

STEM ACTIVITY

David and Saul

Total Time: 15 minutes
In Class Time: 10 minutes

You will need:

- Magnet(s)
- Iron filings
- Glass bottle with lid
- Water



STEP 1: Partially fill the bottle with water, then pour in an ample amount of iron filings and fill it the rest of the way with water. Close the lid.

STEP 2: Gather the children. TEACH: Like King Saul, Chris was being controlled by his anger. We're going to use a magnet to control things in a fun way.

STEP 3: Show the children how to control the iron filings with the magnet by moving against the glass and attracting the filings in the water.

STEP 4: Let the children take turns with the magnet. (Take care not to drop the bottle or crack it with the magnet.)

EXPLAINING THE SCIENCE:

Magnets work because their charges (positive or negative) are all in alignment, causing them to generate a magnetic field, which you see in the iron filings when they are magnetized. When the filings enter the magnetic field, they line up with the lines of the field—which move in circular patterns which radiate from the poles (North and South) of the magnet. Magnets exert their control over any metal that will line itself up with their magnetic field. In similar fashion, people are attracted to—and may be controlled by—that with which they align their beliefs.