

SAMUEL ANOINTED DAVID

1 SAMUEL 16



CHRIST CONNECTION: David was a surprising choice to be the king of Israel. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice to be king! Jesus is the perfect King who loves us.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

KEY PASSAGE: The LORD rules over everything. Psalm 103:19

STORY POINT: God chose David to be king.



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 preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Follow the path

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ painter's tape



LEARN

Form a sheep

- ☐ cotton balls

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Samuel Anointed David" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Play with a farm scene

- ☐ toy barns
- ☐ toy farm vehicles
- ☐ toy farm animals
- ☐ toy people figures

Make a family chain

- ☐ "People Outlines" printable, 3 or 4
- ☐ glue sticks



LIVE

Paint with oil

- ☐ art smocks
- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ vegetable or baby oil
- ☐ cotton swabs
- ☐ paintbrushes

Missions activity

- ☐ "Never Heard Before" missions video

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Find What Is Missing" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Create a sheep

- ☐ colored construction paper
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ brown markers

Play with a dollhouse

- ☐ dollhouse
- ☐ toy people figures, 8



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FOLLOW THE PATH

Use painter's tape to outline a path from the doorway into the room. Create a different path from the ones used in the previous sessions. Outline a short, straight path in the room ending at a Bible. Place a copy of the Bible Story Picture Poster in the Bible. Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the room. Greet preschoolers as they enter the room and point out the Big Picture Question Poster. Invite preschoolers to walk along the path in a straight line like balancing on a beam to see who became king after Saul. Meet the preschooler at the end of the path and encourage him to open the Bible to reveal the Bible Story Picture Poster and the answer to the question.

SAY 🗨️ Welcome to church today! Our big picture question asks, **Who is our King? Jesus is our King.** The path ends at the Bible, where we learn that **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING.** 🗨️





LEARN the Bible Story

1 FORM A SHEEP

Before the session, draw the outline of a sheep on a piece of construction paper: Draw a simple head and four legs. Leave the center of the paper blank. Place cotton balls around the room. Encourage preschoolers to find a cotton ball and bring it to group time. Assist children as needed so that everyone brings a cotton ball. Invite preschoolers to place the cotton balls in the center of the paper to form a sheep.

SAY “We made a sheep with our cotton balls. David was taking care of sheep when Samuel came looking for the new king. Listen to learn how **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING.**”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

SAMUEL ANOINTED DAVID

SAY “Saul didn’t obey God, so God said he couldn’t be the king of Israel anymore. Israel needed a new king. God told Samuel to find the new king.

First, God told Samuel to go to the town of Bethlehem. A man named Jesse lived there. Jesse had many sons. Samuel thought Jesse’s oldest son, who was tall and handsome, would be the new king. But God said, “No. I don’t choose based on looks. I look at what’s inside, in the heart.”

Samuel met seven of Jesse’s sons, but none of them were picked by God. “Do you have any more sons?” Samuel asked. Jesse’s 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.”

Christ Connection: David was a surprising choice to be the king of Israel. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice to be king! Jesus is the perfect King who loves us.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Cover the Bible Story Picture Poster with small sticky notes. Invite preschoolers to remove a sticky note and tell you something about the story or what they see in the picture.

SAY “ You discovered a picture of Samuel pouring oil on David’s head. This was done to show that **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING**. We know that Jesus is the perfect King who loves us. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

The LORD rules over everything, everything, everything.

The LORD rules over everything.

Psalm 103:19

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 103:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together as a group several times. Encourage preschoolers to turn and say the phrase to a friend.

SAY “ David was to be the new king of Israel, but Jesus is the perfect King over everything. Our key passage phrase reminds us that the Lord rules over everything. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for looking at what is in the heart, instead of what is on the outside.

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 CUT AND GLUE HEARTS



Place construction paper, blunt-tipped scissors, and glue sticks on a table. Demonstrate for preschoolers how to fold small pieces of construction paper in half and draw half of a heart. Assist preschoolers with cutting out their hearts as needed. Unfold the paper to reveal the full heart. Invite preschoolers to glue their hearts to a piece of construction paper.

SAY “Israel needed a new king. Samuel went out to look for the next king. Samuel thought Jesse’s oldest son, who was tall and handsome, would be the new king. But God said, ‘No. I don’t choose based on looks. I look at what’s inside, in the heart.’ David was a surprising choice to be the king of Israel. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice to be king! **Jesus is our King** who loves us.”

2 PLAY WITH A FARM SCENE

Arrange the barns, animal figures, and people figures for preschoolers to explore. Encourage children to pretend to feed the animals or make them work and play on the farm. Demonstrate how the people figures can take care of the animals. Invite preschoolers to group the animals by their type. Call attention to the sheep.

SAY “David was out taking care of the sheep when Samuel came to choose a new king for Israel. At first, Samuel thought David’s older brother would be the next king, but God said, ‘No. I don’t choose based on looks. I look at what’s inside, in the heart.’ Samuel asked David’s father if he had any more sons. When David came back from taking care of the sheep, God said, ‘He’s the one!’ Samuel poured oil on David’s head to show that **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING.**”

3 MAKE A FAMILY CHAIN

Before the session, make multiple copies of the “People Outlines” printable. Cut out the people outline for younger preschoolers. Place the people outlines, glue sticks, and crayons on a table. Invite preschoolers to pick out the people outlines that match the members of their family. Be sensitive to different family situations. Assist with gluing the people outlines together like they are holding hands. Encourage preschoolers to add facial features and clothing to the people in their family chain.

SAY “You made a chain of the members of your family. David had a large family. He had seven brothers. Samuel thought Jesse’s oldest son, who was tall and handsome, would be the new king, but God said, ‘No.’ Samuel asked if Jesse had any other sons. David was out with the sheep. When David came, God said, ‘He’s the one!’ **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING.** David was a surprising choice to be the king of Israel. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice to be king! **Jesus is our King.**”

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT WITH OIL



Post an Allergy Alert. Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Place construction paper, small containers of vegetable or baby oil, paintbrushes, and cotton swabs on the table. Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothing. Invite preschoolers to use the cotton swabs and paintbrushes to make a design on their papers. After the oil has dried, hold the paper up to the light to see the design. Assist the preschoolers in placing a key passage phrase label onto their artwork.

SAY “ Samuel poured oil on David’s head to show that **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING**. Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD rules over everything.’ Even though David was to be the next king of Israel, **Jesus is our King** and rules over everything. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Remind preschoolers that the good news about Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves! God wants us to tell others about Jesus. A follower of Jesus who is sent to tell others about Jesus is called a missionary. Remind preschoolers that Dr. Derbyshire helps people in Thailand get the medicine they need to help them feel better, and he tells his patients they have a need for Jesus to be their Savior. Show the “Never Heard Before” missions video. Pray for the Derbyshires and their mobile clinics as they help the people with medical needs and tell them about Jesus.

SAY “ A man in Thailand heard the name of Jesus for the first time when he came to a clinic Dr. Derbyshire and a mission team were hosting. The man wanted to know everything about Jesus. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ David was a surprising choice to be the king of Israel. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice to be king! Jesus is the perfect King who loves us. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 COUNT TO EIGHT

Lead preschoolers to count to eight as you gather for group time. Tell children that Jesse had eight sons and that one of his sons would be the new king of Israel.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

SAMUEL ANOINTED DAVID

- God told Samuel to find a new king for Israel. Samuel went to Bethlehem and met Jesse's sons.
- Samuel thought Jesse's oldest son, who was tall and handsome, would be the new king. But God said, "No. I don't choose based on looks. I look at what's inside, in the heart."
- Samuel asked, "Do you have any more sons?" Jesse's 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.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

The LORD rules over everything, everything, everything.
The LORD rules over everything.
Psalm 103:19

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 103:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead the boys and then the girls to say the phrase together. Remind preschoolers that even though David was to be the new king of Israel, the Lord rules over everything.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for looking at what is in our hearts rather than how old we are or what we look like.

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 BUILD A TOWER

Invite preschoolers to build towers with eight blocks. Count the blocks with younger preschoolers. Count to make sure each tower only has eight blocks. Talk about what other structures you can build with only eight blocks.

SAY “ You built towers and other structures with only eight blocks. Jesse had eight sons. Samuel talked with Jesse. He thought Jesse’s oldest son would be the new king, but God said, ‘No.’ Samuel met seven of Jesse’s sons, but none of them were chosen by God. When Samuel met David, Jesse’s eighth son, God said, ‘He’s the one!’ God told Samuel, ‘I don’t choose based on looks. I look at what is inside, in the heart.’ David was a surprising choice to be the king of Israel. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice to be king! **Jesus is our King.** ”

7 CREATE A SHEEP

Place colored construction paper, cotton balls, glue sticks, and brown markers on a table. Invite preschoolers to arrange the cotton balls in the shape of a sheep. Assist with gluing the cotton ball sheep to the paper as needed. Suggest preschoolers use the markers to draw legs on their sheep.

SAY “ David was out taking care of the sheep when Samuel came and met with David’s father to find a new king. Samuel thought David’s brother, who was tall and handsome, would be the new king. But **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING.** ”

8 PLAY WITH A DOLLHOUSE

Place a dollhouse and eight people figures out for preschoolers to explore. Invite preschoolers to play out family scenes with the people figures. Talk about what it might have been like to have such a large family. Be sensitive to the family situations of the preschoolers in your group.

SAY “ We had a large family living in our dollhouse. I counted eight people. David had a large family. He had seven brothers and himself in his family. Samuel met David’s brothers when he came to find a new king. Samuel thought David’s oldest brother, who was tall and handsome, would be the new king. **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING.** Samuel poured oil on David’s head to show that he was God’s choice to be king of His people. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.