.

- Explain that one side of the line represents persevering, while the other side of the line represents giving up.
- Read aloud the bullet points below, pausing after each one to allow the students to move to a side of the line (persevere or give up):
 - You've worked for hours on a science project that isn't quite finished. It's almost midnight and it is due tomorrow. What do you do?
 - Your parents asked you to clean your room. It feels like it's been forever and you've only picked up the clothes off your floor and made your bed. What do you do?
 - You've been learning piano for years and you're practising for a big exam. It's been hard but passing it would be a huge accomplishment. Your parents say it's up to you if you want to keep going. What do you do?
 - You were feeling pretty darn good about yourself because you finished a big project two days early. You decided to bring it to school early, but on the way, you trip and it lands in some mud. What do you do?
 - You've had a best friend since kindergarten, but you're both starting to like different things and it's hard not to grow apart. What do you do?
 - You're reading through the entire 66 books of the Bible. You've read 50 of them but find some difficult to get through. What do you do?
- If time permits and the students are interested, make up your own scenarios.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Instructions:

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (David and Saul | 1 Samuel 25-31)
 - Life Story (Kids and youth share about what motivates them to do the right thing...or not!)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Ask:
 - How do these stories and today's Big Idea (**God helps us persevere in doing the right thing**) connect?
 - Do you have a story from your own life that also connects?



4. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Bibles
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pens
- Markers
- Masking tape

Instructions:

- Hang or hold up the Key Verse sign.
- Review 1 Samuel 16:7 together.
- Explain that learning verses can be hard. However, it's worth it because having them stored in our minds is helpful as we journey through life.
- Let the students know they'll be acting out the story of David sneaking into Saul's camp (1 Samuel 26).
- Invite the two most eager students to play Saul and David. Also assign the roles of Saul's sidekick Abner, David's sidekick Abishai, David's spies, and the Ziphites. Others can have non-speaking roles as armour-bearers. Someone could also act as a narrator or do sound effects.
- Give the students some time to decide how they want to act out the scene. Everyone's lines can be paraphrased. Prompt the group to emphasize the main point of the story (David's refusal to harm Saul and Saul's repentance). Challenge them to fit in today's Big Idea (**God helps us persevere in doing the right thing**).
- Encourage them to use the supplies to prepare simple props (e.g., helmets, shields, spear, water jug).
- Guide everyone to act out the story.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- Read aloud the following:

For years, David persevered in loving Saul. David's story is a mini version of God's Story: the whole Old Testament is about God persevering in loving his people. Time after time, they abandoned him and followed other gods. God kept calling them back.

It's hard to keep doing the right thing, but thankfully, God is perfect in his love and patience. In fact, God wanted to show his love not just to Israel but to the whole world! That's why he sent Jesus to die and save us from sin.

Even though we still sin and hurt God and others repeatedly, Jesus died for us (Hebrews 7:27). His love is the perfect example of perseverance in doing the right thing. The book of Hebrews in the New Testament encourages us to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross." If we keep our eyes on him, we "will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:1-3, NIV)!

- Ask the students who prayed for an enemy during last week's lesson if they've had an opportunity to show love to them since then. Encourage them to persevere and pray for that person again!
- Invite everyone to share about situations they'd like God to help them persevere through.
- Close in prayer together.



6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses cards

Instructions:

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.