

**MADE TO PLAY**  
an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**  
**You'd Better Think**  
David Spares Saul's Life  
1 Samuel 24

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**  
When have you had self-control?

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**  
Think before you act.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**  
God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.  
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**  
Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

**BASIC TRUTH**  
I need to make the wise choice.

**2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper plates, markers

- WHAT YOU DO:**
- Give each kid two paper plates and a marker.
  - Direct the kids to write "YES" on one plate and "NO" on the other.
  - Explain that you will read some statements about today's Bible Story.
    - If they think the statement is correct, they will wave the plate with the word 'YES' on it.
    - If they think the statement is incorrect, they will wave the plate with the word 'NO' on it.
  - If the kids wave their "NO" plates, invite them to explain the correct version of the statement.
  - Inform kids that there's a catch: they must keep their arms outstretched throughout the entire activity.
  - One by one, read each of the Story Statements below, giving kids a moment to respond after each one.

- Story Statements**
- Today's Bible Story about David sparing Saul's life is found in 1 Samuel. (yes)
  - Saul was one of David's closest friends. (no—They were enemies.)
  - Saul was clumsy and tore his robe when he fell off his camel. (no—David cut a piece of Saul's robe off.)
  - King Saul was hunting for David to fix his robe. (no—Saul was looking for David to kill him.)
  - Saul took 3,000 soldiers with him when he went to search for David. (yes)
  - David was hiding from Saul in a large tree trunk. (no—David and his men were in a cave.)
  - David cut off a lock of Saul's hair. (no—David cut off the edge of Saul's robe.)
  - David's friends told him to kill Saul while he had the chance. (yes)
  - The main reason David didn't kill Saul was because he was scared. (no—David knew that Saul was God's anointed king, and he trusted God's plan.)
  - David showed us a good example of self-control in this story. (yes)

- After the review, congratulate kids for using self-control even though they had to keep their arms up the whole time.
- Invite conversation about the story. Ask:
  - Did David have good reasons to be upset with Saul?
  - How did David show self-control?
  - What would you do if you had the chance to get even with someone?
  - What situations will you face that you'll need to remember to stop and think?
- Inform kids that they can choose self-control by taking time to think, pray, and ask for God's help.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- Share the following acronym as a reminder for kids to put on their thinking CAP:
  - CONSEQUENCES (Think about what the consequences might be for an unwise choice.)
  - ASK (Take a moment to pray and ask for God's help.)
  - POWER (Remember the Holy Spirit can give us the power to have self-control when we follow Jesus.)

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CONNECT**

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**You'd Better Think**  
David Spares Saul's Life  
1 Samuel 24

**3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- When have you had self-control?
- When you have the opportunity to get even with someone who has hurt you, what is something you want to tell yourself before you act?
- Why can it be even harder to show self-control when it's your friends tempting you to make an unwise choice?
- In what ways is Jesus an example of living with self-control?

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

When have you had self-control?

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Think before you act.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.  
2 Peter 1:3a, NlrV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

**BASIC TRUTH**

I need to make the wise choice.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead the kids in a responsive prayer.
  - Each time you pause, direct kids to say, "Think before I act."
- Use the statements below or add others. You can also encourage kids who are willing to share a statement.
  - Dear God, please help me when I am frustrated at school to . . .
  - And when something or someone is annoying me, help me to . . .
  - At home, when my family frustrates me, help me to . . .
  - If my team loses a game, and I feel upset with the kid who messed up, help me to . . .
  - Remind me to do the wise thing and . . .
- Close your group with a prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**You'd Better Think**  
David Spares Saul's Life  
1 Samuel 24

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had self-control?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you act.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.  
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.