

# 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:

Look for ways to weave the Big Idea into conversation with the kids. Highlight that God helps us persevere even when we feel like we cannot keep going.

## Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**  
Lead into today's lesson by discussing what perseverance means, then introduce the Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**  
Test the kids' perseverance with a physical challenge. Crown the winner the king or queen of your group!

## Gs God Story Ls Life Story

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

## Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes \***  
Guide the kids to consider times when they need God's help to persevere. Describe the situation on an activity page.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **8 minutes**  
Imagine David and Jesus persevering before inviting everyone to draw prayers for their own perseverance.

## Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**  
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

\* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.





## 1. CONVERSATION STARTER

### Supplies:

- None

### Leader Tips:

- Make sure the kids understand what perseverance is. Provide examples that are relevant to them, such as "I wanted to give up on learning how to tie my shoelaces, but I had perseverance and I kept going until I finally learned!"
- Be ready with examples from your own life to get the conversation rolling if needed.

### Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
  - What does the word "perseverance" mean?
  - What's another word or phrase that means perseverance? (e.g., determination, persistence, dedication, endurance, keeping at something for a long time, continuing to try really hard)
  - Have you ever had to persevere in doing the right thing through something difficult? What happened?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce the Big Idea: **God helps us persevere in doing the right thing.**

## 2. INTRO ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Bibles
- Plastic crown

### Leader Tip:

- If everyone in your group is mobile and in good health, another perseverance challenge possibility is to see who can do jumping jacks the longest.

### Instructions:

- Give each person a Bible.
- Explain that the kids are going to try to persevere in a physical challenge.
- Direct everyone to hold their Bible straight up in the air above their heads. They can only use one hand during the challenge.
- To help pass the time, lead everyone to sing "Jesus Loves Me" or recite this month's Key Verse together.
- Do a funny coronation and place the crown on whoever holds up their Bible the longest. Instruct everyone else to call the winner King [winner's name] or Queen [winner's name] for the rest of the lesson.
- To wrap up, tell the kids that in today's God Story, David perseveres in doing the right thing even when it's very difficult for him. His perseverance made David a really good choice to be king!



### 3. WEEKLY VIDEO

#### Supplies:

- Video file

#### Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video.

#### Instructions:

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (David and Saul | 1 Samuel 25-31)
  - Key Verse segment
  - Life Story (Kids and youth share about what motivates them to do the right thing...or not!)
- Recap the video. Discuss:
  - What happened in the God Story?
  - What was the Life Story about?
  - How do these two stories and today's Big Idea (**God helps us persevere in doing the right thing**) connect?



### 4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

#### Supplies:

- Big Idea activity pages
- Markers
- Pens

#### Leader Tip:

- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.

#### Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss: How did David persevere in doing the right thing? (he didn't hurt King Saul even though he had the opportunity, because David knew that it was the right thing to do)
- Give each person an activity page.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can reach them easily.
- Help the kids read the fill-in-the-blanks section on the page ("I need God's help to persevere in doing the right thing when...").
- Assist them with writing their answers as needed.
- Direct everyone to draw a picture of the situation.
- After a few minutes, invite the kids to share their work with the rest of the group.

## 5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Paper
- Markers

### Instructions:

- Remain in your small group.
- Direct everyone to spread out so that no one is touching. The kids can sit or lay on the floor. Encourage them to close their eyes and be quiet.
- Ask everyone to listen as you read the following:

We talked a lot about David this month. He was a shepherd, a musician, and a king. The Bible tells us that he was a man after God's own heart. And David was the great-great...plus a lot more greats...great-grandfather of Jesus! Can you picture David?

Now, picture Jesus. He persevered when things got tough. Remember his friends, the disciples? Imagine them all learning from Jesus as they sit around a dinner table with him.

The night that Jesus was going to be arrested and killed on the cross, he took his disciples to a garden to pray together. Imagine them praying in a garden. The disciples were very tired. They fell asleep! But Jesus didn't. He persevered. He was tired but he kept on praying. Jesus knew he was going to be killed on the cross. He didn't have to allow it to happen, but he did because he loves us so much.

Jesus persevered and did the best thing for us!

- Ask: Is there a situation that's tough for you?
- Give each person a piece of paper and markers.
- Encourage them to draw or write a prayer to God asking for help to persevere.
- To wrap up, pray, "Dear God, help us all to persevere when things are difficult. Help us to remember the way that David persevered, and especially the way that Jesus did. In his name we pray, amen!"

## Os Our Story

## 6. DISMISSAL

### Supplies:

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

### Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.
- Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.