
Bible Point

God helps us obey him.

Bible Verse

It is the Lord's battle, not ours (adapted from 1 Samuel 17:47b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- practice following directions,
 - hear about good things that happened when David followed directions,
 - discover what happens when they don't follow directions, and
 - ask God to help them follow directions.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ David follows his father's directions.

**1 Samuel
17:1-22**



This was a time of war. The Philistines were gathered on one side of a valley and the Israelites on the other. It was a time of confusion for Israel. Saul, who had been a mighty warrior and powerful leader, had chosen to go his own way. He had disobeyed God, and God's Spirit had departed from him. We even read that he was troubled by a tormenting spirit (1 Samuel 16:14). So Saul didn't have strong confidence or faith in the Lord.

David was serving part time in Saul's court, helping to soothe Saul's spirit with his harp music and serving as Saul's armorbearer (1 Samuel 16:21-23). He also continued to care for his father's flocks, a task that was likely more difficult when David's three oldest brothers joined the war effort.

The Philistine giant, Goliath, had been tormenting the Israelite army with his challenges and taunts for 40 days when David's father, Jesse, decided to send David with some provisions for his brothers. Remember that David was a young man, perhaps still in his teens, when he was sent on this task. He could have been terrified of what might happen to him and refused his father's request. But instead, David did precisely what his father directed him to do and delivered supplies to his brothers on the front lines of battle.

Prayer

- Read 2 Timothy 2:15.
- Consider how well you're following God's direction in your life.
- Pray: God, help me to follow you carefully and closely. Help me to move beyond knowing what to do to doing it. When it comes to teaching your precious children, help me to...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: David Stick Puzzles —Work puzzles to form pictures from the story of David.	Wide craft sticks, markers, tape, scissors, “Stick-Puzzle Pictures” (p. 122), glue	
	Option 2: Treats for the Trail —Make candy trails on tasty graham crackers.	Graham crackers, plastic spoons, mini M&M’s candies, bowl of jelly, plate	
	Option 3: Jesse’s Kitchen —Pretend to prepare a meal to take to the battlefield.	Rice or macaroni, shallow container, measuring utensils, spoons	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time 	Setting the Stage —Play a variation of Simon Says.	CD player	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear how David followed directions in 1 Samuel 17:1-22.	Bible, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Play a following game, and learn how to follow partners’ directions.	CD player	
Closing 	Follow, Follow —Teach Whiskers to follow directions.		
	Prayer Crackers —Pray for God’s help, and pass around a plate of crackers.	Napkins, snacks from Option 2	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson or take-home page. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about how David trusted God?” and “Tell me about a time you trusted God this week.”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God helps us obey him.**
- Hand out the shirt name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have some extra shirt name tags on hand for children who weren’t in class last week or to replace damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you set up.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

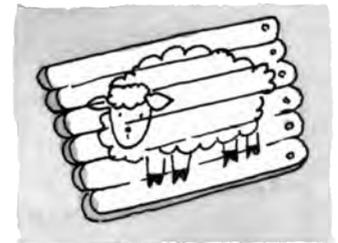
Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How do you think David felt about staying home while his brothers went to the battle?” or “How do you feel when your parent or teacher asks you to do something you don’t want to do?”

■ Option 1: David Stick Puzzles

SUPPLIES: wide craft sticks, markers, tape, scissors, “Stick-Puzzle Pictures” (p. 122), glue

Before class, lay sets of six wide craft sticks side by side as shown in the margin. Use a marker to draw a simple picture on the craft sticks from the story of David. For example, you could draw a sheep, a boy, a lion’s head, a slingshot, or a harp. Or photocopy and cut out the stick-puzzle pictures, glue them to the craft sticks, and then cut the sticks apart. Make several puzzle sets so children all get a turn putting the puzzles together.

Mix up each set of sticks, and let children put them together. When children put the sticks in the right place, tape the sticks to the table, and let children color the pictures with markers. As children work, ask them to tell you how their pictures remind them of the stories about David.



To help keep the individual puzzle sets together, put an identifying mark, such as a colored dot, on one end of each stick. Use a different color for each puzzle.

■ Option 2: Treats for the Trail

SUPPLIES: graham crackers, plastic spoons, mini M&M’s candies, bowl of jelly, plate

Set out mini M&M’s candies, graham crackers, plastic spoons, and a bowl of jelly. Show children how to spoon jelly onto the graham crackers and then make an M&M’s candy trail from one end of the cracker to the other. Explain that the trail reminds us



of the trip David took from his father's house to the battlefield. Be sure children make enough snacks for each child to have one. Set the plate of snacks aside until the last Closing activity, "Prayer Crackers."

■ Option 3: Jesse's Kitchen

SUPPLIES: rice or macaroni, shallow container, measuring utensils, spoons

Fill the bottom of a shallow container with rice or macaroni. Set out measuring utensils and spoons so children can pour and stir the rice. Have them pretend to make food for David to take to his brothers. If your room is equipped with a play kitchen, encourage children to use other play dishes and food items, too. As they work, ask if their parents have them help prepare meals sometimes. Tell them that in today's Bible story David obeyed his dad's directions.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

teacher tips

If you use tables in your classroom, make sure they're child-sized. Forcing children to work at adult-sized tables can cause spills, messes, and even accidents. If your church doesn't have child-sized furniture or you're meeting in a nontraditional space, set up art and manipulative activities on plastic tablecloths on the floor.

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: CD player



Tell the children you'll play a fun marching song (track 10) to get their attention. Explain that when you play the song, the children are to stop what they're doing and march toward you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Gather children in a circle.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?**

(Made a snack; pretended to make food for David to take to his brothers; put puzzles together.)

Say: **You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're going to hear how David followed his dad's directions. We'll be learning about how important it is to follow directions—especially God's directions. Let's play a following-directions game now.**

Have children hold hands and form a circle. Say: **This game is sort of like Simon Says; but instead of saying, "Simon says," I'll say "do" or "don't." For example, I might say, "Do raise your hands over your heads" or "Don't jump up and down." As we play, let's try not to let our circle get broken.**

Read the following instructions, one at a time.

- **Don't jump.**
- **Do sit down.**
- **Do stand up.**
- **Don't scratch your head.**
- **Do hold hands and run together in a circle.**
- **Don't run around the room.**
- **Do sit down again.**

Ask: • **What would happen if you didn't follow the directions to this game?** (We'd break the circle; it wouldn't be as fun.)

• **Why do you think I said "don't" for some directions and "do" for other directions?** (Because you didn't want us to break the circle; because you didn't want us to do certain things.)

Say: **In our following-directions game, we had certain rules to help us play. We have to follow rules in real life, too—at home, at church, and at school.**

Ask: • **What are some rules you have to follow at home?** (Go to bed on time; don't run in the house; help set the table.)

• **What are some of our rules in this class?** (Use quiet voices; be nice to each other.)

Say: **Rules and directions help us know what to do. God gives us directions to help us know what he wants us to do. If we obey God's directions, we'll be safe and happy. ► God helps us obey him. Let's bring out our Bible and find out how God helped David obey him.**



Learning to obey directions is a daily part of life for 3- and 4-year-olds. Teachers ask them to share, and they don't want to. Parents call them for nap time, and they'd rather keep on playing. The children in your class will identify with David's longing to go with his brothers. Help them understand that good things result from obeying.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

tracks 4 & 5



Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today. Remember that everyone will get a chance to be the Bible person one week.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 4) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *sheep stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *sheep stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought you the Bible]. **I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 5) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Bring out the *Bible Big Book: David and Goliath*.

Have children gather around you. Open the Bible to **1 Samuel 17**. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. For our story today, find a partner sitting next to you.**

Help children find partners, and then continue: **The person sitting next to you will be your listening partner. Listen together while I play the story and see if you and your partner hear the times when**

God helped David follow directions.

Play the “David and Goliath” (track 15) segment from the *CD*. As you listen, show the children the pictures in the *Bible Big Book*. Follow along in the text on the back of the book, and turn the pages when you hear the harp sound.

After the story, stop the *CD*. Say: **Listening partners, stand up if you can tell us one time David followed directions.**

Use the pictures in the *Bible Big Book* to help children recall times that David followed directions. Call on one or two partners, and then have everyone sit down.

Say: **God helped David obey his dad's directions. When I play the marching music, I'd like the partner who's wearing the most blue to tell about a time you followed your mom's or dad's directions.**

Play “Marching Music” (track 10) for about 30 seconds. Wait for children to respond. Then say: **Now I'd like the other partner to tell about a time you followed directions at home.**

Play the music again, and wait for children to respond. Show them the picture of David facing Goliath on page 5. Say: **All the other men in King Saul's army were scared to fight Goliath. But God wanted his people to beat Goliath. Even though he was just a shepherd boy, David knew that God helps us obey him. He knew God would help him beat Goliath.**

When I play the marching song, I'd like the partner who's wearing the most red to tell about a time you obeyed God's directions. Maybe you shared your toys with a friend or forgave someone who did something that hurt you. Tell your partner about that time.

Play the music again for about 30 seconds. Wait for children to respond, and then say: **Now I'd like the other partner to tell about a time you followed God's directions.**

Play the music again, and wait for children to respond. If you have time, invite two or three children to share the responses they talked about with their partners. Say: **God wants us to obey his directions. Sometimes following directions can be hard, but God helps us obey him. David obeyed God, and God helped him in his battle. Our Bible verse tells us It's the Lord's battle, not ours. Let's sing our Bible verse song to remind us that God helps us, too, in all our battles.**

Lead the children in singing “The Battle Is the Lord's” (track 13) with the *CD* to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”



Most children will probably stand up even if they don't recall specific times David followed directions. If children have trouble answering, suggest one of the following answers:

- David stayed at home with his father's sheep.
- David went to play his harp for the king.
- David took food to his brothers at the battlefield.





SING
The battle is the Lord's.
The battle is the Lord's.
When there's something hard to do,
The battle is the Lord's.
(Repeat.)

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Before class, remove the *linking hearts and stars* from the Learning Lab.

Gather children in a circle. Say: **Great job following directions today! Let's play one more obeying game to help us remember that ►*God helps us obey him*. But first you need to find two partners.** Help children form trios. Then give each trio a *linking heart or star*. **Now one of you needs to close your eyes. While your eyes are closed, one of your partners is going to hide the heart or star.**

Help partners hide their objects.

All the stars and hearts are hidden, but you still have to keep your eyes closed. Your partner who hid the object is going to give you directions and clues to help you find it. Your other partner is going to hold your hand and guide you in following those directions until you find the star or heart.

Encourage the partner to give clues and simple directions to help the other children find the hidden hearts and stars. Tell children that they should keep their eyes closed as their partners guide them and help them follow the directions. Remind children that they shouldn't just tell their partners where the objects are hidden, but should give simple clues like "Look on the other side of the room" or "Walk over to the dollhouse." Children should try to give three or four directions before their partners find the hearts and stars.

Once children have found their hearts and stars, have them swap roles and play again.

Ask: • **How did you follow directions in this game?** (I listened to my partner's clues so I knew where to look; I had to follow my partner's directions before I could find the star.)

• **How did your partners help you follow those directions?** (One partner held my hand and guided me; I went where my partners told me to go.)

• **Why is it important to follow God's directions?** (Because God knows what's best; because God loves me.)

Say: **God loves us and gives us good directions to follow. When we follow God's directions and obey him, we'll be happy. Sometimes it may seem hard to obey God's directions. But just like our partners held our hands so we knew where to go, ►*God helps us obey him* so we know what to do. Anytime a rule seems hard for you to follow, you can ask God to help you. Let's ask for God's help now by singing our song.**

Collect the *linking hearts and stars*, and then lead the children in singing "I Can Talk to God" (track 14) with the CD to the tune of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep."



BIBLE POINT ►



Model Christ's love to your students by bending down to their level when you listen or speak to them. Be sure to make eye contact, hold a hand, pat a shoulder, and say each child's name some time during the lesson. Take a few moments to find out how each child is feeling during your time together.



BIBLE POINT ►



When I'm afraid,
I can talk to God.
Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Every day.
When I am alone,
When I am sad,
I will tell him everything that's in my heart.
(Repeat.)

Closing

Follow, Follow

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Teacher: Hello, Whiskers. How are you today?

Whiskers: (*Drooping over*) Oh, I don't feel so good.

Teacher: What's the matter? You look sick.

Whiskers: (*Perking up a little bit, but still drooping*) I feel sick. I ate too many cookies.

Teacher: How many cookies did you eat?

Whiskers: I don't know. I lost count. I think I ate about 10.

Teacher: You ate 10 cookies? No wonder you're feeling sick. Why did you eat so many cookies?

Whiskers: Well, my mom told me I could have cookies for a snack. She usually lets me have only two. But when she left the room, I kept eating more and more cookies. Cookies are my favorite snack, but I don't think I'll be eating them for a few days. I feel terrible. (*Droops over again.*)

Teacher: Do you understand now why your mom lets you have only two cookies?

Whiskers: I sure do. I should have followed my mom's directions; then I wouldn't feel so sick.

Teacher: God gave us moms and dads to take care of us. They give us directions like not eating too many cookies or going to bed on time so we can stay safe and healthy. We heard a story today about how our Bible friend David followed his dad's directions. Children, let's tell Whiskers about some of the good things that happened to David when he followed his dad's directions. (*Help children recall the good things that happened to David.*) David followed God's directions. It wasn't easy, but God helped him. ► God helps us obey him. With God's help, we can follow directions.

Whiskers: I'll try to remember that next time my mom gives me directions.

Teacher: That's great, Whiskers. Would you like to stay and have a snack with us?

Whiskers: *(Groans)* No thank you. I've had enough to eat. I think I'll go lie down. Goodbye. See you next week.

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■ Prayer Crackers

SUPPLIES: napkins, snacks from Option 2

Bring out the snacks children made in Option 2. If you didn't choose Option 2, provide another snack, such as crackers or cookies. Distribute napkins, and say: **Let's have our snack now. These crackers have a trail on them to help us remember how David obeyed his father's instructions. He took food to his brothers when they were far away. I'll pass around the plate of crackers. When the plate comes to you, tell us a time when it's hard for you to obey directions, and then take a cracker. For example, maybe it's hard for you to take a nap or clean up your room. Don't eat your cracker until everyone has one. I'll go first.**

Share a time it's hard for you to follow directions, take a cracker, and then pass the plate to a child sitting near you.



When everyone has a cracker, say: **Those are hard things to do. Even Jesus had to obey God. Some of the things Jesus had to do were very hard, but God helped Jesus obey. God helped David obey, and God will help us. Let's pray for each other before we eat our snacks.**

Pray: **Dear God, you know all the directions that are hard for us to follow. Name some of the things the children mentioned. Thanks for hearing our prayers and for helping us obey you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Let the children enjoy their special crackers.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

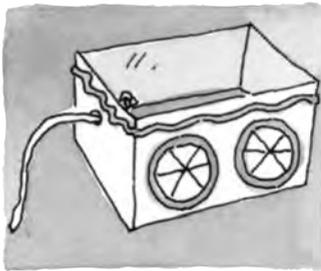
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Ring Around the Rules**

Play “Ring Around a Rosy” with a twist! Have the children on one side of the circle go one direction and the children on the other side go the other direction. The circle will eventually break. If you have time, have children repeat the game, and let them change the rules so that the circle will not break.

Talk with children about what happens when we don't follow the rules. Explain that if we obey God's rules, we'll be safe and happy. Remind children that ►God helps us obey him.

■ **Make to Take: My Own Wagon**



Before class, collect one small- to medium-sized box for each child. Poke a hole in one end of each box, and slip an 18-inch heavy string or light rope through the hole. Create wagon pulls for the boxes by tying a knot on the end of the rope inside the box to stop the rope from pulling through the hole. Have children decorate their wagons with crayons or markers and then pull the wagons around the room, pretending to be David obeying his father by taking food to his brothers in battle.

If you've brought in bread and cheese for the “Treat to Eat” activity, place children's bread and cheese on a napkin inside their wagons. Have them choose a spot to stop their wagons and eat.

■ **Treat to Eat: Bread and Cheese**

Have children sample food similar to what David brought to his brothers in battle. Bring in cheese slices with big round loaves of bread. Let each child tear off a piece of bread. Then have children take slices of cheese to put on top of the bread. If they like, they can cut the bread in half with plastic knives to make sandwiches.

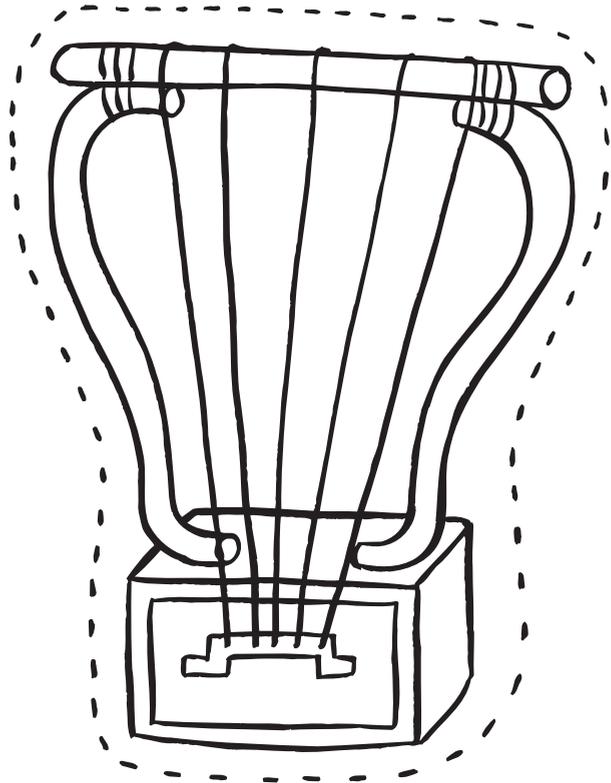
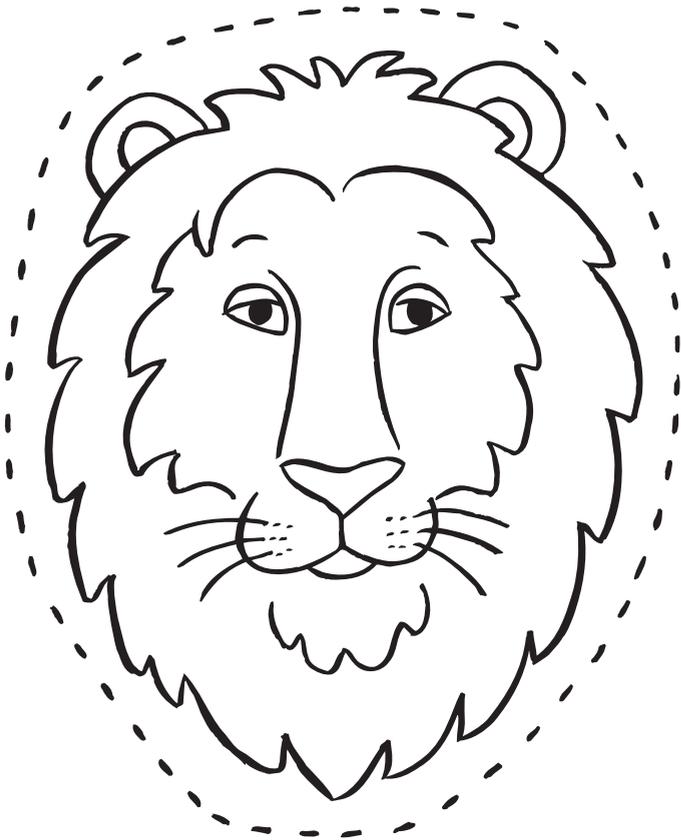
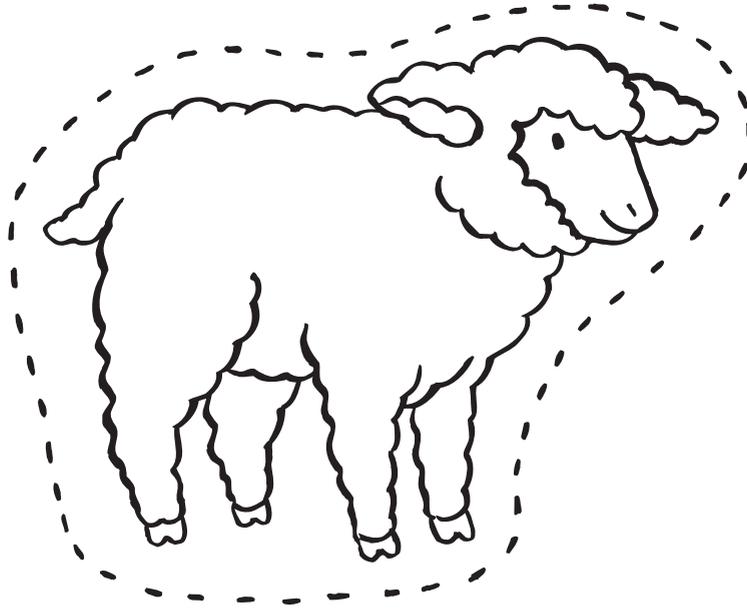


■ **Story Picture: David Takes Food to His Brothers**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson). Set out crayons or markers, glue, and small pebbles or gravel. Have children glue the pebbles along the edges of the road in their pictures. Review the story of David with children as they work.

Stick-Puzzle Pictures

Photocopy and cut out the pictures below.



Today I learned...



God helps us obey him.

Help me learn this:

It is the Lord's battle, not ours
(adapted from 1 Samuel 17:47b).

Ask me:

- When did David have to follow directions?
- How do you feel when you have to follow a rule that you don't like?
- How can our family trust God to help us follow his rules this week?

Family Fun

- Children are more likely to follow rules that they help create. Take your whole family on a rule-making party. Decorate your home for the party and provide fun treats. Invite children to help you revise or create additional household rules, such as "Be nice to everyone in our family" or "Share toys when friends come to play." Remind your child about the good things that happened when David followed his father's directions; then talk about good things that could result from the rules you've created. End by celebrating that God helps us obey.

Lesson 8

Today your child learned that **GOD HELPS US OBEY HIM.** Children heard how God helped David obey his father (1 Samuel 17:1-22). They talked about rules and asked God to help them follow those rules.



David Takes Food to His Brothers
(1 Samuel 17:17-22)

