



UNIT 11 | SESSION 1

GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING

1 SAMUEL 16

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is the perfect King.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God forgives our wrong choices. Ephesians 1:7

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God chose David to be king after Saul.
- David played his harp and King Saul felt better.
- Jesus is the perfect King.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

God told Samuel to visit a man named Jesse. Jesse had eight sons. One of Jesse's sons would be the next king after Saul. Samuel met each son, but God had not chosen any of them. "Do you have any more sons?" Samuel asked. Jesse said, "Yes, my youngest son, David, is in the field taking care of the sheep." Jesse sent for David. David came and God told Samuel, "He's the one!" Samuel poured oil on David's head to show that God had chosen David to be the next king. Then Samuel went home. Later, Saul did not feel well. David played beautiful music on his harp, and Saul felt better.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Are You Sleeping (Brother John)?”

“God forgives us, God forgives us,
When we’re wrong, when we’re wrong.
God forgives wrong choices, God forgives wrong choices.
God is good. God is good.”

SAY “God chose David to be king. God’s choices are always good. People make choices too, but our choices are not always good. God forgives us for our wrong choices because of Jesus.”

2 RING BELLS

String a few large jingle bells onto a chenille stem. Form the chenille stem into a circle just large enough to fit on a baby’s wrist or ankle. Turn each wire end in onto itself and clamp down with pliers (adult-use only) to protect the baby’s arms. Twist the chenille stem ends so that the jingle bells won’t fall off. Slide the bells on the baby’s ankle or wrist. Help them shake the bells and make music as you retell the Bible story.

SAY “You are making music with the bells. In our Bible story, David played an instrument called a harp, and King Saul felt better. The music made Saul feel better. Thank You, God, for music.”

3 FEEL SOFT AND ROUGH

Glue a handful of cotton balls to heavyweight paper. Hold a baby in your lap. Guide the baby to touch the cotton balls as you say, “This feels soft.” Help the baby gently touch a piece of sandpaper. Comment, “This feels rough.”

SAY “These soft cotton balls remind me of how soft a sheep feels. Growing up, David took care of sheep. God chose David to be king after Saul.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 GLUE COTTON BALLS

Print God chose David to be king after Saul on heavyweight paper for each child. Allow toddlers to choose where to place dots of glue on their papers. Demonstrate how to stick a cotton ball to the glue. Explain how we all make choices. David chose to obey his father and take care of sheep, and God chose David to be king after Saul. Read the key passage phrase aloud.

SAY “David was a shepherd. He took care of sheep. God had a new job for David. God chose David to be king. God’s choices are always right.”

3 PLAY A HARP

Stretch rubber bands (or yarn) around a metal loaf pan to create a harp. Secure rubber bands with tape. Play the sound of a harp on an electronic device. Allow toddlers to take turns gently plucking the rubber bands. Supervise closely to ensure safety.

SAY “Music can make us feel better. When Saul did not feel well, David played beautiful music on his harp, and King Saul felt better.”

4 CROWN THE KING

Cut 2-inch wide construction paper strips (one per toddler). Provide stickers and crayons for toddlers to decorate their strips. As they work, display pictures of crowns on an electronic device. Explain that not all kings are alike, nor are their crowns. Size the construction paper crowns to fit each toddler’s head. Tape in place. Allow toddlers to wear their crowns as you tell the Bible story.

SAY “God told Samuel to choose a new king. God chose David to be king after Saul. Jesus is the perfect King. His choices are always right.”

5 EXPERIMENT WITH OIL AND WATER

Pour 1/3 cup of water in a bowl, and add a few drops of food color. Pour 1 cup of baby oil into a gallon-size ziplock bag. Use a medicine dropper to drip water into the bag. Consider double bagging to prevent leaks. Seal with duct tape. Review the Bible story as toddlers pat the bag.

SAY “God chose David to be king after Saul. Samuel poured oil on David’s head to show that God had chosen David to be the next king.”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: LINE UP CUPS

Gather eight disposable cups. Cut a small crown shape from paper. Tape it to the inside of one cup and set it aside. Invite children to help you line up the cups upside-down in a side-by-side line. Add the crown cup into the line. Move the cups around, challenging children to guess which cup the crown is under. Explain that Jesse had eight sons, but only David, the youngest son, was chosen to be king. Allow toddlers to replay as time permits.

SAY “Samuel thought God would choose Jesse’s oldest and strongest son to be the next king after Saul, but God chose David. David was the youngest. God knew that David was the right choice.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down”:

“Jesus is the perfect King,
Perfect King, perfect King.
Jesus is the perfect King.
Thank you, Jesus.”

3 TRACE WITH OIL

On a sheet of paper, print Jesus on one line and is the perfect King on another (one sheet per child). Cover tables with large paper or a tablecloth. Place painting smocks or bibs on each child. Instruct children to dip a cotton swab into a bowl of cooking oil and trace the letters J, E, S, U, and S. Read the Christ connection aloud.

SAY “The oil made it so we could see through our papers. God saw and chose David as the next king. Samuel poured oil on David’s head to show that God had chosen David to be the next king. God’s choices are perfect. Jesus is the perfect King.”

4 SHEEP IN THE PASTURE

Cut large simple sheep shapes from cardboard boxes or cereal boxes. Squirt a small amount of liquid glue into a small bowl. Guide toddlers to dip their cotton balls into the glue and place them on the sheep shapes as you review the Bible story. Place spring-type clothespins on the legs so sheep will stand. Once finished, allow toddlers to pretend their sheep are in a pasture.

SAY “David was taking care of sheep when God chose him to be king. David made right and wrong choices as king. Jesus is the perfect king. His choices are always right.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.