

SAMUEL ANOINTED DAVID

1 SAMUEL 16



CHRIST CONNECTION: God chose David to be the king of Israel, and God sent Jesus to be the King of everything! Jesus is the perfect King who loves us.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Saul didn't listen to God, so he couldn't be the king of Israel anymore.
- God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to find a new king for Israel.
- God chose David, a young shepherd, to be the new king.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Saul didn't listen to God, so he couldn't be the king of Israel anymore. Israel needed a new king. God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to find a new king. He visited a man named Jesse. Jesse had lots of sons. Samuel thought Jesse's oldest son, who was tall and handsome, could be God's chosen king. But God said, "No. I don't choose based on looks. I see the heart." Samuel met most of Jesse's sons, but none of them were picked by God. Then Jesse said his youngest son, David, was out with the sheep. When David came, God said, "He's the one!" Samuel poured oil on David's head to show that God had chosen David to be the new king. Then Samuel went home.



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 Poster 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 “The More We Get Together”:

“The LORD is over all things, all things, all things.
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.
He’s faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.”

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ God is faithful, kind, and He loves us so much!”

2 SHAPE COTTON BALL SHEEP

Place strips of double-sided tape onto the construction paper (one per toddler). Provide large cotton balls for babies to place onto the tape strips. Write David took care of sheep! on each paper. Read the gospel gems as babies shape their sheep. Monitor safety, ensuring no baby puts anything in her mouth.

SAY “What was David’s job before he was king? David was a shepherd who took care of the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of us.”

3 PLACE THE CROWNS

Provide toy crowns or make simple paper crowns for babies to hold and play with. Place a crown on a leader’s head, and say, “Saul was the king, but he didn’t listen to God.” Then place the crown on a baby’s head, and say, “God chose a new king! God chose David to be the new king of Israel!” Crowns can be moved from the leader’s head to the baby’s head as they play. Say the second and third gospel gems as the babies play with the crowns.

SAY “Who did God choose to be the next king of Israel? Yes! God chose David to be the next king of Israel.”

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.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster 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 Poster 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 MAKE SHEEP HANDS

Trace each toddler's hand on pieces of black cardstock. Cut out the handprints. Flip the handprints so that the four fingers are the legs of the sheep, and the thumb is the head of the sheep. Glue cotton balls on to the palm of the hand. Use adhesive googly eyes or white crayons to draw simple eyes on the sheep. Review the story as the toddlers decorate.

SAY “What was David’s job before he was king? Yes, David was a shepherd. He looked after and cared for the sheep.”

3 PLAY OUT BIBLE STORY

Choose toddlers to play out the roles in the Bible story. Select one toddler to be “Samuel,” and one toddler will be “Jesse.” Designate the other toddlers to be “Jesse’s sons” (including David) or sheep. Toddlers can take turns being the various roles in the story. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “Who did Samuel go to Bethlehem to visit? Yes, Jesse! Samuel visited Jesse and his sons. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to find the next king of Israel.”

4 FIND NEW AND OLD

Provide various new and old items (a new shoe and an old shoe, a new crayon and an old crayon, a new toy and an old toy, and so forth). Display items. Instruct toddlers to choose which items are old and which are new. Congratulate the toddlers on their choices. Ask toddlers which items they would choose for themselves and why. Review the Bible story.

SAY “When God chose David, did God care about how old or young he was? No. What did God see? Yes! God saw David’s heart! God chose David, a young shepherd, to be the new king.”

5 USE MAGNIFYING GLASSES

Provide nonbreakable magnifying glasses for toddlers to examine various nature items. Nature item suggestions include a flower, a leaf, a rock, and tree bark. Invite the toddlers to choose and share their favorite item to explore and why. Review the Bible story, focusing on how the toddlers chose their favorite item to explore based on what they could see, but how God chooses based on our hearts.

SAY “Samuel saw Jesse’s oldest son, who was tall and handsome, and thought he could be God’s chosen king. But did God choose him as king? No! Samuel was looking with his eyes. God told Samuel, ‘I don’t choose based on looks. I see the heart.’”

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KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: TAKE AN OBSERVATION WALK

Line up the toddlers, and walk around the room, hall, or outside (weather permitting). Instruct toddlers to call out things they can see around them. Allow each toddler to call out several things they see. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “Did God pick David as king based on how he looked? God told Samuel, ‘I don’t choose based on looks. I see the heart.’”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

“The LORD is over all things, all things, all things.
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.
He’s faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.”

SAY “Our key passage phrase reminds us, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ Saul was king of Israel, but Jesus is the perfect King over everything. And He loves us so much!”

3 PASS THE PHRASE

Guide toddlers to stand in a line. Hand one of the toddlers a **toy crown**, and direct them to pass it down the line in an over-and-under pattern while you say the key passage phrase and reference with each pass. The toddler who has the crown when you say, “Stop!” will stop, and the group will all say the key passage phrase together.

SAY “Who is over all things? Yes, the Lord! Our key passage phrase is, ‘The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19.’ Jesus is the perfect King who loves us.”

4 ROUND UP THE SHEEP

Choose one toddler to be a “shepherd,” and instruct the rest of the group to be the “sheep.” Direct the sheep to crawl around on the floor in different directions, and challenge the shepherd to round up the sheep. Encourage the sheep to listen to and move where the shepherd leads. Call time, and ask the shepherd if being a shepherd was a hard job. Retell the Bible story. Replay as interest allows, switching roles with each round.

SAY “What was David’s job? David was a shepherd. He took care of sheep. The Bible says we are like sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves and takes care of us.”

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.