Jesus, the Son of David Family Lesson

Learn about how Jesus, the Son of King David, endured persecution like David and helps us endure trials.

Bible Verse: Philippians 2:8-9. "When [Jesus] appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. [9] Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names."

Supplies: Rolls for sliders, knife for spreading condiments, plates, ketchup, mustard, pickles, lettuce, slider patties or 1 lb. hamburger (or meat substitute) formed into small patties, seasoned with salt and pepper, cheese. We're using specific ingredients for sliders that your kids may or may not like. You can always make a sample slider for the purpose of demonstration, but if kids want different condiments, that's okay! You can turn this into a family movie night by watching the 2025 animated movie, "David."

Activity (Read aloud): Jesus Christ is a descendant of King David, fulfilling God's promise that he would always have a King on David's throne. The word "Christ" is the Greek word for "Messiah" which means anointed one. We see in the life of Jesus the same pattern God used to raise up King David who was anointed as King but had to wait about 15 years to be invited by Israel to be King. During that time Daivd endured persecution from people who tried to kill him. Jesus, the Messiah, was anointed by God to be King. He also endured persecution from people who wanted to kill him and is waiting in heaven for the whole earth to invite him to be King. Today, we're going to make "Son of David Sliders" and learn how to stay rooted in faith like David and Jesus when everything seems to be sliding downhill.

1. **Cut a roll in half for each person and set it on their plate.** Both David and Jesus were able to "roll' with persecution by remaining rooted in the promises of God's Word which is our daily bread. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, he quoted Psalm 22:1 which was written by David who cried out, *"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"* Several verses from Psalm 22 were fulfilled by Jesus on the cross, including verse 16, *"They have pierced my hands and feet,"* and verse 18*, "They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing."* Psalm 22 ends with praise and the promise that *"royal power belongs to the Lord. He rules all the nations" (v.28).* As Jesus hung on the cross, he identified with David's suffering and the promise that Jesus would rule all the nations because of his obedience. When trials come, we hold onto hope and find comfort in God's word because God keeps his promises!
2. **Put some mustard on the roll.** Jesus talked about faith that is as small as a mustard seed having power to move mountains. David's faith in God's power enabled him to declare to the giant, Goliath, *"Everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!" (1 Samuel 17:47).* When we face challenges with faith in how big God is, confident that he's with us, we can be brave instead of fearful.
3. **Put some ketchup on the roll.** Our ketchup reminds us that even though David was anointed as King, he didn't try to force God to "catch up" to David's timing by getting rid of King Saul. David had the opportunity to kill Saul, the King who stood in David's way, but David waited on God's timing. Likewise, Jesus' followers were anxious for him to be crowned King, but Jesus obeyed God and is waiting for God's timing to return as King. We often want God to "catch up" to our timing, but 1 Peter 4:6 reminds us to *"humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor."*
4. **Put a pickle on your roll.** We use the phrase, "in a pickle" to describe being trapped in a difficult situation like a cucumber submerged in salty vinegar. David cried out to God in Psalm 69:19-21, *"You*

*know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you. **20** Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. **21** They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst" (NIV).* Our pickle brine is made of vinegar. **(Offer kids a little of the salty brine to drink.)** How would you feel if you were in pain and all you were given to drink was pickle brine? That's what happened to Jesus on the cross. John 19:28-29 says, *"knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." **29** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips."* Jesus fulfilled Psalm 69 as one who identified with our sour experiences and tasted our pain. He was "in a pickle" when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane and told God the Father that he did not want to not drink a cup of suffering, but he did it out of obedience to God and love for us. Because Jesus obeyed God and overcame death, we can now live forever with God. Instead of saving himself, Jesus chose to take our sins and pain upon himself to save us!

5. **Put some lettuce on your bun.** Our lettuce reminds us that Galatians 6:9 says, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (NIV).* Jesus endured persecution and so did David, but they continued doing good, worshiping God, and trusting that at the proper time God would reward them. Sometimes it's hard to keep doing the right thing when we don't get rewarded right away, but if we keep trusting God and doing good, God promises to reward us when Jesus comes.
6. **Put patties on the grill or in a pan on the stove to cook them.** Now we're going to practice waiting with patience, trusting that we will be rewarded with a yummy slider when it's ready! Romans 12:12 tells us how to wait for something: *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (NIV).* Like Jesus, the Son of David, we can be joyful as we wait with hope for God's promises to be fulfilled. While we patiently wait for our meat to cook, let's pray and give thanks to God like David who wrote psalms of praise in good times and bad times.
7. **Top patties with cheese, if desired.** Our cheese reminds us of God's love that covers us like a comforter or blanket with his presence when we're going through hard times. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, *"God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."* God comforts us with the presence of the Holy Spirit in our troubles so we can share God's comfort with others when they go through hard times.
8. **Serve sliders and enjoy!** If desired, watched the 2025 animated movie, "David" together. Talk about how David responded when people mistreated him and how the Holy Spirit helps us love our enemies.