

In God's hands - God helps us make right choices



I wonder what choices you have made today?

Every day we have choices to make, what shall I wear, what shall I play or what shall I eat? But sometimes we have much bigger choices to make and in today's story we are going to find out about a difficult choice that David had to make!

Do you remember that David was a shepherd boy and God had chosen him to be the next king? How he became a great soldier, had a best friend called Jonathan and how God had helped David grow in faith and had protected him?

Watch our video <https://youtu.be/knskYw2mStM>

or older children may enjoy this video: <https://youtu.be/41vnmcocZ1A>

Read this story in the Bible in 1 Samuel 24:1-22 or the story in rhyme at the end of this resource!

- I wonder what surprised you most about this story?
- We heard that King Saul wanted to kill David because he was jealous of him, do you think David was right not to harm King Saul? What would you have done if you were David?
- How did Saul feel when he realised that David had spared his life?
- I wonder what God is saying to you through this story?

David loved and trusted God and wanted to do the right thing, to do what God wanted. God helped him make the right choice and he showed mercy to Saul. When we know and love God we want to please him by doing the right thing too but it isn't always easy to make the right choice! We can ask God to help us do the right thing just as David did.

Make a heart collage - What choices could we make this week to show that we love God? Cut out or draw some heart shapes on a sheet of paper.

How do you think God feels about you? What would you like to say to God?

Write or draw on each of the hearts. You might like to tell God that you love him, you might like to add some choices you can make like being kind and helpful, praying, reading a Bible story. You can keep adding to the poster through the week as you think of more things you want to say to God!

Pray: God can help us as we make right choices

Even though he was often in danger and had difficult choices to make, David always trusted God. He wrote many poems (psalms) where he praised God for his guidance and protection.

Listen to this song version of Psalm 23: <https://youtu.be/pN4tPKXOMGO>

Find some paper and colouring pencils and why not draw the pictures that come to mind as you listen to the song. Take your time and talk to God about your picture and any difficult choices you have to make.

You might like to say this prayer or one of your own: *'Father God, our protector, please help us to make right choices and to live your way. Thank you that you love and guide us, as we follow you. Amen.'*

Make: Why not make a den out of blankets and cushions and pretend it is a cave? You can hide in it or make it a space where you can talk to God.

Or maybe make a cave out of junk modelling or Lego and then retell the story?

Visit: You may have been to the cave that is near the Herefordshire Beacon on the Malvern Hills or maybe you have been to other caves? Can you remember what they were like inside? Maybe when you go for a family walk you could go and find the cave on the hills and imagine what it was like for David hiding inside?



David and Saul in rhyme! (From Scripture Union Mosaic: *God is Good*)

Each time you hear a question, the answer is: 'In God's hands!'

David had some trouble with his boss, king Saul.
David wasn't popular with Saul at all.
Saul was hunting David so he ran away;
Didn't want to fight so knew he couldn't stay.

Question: Where was David when he chose to run away?

Answer: In God's hands!

David chose a cave and took his mates inside,
Just the very place for them to stay and hide.
later, Saul arrived at David's hidden lair.
Didn't have a clue that David lived right there.

Question: Where was David when he chose the cave?

Answer: In God's hands!

Saul went in the darkened cave to have a wee.
David's men said, 'kill him while he cannot see!'
David chose to ask the lord - should he kill Saul?
Saul was God's anointed leader, after all!

Question: Where was David when he chose to ask God's will?

Answer: In God's hands!

David showed Saul mercy - cut his royal coat
Just to show, instead, he could have cut his throat.
After Saul had left the cave and walked away,
David chose to tell him what he'd done that day.

Question: Where was David when he chose to be merciful?

Answer: In God's hands!

Saul was very sorry, and his eyes were wet.
'You have chosen mercy and I won't forget.
one day you'll inherit all this land you see.
God will treat you kindly, as you treated me.'

Question: Where was David when he ran after Saul?

Answer: In God's hands!