

Level 6, Quarter D

Additional Activities

After God's Own Heart

1. David's Courage

Today's Courageous People (10 minutes)

This newspaper activity highlights current examples of courageous people. **Supplies:** current newspaper

Bring in newspapers and let the children look through the papers to find articles that highlight someone who acted courageously. Have kids read the article to the group. Discuss what motivated the person to act courageously. Let them suggest how they might have handled the situation. End by praying for the person in the news story.

Charades (10-15 minutes)

This game actively portrays facets of bravery. **Supplies:** paper

Before class, write each of the following phrases on a piece of paper.

Phrases:

- meet head-on
- stand up to
- go eyeball-to-eyeball
- speak up, stand up and be counted
- come to grips with, face the music
- take the bull by the horns, throw caution to the wind
- take one's life in one's hands.

Give each child a slip of paper. Have them act out the phrase. When someone correctly guesses the phrase, let that child act out a phrase. When the phrases have all been acted out, let kids act out anything related to courage or bravery.

2. David's Comrade

Ups and Downs (10-15 minutes)

This art project enables students to creatively show they care for their friends. **Supplies:** blank note cards or blank colored paper, markers, glitter glue, stickers, gel pens, etc.

Have each child create two cards to send to a friend. One card should be an "up" card, rejoicing in the friend's latest success. The other should be a "down" card, offering comfort when the friend is discouraged. Suggest Bible verses that could be written on the cards.

Encourage kids to keep these cards readily available and be sure to send them at the appropriate time. It would be ideal to send both cards to the same friend. This would let the friend know the true depth of the friendship. If this is not possible, children should feel free to send the cards to whomever they think would be touched by their sentiment.

Puppet Play (15-25 minutes)

This puppet skit fosters an opportunity for the class to share what they've learned with a younger group of kids. **Supplies:** variety of puppets

Divide the kids into groups of two to four people. Pass out the puppets and allow them to create short skits demonstrating the concept of "true friendship." Have them present their skits to a younger group of children.

3. David's Challenge

Wanted Poster (5-10 minutes)

This art project challenges kids to explain details about Saul's pursuit of David. **Supplies:** large paper and markers

Set out paper and markers. Encourage the kids to work alone or in small groups to create a wanted poster that Saul might have created to try to capture David. Children should include details from the Bible passages. You may want to hang the posters in the hallway or on a bulletin board.

Corrie ten Boom (10-20 minutes)

*This real life biography encourages kids to seek God during their darkest times. **Supplies:** The Hiding Place or brief biography of Corrie ten Boom*

Read excerpts of Corrie ten Boom's trials and distresses as recorded in *The Hiding Place* or read a brief biography from a Christian website. During her months spent in a concentration camp, there were many times when the only thing that kept Corrie going was her faith and trust in God. Many "small" miracles helped make it easier to get through those horrible days and months in the prison camp. Students will be amazed and encouraged by the way God protected Corrie during her darkest days.

4. David's Compassion

Intriguing Interviews (10-15 minutes)

This drama activity reviews key points learned from the lesson.

Divide students into pairs. Assign each group to a different personality from today's Scripture text (i.e. David, Abigail, Nabal, Saul, a servant, Abishai, Abner, etc.). Each group should construct a brief interview to be presented to the class with one person acting as the reporter and the other person acting as the Bible personality. Encourage students to use their imaginations to make their questions and answers as realistic as possible.

Comic Strips (10-15 minutes)

*This art activity illustrates what kids have learned from the Bible passage. **Supplies:** paper, markers*

Give each child a blank piece of paper. Kids can divide the paper into four to six frames to create a comic strip format. Let them choose to work alone or in small groups and assign one of the three chapters (1 Samuel 24—26) to each child of group. Children should illustrate the events of the story and add text. Display the comic strips where others can see them.

5. David's Coronation

Pieces of the Puzzle (15-25 minutes)

*This hands-on activity engages children to see the reward for patience. **Supplies:** one or more puzzles of medium difficulty*

Divide your kids into several small groups. Work at completing the puzzles. Don't let the students see the picture of the completed puzzle. As the kids work, discuss how there will be a reward (seeing the picture) after patiently working. Relate this to how David continued on, even though the "picture" he saw didn't make sense to him. Eventually, he saw that in God's timing and own way, the picture was revealed. Let kids draw parallels to our lives, with the individual pieces being individual events, and the completed puzzle being God's ultimate purpose for our lives.

Writing a Lament (10-15 minutes)

*This creative writing activity encourages kids to express their emotions. **Supplies:** paper, pencils*

David wrote two laments that appear in today's Scripture passage (2 Samuel 1:17-27 and 3:33-34). Talk about the deep emotions David must have felt as he mourned the loss of Saul and Jonathan. Have children think of losses they have experienced. (Students may not have experienced the death of a loved one, but other losses are just as real. Loss of friendships, pets, family ties, etc. all bring feelings of sadness.)

Allow kids to write their own laments. Assure them that their feelings are personal and that they will not be forced to share them in class. If some students want to share their laments, give them an opportunity to read their laments to the group.

6. David's Covenant

Ark of the Lord (10-30 minutes)

*This research project helps kids understand the significance of the Ark of the Lord. **Supplies:** Bible reference books*

Bring in a variety of Bible study tools and reference books. Let the kids research information about the Ark of the Lord. Many details can be found in Exodus 25:9-22; 37:1-29; Numbers 4:19-20.

7. David's Conquests

Victory Song Titles (10-15 minutes)

*This research project explores hymns and praise songs of victory and God's power. **Supplies:** hymnals or songbooks*

Borrow several hymnals or songbooks used by your church. Have pairs of kids look through the hymnals and songbooks to find song titles containing one or more of the key words: power, victory, might, battle, army (write the words on the board). See which group can be victorious and find the most titles in the five-minute time limit. Then ask each group to read a verse from one of the songs. You may want to choose to sing together one of the more popular songs.

Mephibosheth (10 minutes)

This creative thinking exercise reviews information learned about Mephibosheth.

Discuss the mercy shown to Mephibosheth and why David's kindness towards the man was so unusual. Write the name "Mephibosheth" down the side of the board. Have students contribute phrases or words that begin with the letters and relate to his life and the mercy shown to him by David. Example: M—mercy shown because of David's promise to his father; E—everyone in his father's family was dead; etc.

8. David's Crimes

Modern Illustration (10-15 minutes)

*This creative writing activity highlights modern illustrations that would point out a person's sin. **Supplies:** paper, pencils*

Nathan the prophet used the illustration of a sheep to get David to realize that he had sinned. David had been a shepherd, so sheep was a great way to speak directly to him. Think about yourself. If Nathan the prophet were to speak to David today, what kind of illustration would work? Write a short example of a modern illustration to point out someone's sin to them. Then write a personal illustration. What type of illustration would speak directly to your heart? Write a brief illustration from Nathan to you.

I'm Sorry (10 minutes)

This drama emphasizes the importance of the heart's attitude when confessing.

Let the kids have fun seeing how they can say the words "I'm sorry" with different tones, facial expressions, or actions that go against the spoken words of confession.

Lead a discussion about how frustrating it is when someone says the words "I'm sorry" but sounds or acts like the person doesn't mean it. Let children tell how they feel when someone does that to them. Then talk about how God isn't fooled by our words, because he sees our hearts.

9. David's Conflicts

Advice Column (10-15 minutes)

*This creative writing activity encourages kids to imagine ways David could have avoided family conflict. **Supplies:** paper and pencil, advice columns from a newspaper*

Bring in several examples of advice columns (with appropriate subject matter) from newspapers or magazines. Have kids write an advice column to David. Let the class share their columns with the class.

Picture This (10-15 minutes)

This group discussion helps children solve conflicts within families.

Supplies: magazine pictures of families

Hold up a picture of a family that appears to be in unity. Let kids create a story line about the happy family. Then ask someone to create a conflict in the story. Let volunteers continue telling the story with the conflict. Finally, have the class figure out an ending to the story that brings the family back to unity.

If you have time, pass out pictures and let students write their own stories.

10. David's Competitor

Three Cheers (10 minutes)

This vocal activity helps kids understand the keys to seeking good advice.

Lead a discussion about the keys to seeking good advice. Then let each child find a partner. Together the kids will use the letters in the word "ADVICE" to make up a cheer that children can remember. Use an acrostic format and make the lines rhyme, if possible, for easier memorization.

Psalm 1 (10 minutes)

This Bible activity familiarizes children with the good advice found in Psalm 1.

Have the class open their Bibles to Psalm 1. Divide the class into three equal groups. Assign each group to present Psalm 1 to the rest of the class in a different way. Let the class read Psalm 1 together in unison to become familiar with the words. Discuss the meaning and answer any questions the kids might have about the passage. Then assign: group 1 will pantomime (no talking allowed), group 2 will create a short song using the main points of Psalm 1 (kids can use a pre-existing tune), group 3 will make a rap song. Let each group present to the class.

11. David's Conduct

Conduct Collage (10-15 minutes)

This art project reminds students of good character traits to exemplify. **Supplies:** magazines, scissors, glue, poster board

Have the class create a collage encompassing good conduct and character traits. Cut out letters to spell the words and glue them to the poster board. Overlap when necessary for a fun, jumbled look. Display the poster on a bulletin board or in the hallway.

Character Skits (10-15 minutes)

This drama activity illustrates examples of ways kids can show godly character.

Have the kids work together in pairs to create a brief "situation skit" about something kids their age would do or encounter. As each pair presents the skit, they should stop before bringing the skit to a close. The class should come up with two possible endings, one demonstrating godly conduct, and the other showing a lack of integrity.

12. David's Conclusion

A Lifetime with God (15-30 minutes)

This group discussion encourages children to want to fellowship with God their whole life. **Supplies:** elderly guests

Invite one or more older people to share with your class. Ask them to talk about who God is to them, how that has changed over time, and what He has done for them during the course of their lifetime. Encourage them to share specific stories of God's work in their lives. Have the class make a special handmade card thanking them for sharing.

Plus 50 (10 minutes)

This group discussion speculates about their relationship with God in fifty years.

Ask kids to imagine themselves fifty years in the future. Calculate what year that will be on the calendar and how old your children would be. **Imagine what God will mean to you in fifty years. What kind of relationship do you hope to have with the Lord? What kinds of things will He have done in your life?** Have students share their thoughts with the group.



4. *XYZ*

5. *XYZ*

6. *XYZ*