

# Men in the Bible - Men Like You and Me

## In a nutshell: David spares Saul's life

Saul and David lived about 1000 years BC. Saul was crowned the first king of Israel by Samuel at the behest of God after the Israelites had demanded a king. Saul seems to have been extremely jealous of the success and the fame of the young warrior David and therefore tried to take David's life.

## And this is what YOU do:



Read the bible text on page 2. Have a look at page 3 for "Something to Think about".



Share your inspirations.



Discuss your insights.

- What problem did Saul face, and what problem did David face?
- Which approach to solve it each of the two pursued at first?
- What did become of it?
- How do such problems look today?
- Which approaches to solve them would be available today?
- What might become of it?



Prepare your presentation.

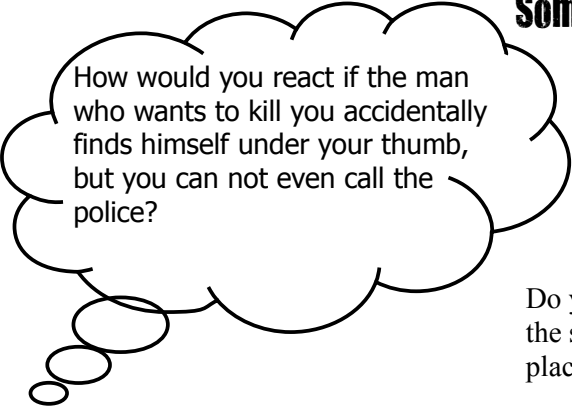
Sum up the results of your discussion in a 5-minute-presentation which can be performed as a role play, an interview, a short talk etc. Be creative!

😊 **Have fun!**

## **David spares Saul's life (1.Samuel 24)**

1 After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, 'David is in the Desert of En Gedi.' 2 So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. 3 He came to the sheepfolds along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4 The men said, 'This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, "I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish."' 5 Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6 Afterwards, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. 7 He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.' 8 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. 9 Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, 'My lord the king!' When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. 10 He said to Saul, 'Why do you listen when men say, "David is bent on harming you"? 11 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord gave you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, "I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed."' 12 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. 13 May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. 14 As the old saying goes, "From evildoers come evil deeds," so my hand will not touch you. 15 Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? 16 May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.' 17 When David finished saying this, Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David my son?' And he wept aloud. 18 'You are more righteous than I,' he said. 'You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. 19 You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord gave me into your hands, but you did not kill me. 20 When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. 21 I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. 22 Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family.' 23 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

## Something to Think About

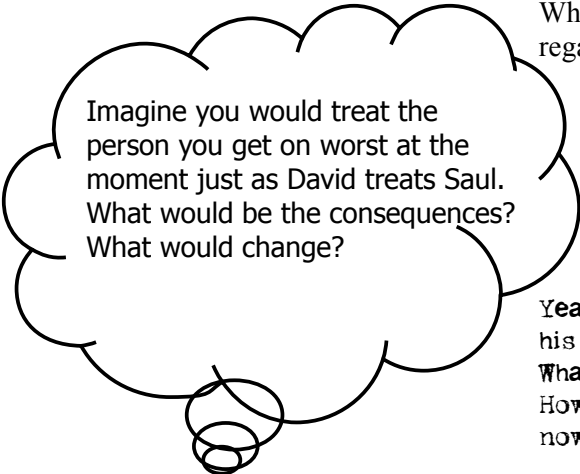


How would you react if the man who wants to kill you accidentally finds himself under your thumb, but you can not even call the police?

What is the role of David's friends in this story? What would Saul's people probably have said?

How would you let Saul answer to David's accusations, if you had to write this scene for a recent Hollywood production?

David is apparently able to wait until God acts. Can you? In which situations do you tend to help yourself?



Imagine you would treat the person you get on worst at the moment just as David treats Saul. What would be the consequences? What would change?

Do you think Saul would have done the same, had he been in David's place?

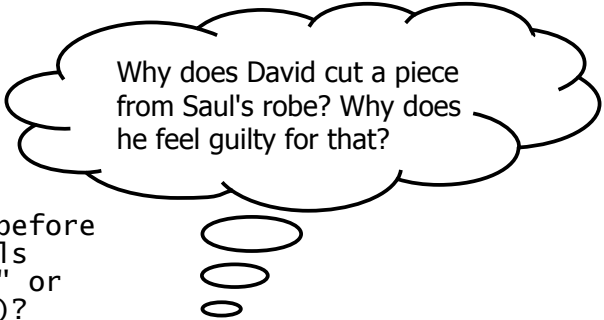
Why does David bow before Saul (v.9), and calls himself a "dead dog" or even a "flea" (v.15)?

Is it always possible to "turn the other cheek"? What problems will David get with this approach?

What is your greatest difficulty regarding conflicts?

Years later, David rediscovers his diary entry on this topic. What has he probably written? How does he maybe think of it now?

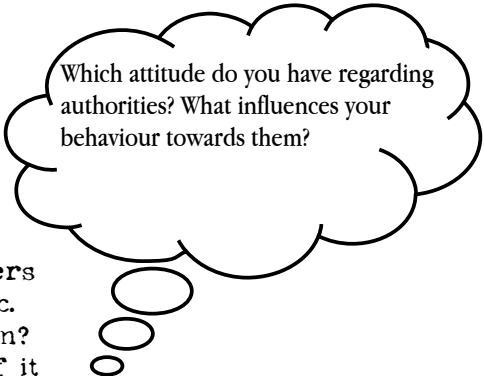
David would have been saved himself much trouble if he had killed Saul. Why does he let this chance go by? Is he being altruistic (unselfish)?



Why does David cut a piece from Saul's robe? Why does he feel guilty for that?

Is Saul's repentance genuine at the end? What do you think? What does David probably think about it?

Which part do you play in this story? Who is trying to trap you? Whom you are pursuing mercilessly?



Which attitude do you have regarding authorities? What influences your behaviour towards them?