

# Independence Day: God Shows Me that ... He Wants Me to Respect Leaders

**Bible Story:** David Showed Respect for the King (1 Samuel 26:1-12)

**Bible Phrase:** Do what the Bible says.  
*James 1:22*

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

**Levels of Biblical Learning**

*God*

- God wants people to do what He says.

*Self*

- I can make right and wrong choices.

**Life Application**

I can respect leaders.

**Bible Skill**

Can begin to understand that a Bible reference includes a book, chapter, and verse.

## Early Arriver Activity

*Cut Pictures from Newspapers and Magazines*—As children arrive, instruct them to cut pictures of people from the magazines and newspapers. Talk about how some of the people in the papers are leaders of the local community or the nation. Tell the children that today's lesson will be about respecting leaders. One way to respect our leaders is to pray for them. Tell the children that they may keep the pictures of the people so that they will be reminded to pray for leaders. Help them fold their pictures and put them in an envelope.

**Provide:**

- ☐ Magazines and newspapers
- ☐ Child-safe scissors
- ☐ Long envelopes

**To Do:**

- ☐ Pre-cut pages from the magazines and newspapers so kids can cut around the people more easily.

## WARM-UP

Get-involved Activity (5–10 minutes)

Explain that you are going to play a “Follow the Leader” game. Tell the children that in today's Bible story, there are some sleeping warriors. Say: “Let's walk very quietly to the story area, so we don't wake any of the sleeping warriors.” Lead the children to tip-toe around the room with their fingers to their mouths. Make the trip longer and more interesting by going under tables and around chairs that you have placed along the way. Instruct everyone to sit quietly when you arrive at the story area. Congratulate them on not waking the sleeping warriors.

# WORKOUT

Group Learning (15–20 minutes)

**Provide:**

- ❑ Bandanna (1 per child)

**Provide:**

- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Story props such as toy crown, running shoes, red dome, water bottle, swim noodle

**Option:** If a toy crown is not available, cut a long strip from yellow construction paper. Tape the ends together to make a circular crown.

**1. Introduce the Bible story.** Instruct the children to sit in a circle. Give each child a bandanna. Ask coaches to help the children tie the bandannas around their heads (like a headband). As you tie the bandannas, tell the children that warriors usually wear something to show whose “team” they are on. Say: “We all have bandannas to show that we are on David’s team.”

**2. Tell the Bible story and practice a Bible skill.** Hold your Bible in your lap and open it to 1 Samuel 26. Tell the children that the story they are about to hear is true. Show the children your open Bible and tell them that it comes from the Book of 1 Samuel, chapter 26, verses 1 through 12.

Display the story props on the floor in front of the children. Tell them that the crown will represent King Saul. The running shoes will represent David. The red dome will be a camp fire. The water bottle belongs to King Saul. The swim noodle is King Saul’s sword. As you tell the story, use the props as indicated.

## David Showed Respect for the King

King Saul [*pick up the crown*] and David [*pick up the running shoes*] were at war. King Saul and 3,000 of his warriors were chasing David through the hills. [*Hold up the crown and shoes and indicate that King Saul was chasing David.*] King Saul and his men camped near where David was hiding. [*Place the crown on the floor and place the red dome next to it.*]

David [*pick up the shoes*] asked for someone to go with him to the camp. Abishai (uh BISH eye) went with David. King Saul [*pick up the crown*] was asleep when David and Abishai quietly went into their camp. King Saul had his spear stuck in the ground near his head and a water jug nearby. [*Place the swim noodle and the water bottle next to the crown on the floor.*]

Abishai urged David to let him hurt King Saul. However, David said, “Don’t hurt him, for King Saul was blessed by God and no one should hurt him. Because of the Lord, I will never hurt Saul.” They took Saul’s spear and water jug and left. [*Place the water bottle and noodle behind you.*]

—Based on 1 Samuel 26:1-12

**3. Review the Bible story.** Allow several children to pick one of the props from the story. Ask each child with a prop to tell how the prop relates to the story. If there are more children than props, instruct the children to pass their props to other children after they have shared. Ask those children to share their favorite parts of the story. Continue passing the props to other children until everyone has shared something about the story. Comment: “David chose to respect King Saul and not hurt him because He was blessed by God.”

**4. Learn the Bible phrase.** Tell the children to sit in a circle. Say: “David is an example from the Bible of someone who did what was right.” Open your Bible to

**Provide:**

- ❑ Story props from  
WORKOUT Step 2

**Provide:**

- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Strip of paper

**To Do:**

- ❑ Place the paper strip in the Bible at James 1:22.

James 1:22 and say the Bible phrase: “Do what the Bible says. James 1:22.” Give the Bible to one child and instruct the children to pass the Bible around the circle as they each say one word of the Bible phrase. Instruct them to pass the Bible faster and as they grow more comfortable repeating the phrase.

**5. Sing and play instruments.** Play “Do the Right Thing” and lead the children to sing the words. Give each child an instrument. Say: “Many armies have special people that play musical instruments as they march. Since you are all David’s warriors, let’s play instruments as we march.” Play “Do the Right Thing” again as the children march. Instruct the preschoolers to play their instruments to the beat of the music as they follow you around the room. Lead them to play softly as you pretend to lead them by Saul’s camp. Instruct the children to put the instruments away and sit in the story area.

**6. Apply the Bible truth.** Say: “David showed respect for King Saul even though Saul was chasing him. He knew that Saul had been blessed by God and did not hurt him. We need to follow David’s example and respect our leaders.” Name some leaders from your church, community, state, and nation. Tell the children that they can show respect for leaders by listening when a leader is talking, by not interrupting, and by praying for all leaders.

**7. Pray.** Mention the names of leaders from your church, community, state, and nation again. Invite the children to pray for one of the leaders. Begin the prayer time by praying for national leaders. Allow preschoolers to pray for a leader.

**8. Transition to STRETCHING.** Describe the STRETCHING activities. Tell the preschoolers to listen for a statement that describes them. Use statements like: “Everyone wearing red can move to an activity. Everyone wearing tennis shoes can move to an activity. Everyone with long (or short) sleeves may move to an activity.” Continue until everyone has chosen an activity.

## STRETCHING

Art and Manipulatives (20–25 minutes)

Since this meeting is for the Fourth of July, the emphasis is on patriotism for our country. Place the children in groups of five or six. Each group should be led by a coach. Play “Do the Right Thing” softly in the background as the preschoolers complete the activities.

### *Activity Page, Side 1*

As the children match the leaders, look for ways to remind them that God wants us to respect all our leaders. Lead them in conversations about ways that they could show respect to the different kinds of leaders in the picture.

#### **Provide:**

- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ Musical instruments

#### **To Do:**

- ☐ Cue CD 1 to “Do the Right Thing” (track 29).

**Option:** If you do not have access to instruments, use domes in place of drums and cardboard tubes for horns and rhythm sticks.

#### **Provide:**

- ☐ Activity Book pages (CD Item 45)
- ☐ Pencils, crayons, or washable markers
- ☐ Materials needed for the activities on page 2
- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player

#### **To Do:**

- ☐ Print an activity page for each child.
- ☐ Cue CD 1 to “Do the Right Thing” (track 29).

### *Activity Page, Side 2*

Use these activities to help the children celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. While the children finger paint, talk about how the red, white and blue colors represent our country. Talk about different ways to celebrate our country and ways to show respect for our leaders.

## REACH OUT

### Missions Emphasis Time (10–15 minutes)

Tell the preschoolers to sit in the story area. Ask them to listen as you tell the following story about a missionary with the North American Mission Board.

#### **Respect for U.S. Army Soldiers**

Chris Campbell is a chaplain serving Soldiers in the U.S. Army. Chaplain Campbell and his wife, Terry, have five children. *[Show photo of the Campbells.]* His family must stay at home in the United States, while Chaplain Campbell and the other Soldiers in his unit have gone to Afghanistan. *[Show the “World Map” and point to the United States and Afghanistan.]*

There are over 650 Soldiers in Chaplain Campbell’s battalion. They fly different kinds of helicopters called Apaches, Kiowas, Chinooks, and Blackhawk *[Show pictures of U.S. Army Helicopters.]* The helicopter pilots help the other Soldiers.

Chaplain Campbell works alongside pilots, mechanics, gunners, medics, doctors, and all ranks of Soldiers from private to lieutenant colonel. In the U.S. Army, each Soldier has a rank. The Soldiers must respect and follow their leaders who have a higher rank. The Soldiers have a wide variety of jobs and beliefs, but their work pulls them together. Chaplain Campbell holds Sunday services and other types of Bible studies for the Soldiers. He said, “At other times, I hang out with the Soldiers where they work and find out what they do when they are not working. I most enjoy being able to pray with them because I feel that is the most effective thing I can do for them.” He lets the Soldiers know that God is with them even when times are hard. Many of the Soldiers are grateful for the time that Chaplain Campbell spends with them and for his prayers.

Pray for Chaplain Campbell and his family asking God to protect the family while they are apart. Pray for the Soldiers that Chaplain Campbell serves.

*—Information provided by the North American Mission Board.*

Say: “Let’s pretend we are flying helicopters like the Soldiers in Chaplain Campbell’s battalion.” Give each preschooler a swim noodle. Demonstrate how to twirl a noodle over your head like a helicopter. Pick one child as the leader and ask the other preschoolers to follow her as she “flies” around the room. Allow other children to lead the group as time permits. Conclude by praying for Chaplain Campbell and other Soldiers who are serving their country.

#### **Provide:**

- ☐ “World Map” (EZ Pack Item 2)
- ☐ “Photos: Chris Campbell” (EZ Pack Item 40)
- ☐ Swim noodles

**Note:** The word *Soldier* is capitalized throughout the story because, as Chaplain Campbell explained, “The tradition in the army is to capitalize *Soldier* to give honor to their service.”

# THE TOURNAMENT

## Games and Activities (10–15 minutes)

Lead these games one at a time so all preschoolers can participate together. If you have a schedule of less than 1½ hours, choose one or two of these games.

### *Sleep Tag*

Invite all the children to sit in a designated area at arm's length from each other. Say: "Remember how David sneaked into Saul's camp without waking the sleeping warriors? We are going to pretend that this is Saul's camp and you are the sleeping warriors." Assign one child to be *David* and one to be *Saul*. Tell David to stand on one side of the group of children and Saul to stand on the other. Place a noodle, which is the *sword*, on Saul's side. Instruct all the other preschoolers to sit with their heads on their knees as if sleeping. David's goal will be to move through the sleeping warriors without touching them to take Saul's sword on the other side. Saul's goal is to tag the sleeping warriors. Once a child has been tagged by Saul, she may then stretch out her arms to block David's path to the sword. The game is over when David successfully reaches the sword (noodle) or when all the sleeping warriors have been tagged and blocked David's path. Continue playing the game until everyone has had a chance to be Saul or David.

### *Independence Day Parade*

Give each child an Independence Day Steamer made during STRETCHING. Play "Marching Hymn Music." Lead the preschoolers to march around the room waving their steamers as if in a parade. Choose a child to be the leader and allow him to lead the group around the room. Instruct the leader to wave the streamer in a unique way and invite the other kids to copy the leader's actions. Examples of ways the children might wave their streamers are wave the streamers in a circle over your heads, wave the streamer very fast to one side, wave the streamer slowly to one side, wave the streamer gently down low. Choose another child to be the leader and continue the game as time allows.

### *Parachute Fireworks*

Spread the parachute in the center of the room. Invite the preschoolers to stand in a circle around the parachute. Ask the children to each name a way that their family celebrates the Fourth of July holiday. Say: "Many families like to go to a public place and watch fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July. We can make our own fireworks with colorful foam balls and the parachute." Tell the children to follow your instructions carefully. Add colorful small foam balls to the center of the parachute. Instruct the children to gently lift the parachute off the ground and move in a circle. Challenge them to keep the balls on the parachute as they move. Tell the children that when you shout, "Fireworks!" they may shake the parachute up and down creating a fireworks show with the balls. Afterward, place the balls back on the parachute and play again as time allows.

#### **Provide:**

- ☐ Noodle

#### **Provide:**

- ☐ Streamers prepared during STRETCHING
- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player

#### **To Do:**

- ☐ Cue the CD to "Marching Hymn Music" (track 4).

#### **Provide:**

- ☐ Parachute
- ☐ Small foam balls

**Note:** Small foam balls are available for purchase at most dollar or discount stores.

# COOL DOWN

Refreshments and Conclusion (10–15 minutes)

## Provide:

- ☐ “Allergy Alert Sign” (CD Item 1)
- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Cups
- ☐ Star Spangled Sugar Cookies from STRETCHING
- ☐ Apple juice
- ☐ Small foam ball

## To Do:

- ☐ Post the allergy sign before the meeting.
- ☐ Cue CD 1 to “Do the Right Thing” (track 29).

**1. Serve a snack and pray.** Instruct the children to wash their hands before coming to the snack table. Choose helpers to distribute napkins and cups. Invite one child or a leader to pray before eating. Thank God for the snack and for our country. Serve the Star Spangled Sugar Cookies prepared during STRETCHING and apple juice. Talk about how food is often a part of our Fourth of July celebration.

**2. Close the meeting.** Collect the preschoolers’ take-home items and place them near the door. Play “Do the Right Thing” in the background. Instruct the children to sit in a circle. Pass a small foam ball around the circle. Stop the music and allow the preschooler with the ball to name a leader they should respect. Be prepared to offer suggestions of people like the mayor, governor, president, vice president, police officers, and so on. If time allows, play again and ask the children to name a way they can show respect to a leader. As a child leaves, thank him for coming and wish him a Happy Independence Day.