

SAMUEL ANOINTED DAVID

1 SAMUEL 16



KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is our King? Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.

CHRIST CONNECTION: David did not look like a king on the outside, but God saw his heart and chose him to be the next ruler. Jesus looked like an ordinary man to the people around Him, but He is God's Son and the Savior of the world.

STORY POINT: God chose David to be king over Israel.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

In 1 Samuel 16, we come to a turning point in the storyline of God's leadership over His people. What began with Samuel mourning for Saul's rejection as king, soon becomes a celebration of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His word in 1 Samuel 13:14: "The LORD has found a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over his people."

While the young David did not have the same impressive appearance as Saul, he had something greater: a heart that honored the Lord.

What was God trying to teach Samuel and His people by selecting David as the next ruler over Israel? How does this story lead us to consider the state of our own hearts?

Samuel had a front-row seat to God's rejection of the impressive King Saul. Yet, as Samuel looked upon the older, stronger sons of Jesse, he didn't seem to truly grasp what God was doing. By mere outward appearance, one might assume one of David's older brothers to be next in line for the throne. It would be David, however—the youngest son of Jesse—whom God would select as the next king of Israel. David was chosen, not because of his strength or stature, but because God saw his heart. As Psalm 147:11 reminds us, "The LORD values those who fear him, those who put their hope in his faithful love."

Prepare to teach boys and girls what it means to be someone after God's own heart. Though David would not be a flawless leader, he would be faithful to trust in God, repent of his sin, and delight in God's words. Yet, one greater than David would come. Jesus Christ, the sinless King, lived, died, and rose again to make righteous all who trust in Him for salvation.

Consider the state of your own heart—which only God can see. Thank God for the miraculous work of salvation He has done in your own life, as well as His desire to save the boys and girls who will hear this story. Pray for the Lord to open kids' eyes to what He can do with ordinary people who believe in Him by faith.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "What Does God Look At?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ baskets, 1 per team
- ☐ balls, 8 per team

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ paper bags of various sizes, 4
- ☐ candy, 1 piece per kid



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ "Heart Reveal" printable, 1 per kid
- ☐ decoder glasses with red lenses, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ brown craft paper
- ☐ yellow construction paper, 1 piece per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Samuel Anointed David" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 10, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Never Heard Before" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "The LORD Is Over All (Psalm 103:19)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “What does an X-ray do? Why do people get X-rays?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Does God Look At?” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today, we will learn how God doesn’t look at the outward appearance. He looks at the heart of a person.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: NOT IT RELAY RACE

Before this session, place a basket of eight balls at the start line for each group of eight kids. Direct kids in each group to line up one behind the other. When you say, “Go,” direct the first kid in each line to carry a ball across the room and hand it to you. When you receive the ball say, “this one is not it.” Then direct the kids to run back to their team and send the next kid who will repeat the same steps. Challenge kids to work together to get the entire basket of balls across the room, one at a time. When the eighth and final ball from the groups reaches you say, “This one is it.” The team who is the first to bring the eighth ball to you is the winner. (Tip: place a basket at your feet to collect all of the balls.)

| **SAY** “Today, we will learn how God sent Samuel to find a new king over Israel. We’ll see how Samuel went to a man named Jesse, who lived in Bethlehem. Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but God hadn’t chosen any of them to be king. Finally, Jesse presented his youngest son, David. **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL.**”

☐ OPTION 2: WHAT’S INSIDE?



Before the session, gather four paper bags of various sizes, making sure one is smaller than the rest. Place candy in the smallest paper bag. Ask kids what they think is inside of each paper bag and invite them to share their thoughts. Ask kids which bag they would choose to keep. Reveal the contents of each bag, showing how only the small bag had the candy. Offer a piece of candy to each kid.

| **SAY** “We might think the biggest packages have the best gifts inside, and they might. But we can’t judge something by the way it looks on the outside. People often look at the way a person looks, rather than focusing on a person’s character. Today, we’ll learn how God told Samuel, ‘Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.’”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so excited I get to share a true story from the Bible with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will learn more about our great God from the book of 1 Samuel.

Last week, we learned how God rejected Saul as king over His people because Saul was disobedient. Today, we will see how God sent Samuel to find a new king over Israel. **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let's pray together before we hear our Bible story: 'Lord, open our ears to listen and our eyes to see truths about You. In Jesus' name, amen.' ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Who is our King? Do you remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.** But when Jesus came to the earth, He did not look like a king to the people around Him. He was born in a manger not a palace. He wasn't rich. He didn't wear the fanciest clothes. He didn't have any earthly importance. Yet, Jesus is the true King who never sinned and always obeyed His Father. Today, we'll see how David didn't look much like a king either. However, God chose David to be king, not because he looked like a king, but because of what was in his heart. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ The Israelites rejected God as king and chose Saul to be their king. They wanted to look like the nations around them because all the other nations had human kings. We've learned that Saul was a great warrior, but he disobeyed God. Because of his disobedience, God rejected Saul as king. Today, we will see that God led Samuel to a new king. **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL** because he had a heart that pleased Him. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Samuel Anointed David.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

SAMUEL ANOINTED DAVID

“The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long are you going to be sad that I have rejected Saul as king of My people? Go to Jesse of Bethlehem, because I have selected a king from one of his sons. Bring your oil to anoint him.’”

Samuel was afraid that Saul would hear about the anointing and kill him! The Lord said, “Take a young cow with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and you will anoint for me the one I show you.”

Samuel did as the Lord said. **When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel saw the oldest—Eliab—and said, ‘Certainly this is the king the LORD has selected for himself.’**

But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or his height, because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the LORD sees, for humans see what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart.’

Next, Jesse called his son Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, **“The LORD hasn’t chosen this one either. Next, Jesse presented his third son, Shammah, but Samuel again said that the Lord did not choose this son.**

Jesse presented seven sons to Samuel. Samuel said, ‘The LORD hasn’t chosen any of these. Do you have any other sons?’

“Yes, my youngest son, but he’s out tending the sheep,” Jesse said.

Samuel replied, ‘Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he gets here.’ Jesse sent for David.

When Samuel saw David, the Lord said, ‘Anoint him, for he is the one.’ Samuel took the oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David from that day forward.

Christ Connection: David did not look like a king on the outside, but God saw his heart and chose him to be the next ruler. Jesus looked like an ordinary man to the people around Him, but He is God’s Son and the Savior of the world. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Ask it: When you talk about Bethlehem in the story, ask kids if they know who else was born in Bethlehem (Jesus).

Make a heart: Invite kids to make a heart with their hands when you share how God sees the heart of a person.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God told Samuel to go to a man named Jesse to find the next king of Israel. Where did Jesse live? [Allow responses.] Jesse lived in Bethlehem. A few weeks ago, we learned how Boaz and Ruth lived in Bethlehem. Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz.

When Samuel got to Jesse’s house, he saw Jesse’s oldest son and thought he was one God had chosen as king. He was the oldest and looked like he could be a king. What did God tell Samuel He looks at? [Allow responses.] God told Samuel that people look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. God isn’t concerned with what’s on the outside of a person but what is on the inside. He cared much more about our hearts and whether or not we trust Him and desire to obey Him.

Samuel saw seven of Jesse’s son, but God had not chosen any of them. Then Samuel asked Jesse if he had another son. David was Jesse’s youngest son who was out in the field watching over the sheep. Who did God choose to be king? [Allow responses.] **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL.** God told Samuel to anoint David because he was the one God had chosen. David did not look like a king on the outside, but God saw his heart and chose him to be the next ruler. Then the Holy Spirit came upon David, empowering him to lead God’s people.

David did not look like a king on the outside, but God saw his heart and chose him to be the next ruler. Jesus looked like an ordinary man to the people around Him, but He is God’s Son and the Savior of the world. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ When God looked at Jesus’ heart, He was always pleased. Jesus always had a heart that loved God and obeyed Him. Jesus is our true King who obeyed God’s plan to save sinners. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us of our sin. Do you have any questions about how Jesus can become the king of your life? ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 10, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why is Jesus the Messiah? What is a Messiah?
2. What Bible stories, like David being anointed as king, point to Jesus as the Messiah?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Explain that Dr. Doug Derbyshire and his wife, Cheryl, moved to Thailand as IMB missionaries in 1992. Since their arrival, the Derbyshires have helped Thai people receive medicine for their bodies, but have also shared about their need for a Savior. Play the missions video.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

SAY “ When Dr. Derbyshire and his staff members talked with the man from the video, he chose to trust in Jesus as his Savior. While the man was at the clinic, he heard the medical staff discussing places to meet with new Christians to teach them more about Jesus. The man volunteered to close his auto repair shop so the missionaries had a place to meet with the new Christians. ”

Pray for the Derbyshires and their mobile clinics as they help the Thai people with their medical needs and tell them about Jesus. Pray that many more Thai people will accept Jesus as Savior and honor Him as their King.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, create a set of 10 key passage cards for each group of four kids. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 103:19 together.

SAY “ David wrote Psalm 103 to remember God’s goodness to forgive sin. When we trust in King Jesus, our sin is forgiven and He rules our hearts. Jesus’ kingdom will never end. ”

Provide each group with a set of key passage cards. Distribute a straw to each kid. Direct groups to scatter their cards on the floor and then challenge kids to blow the cards into the correct order of the key passage. The first group to do so wins.

Lead kids to sing “The LORD Is Over All (Psalm 103:19)” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Dear heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to be the King over everything. Help us trust Him and follow Him in obedience. Help our hearts to love Him most of all. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 16. Remind kids that like David, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Tell kids that Jesus is from the family of King David.

Consider pointing out the location of Bethlehem (15) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 16:7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ Why did God choose David to be king? [Allow responses.] God looked at David’s heart not his outward appearance. David wasn’t perfect, but he had a heart that loved God and wanted to obey Him.

God wants to change our hearts so that we love and obey Him too. When we trust in Jesus, God changes our hearts to help us love Him most of all. Faith in Jesus also means we receive the Holy Spirit who helps us obey God and teaches us to follow God’s ways. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ What did Samuel do to David after God chose him to be king? ”

Remind kids that Samuel anointed David with oil. In the Bible, priests and kings were anointed or smeared with oil to show they had been set apart for a specific role. The oil didn’t have any special powers, but it was a symbol to show how someone would be a king or a priest.

SAY “ Look at 1 Samuel 16:13. What happened after David was anointed with the oil? ”

Discuss how the Holy Spirit came upon David. Share how David needed the Spirit of the Lord to be a king over God’s people so he could lead them in what is good and right. Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they place their faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps lead us in the truth of God’s Word, gives us power, and helps us become more like Jesus.

SAY “ Do you ever only look at the outward appearance of others? Why? ”

Explain how God said people look at what is visible. We tend to judge by what we can see, rather than what is inside the heart of a person. Discuss some ways we judge others such as what kind of clothes they wear, where they live, what kind of job they have, how they talk, etc. Remind kids that God looks at the heart of the person and encourages us to do the same. When we seek to know a person’s character and motivations, we judge rightly (John 7:24).

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Provide each kid with a “Heart Reveal” printable and decoder glasses with red lenses. Invite kids to look at the red heart on the page and determine if they can see anything. Then invite kids to put on the decoder glasses and find the hidden words. Tell kids to circle and write down the words they find on the backside of their papers. Then challenge kids to write the words in the correct order to determine what the Lord sees.

SAY “ GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL. God didn’t judge David by what he looked like. After all, David was the youngest of his brothers and a shepherd boy. But God saw how David was a man after God’s own heart. David wanted to please God. We can ask God to give us hearts that want to please Him by faith. When we trust in God and obey Him, we have hearts that please God. ”

☐ OPTION 2: CROWN HIM



Before the session, write the name Jesus in big block letters on brown craft paper. Tape the paper to a wall in the classroom. Then provide each kid with a yellow piece of construction paper, markers, scissors, and tape. Invite kids to draw a crown on their paper. Lead kids to write a word or two about Jesus. For example kids may write, powerful, kind, loving, forgiving, Creator, died for sins, performed miracles, etc. Then invite kids to tape their crowns to the brown paper. Read Revelation 1:5-6 and discuss how Jesus is ruler over all. Remind kids that Jesus is better than King David because He never sinned and always had a heart that loved God and obeyed Him.

SAY “ Jesus is worthy of all our worship because He is the King of kings. Jesus loves us and came to earth to set us free from our sins. He invites us to be a part of His kingdom and live with Him forever. Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.