



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

# Play Little David

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DADF#AD, 'Joni' Tuning: x75435, Capo 4

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Written by Joni Mitchell. © 1966 Gandalf Publishing Company.  
If anyone has any changes or suggestions, please contact me at [sem8@cornell.edu](mailto:sem8@cornell.edu).

Tuning: DADF#AD "Joni" Tuning: D75435 [Capo on fret 4]  
In different recorded performances of this song, Joni also plays it on Capo 5.

Fret positions are numbered from the capo. This song is strummed with a pick in a quick 4/4.

INTRO:

Start slow ...                      Faster here ...

```
000707      000505      044304      022102
|||*|* 7    |||*|* 5    |||*|| 3    |||*|| 1
||||||      ||||||      |**||*      |**||*
```

hammer on twice ...

```
020100      000000      020100      000000
|||*|| 1    ||||||    |||*|| 1    ||||||
|*||||      ||||||    |*||||      ||||||
```

Chorus:

```
000707      000505
|||*|* 7    |||*|* 5
||||||      ||||||
```

Play Little David

```
044300      022100      000000
|||*|| 3    |||*|| 1    ||||||
|**|||      |**|||      ||||||
```

Play Little David, play

hammer on twice ...

020100 000000 020100 000000  
|||\*|| 1 ||||| |||\*|| 1 |||||  
|\*||| ||||| |\*||| |||||

Verse 1:

044300 022100 000000  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1 |||||  
|\*\*||| |\*\*||| |||||

David he would sit in some dark corner

044300 022100 002100 002120 [pause]  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1 |||\*|| 1 |||\*|| 1  
|\*\*||| |\*\*||| |\*||| ||\*||\*

Seemed to melt the shadows with his eyes

044300 022100  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1  
|\*\*||| |\*\*|||

And the song that he was playing

044300 022100  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1  
|\*\*||| |\*\*|||

Was nothing less than prayin'

044300 022100 002100 002102  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1 |||\*|| 1 |||\*|| 1  
|\*\*||| |\*\*||| |\*||| ||\*||\*

And nothing more than sayin' "I'm alive."

000707 000505  
|||\*||\* 7 |||\*||\* 5  
||||| |||||

Play Little David

044300 022100 000000  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1 |||||  
|\*\*||| |\*\*||| |||||

Play Little David, play

hammer on twice ...

020100 000000 020100 000000  
|||\*|| 1 ||||| |||\*|| 1 |||||  
|\*||| ||||| |\*||| |||||

Verse 2 (same chords as verse 1)

David he would send them notes a-flyin'  
Some that laughed and some that felt like tears  
He would play them fast or slowly  
Play them high or lowly  
But they always come out holy to my ear  
Won't you play, Little David  
Play Little David, play

Bridge:

Run:

D-----  
A-----  
F#-----  
D-----  
A-----  
D---0----2----4-----

555555

\*\*\*\*\* 5

||||||

I don't need no Sunday sermon

333333            000000

\*\*\*\*\* 3            |||

||||||            |||

Need no Sunday shoes

555555

\*\*\*\*\* 5

||||||

When I hear Little David playing

333333            000000    002100    002102

\*\*\*\*\* 3            |||    ||\*||    ||\*||

||||||            |||    ||\*||    ||\*||\*

I got religion through and through

Verse 2:

David he would send them notes a-flyin'  
Some that laughed and some that felt like tears  
He would play them fast or slowly  
Play them high\* or lowly  
But they always come out holy to my ear  
Won't you play, Little David  
Play Little David, play  
Won't you play, Little David, play Little David, play

Outro:

000707 000505  
|||\*|\* 7 |||\*|\* 5  
|||||| ||||||

La la la La la la la

044304 022102 020100 000000 020100 000000  
|||\*|| 3 |||\*|| 1 |||\*|| 1 |||||| |||\*|| 1 ||||||  
|\*\*||\* |\*\*||\* |\*|||| |||||| |\*|||| ||||||

\*Joni would sometimes sing this word an octave higher.