

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's Different?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ glass jar
- ☐ vegetable oil or olive oil
- ☐ water
- ☐ salt
- ☐ spoon

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ plastic crown



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
- ☐ jar of oil (optional)

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)
- ☐ sticky notes, 1 set per group



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ "Glasses Template" printable, 1 per kid
- ☐ clear contact paper

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ cotton balls, 100 or more
- ☐ cups, 1 per kid

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "Fill in the Blank" activity page



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 “Have you ever helped pick out fresh fruits or vegetables from a grocery store or market? What do you look for when picking the best fruits or vegetables?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s Different?” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will see how God chose a new king for His people. We’ll learn that God does not look at the outward appearance but looks at a person’s heart.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: SET APART

Perform an object lesson by showing how water and oil remain separate or “set apart” from one another. Fill a glass jar with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water. Then pour $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of oil into the water. Prompt kids to observe how the water and oil separate. Next, take a spoonful of salt and pour it in the jar. Observe how the salt causes the oil to sink to the bottom of the jar, but then the oil rises back to the top of the jar. Repeat, adding salt several times to show how the oil continues to remain separate from the water. (Tip: warm water will cause the oil to rise more quickly back to the surface.)

SAY “In the Bible, priests and kings were anointed or smeared with oil to show they had been set apart for a specific role. Today, we will see how **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL** and how Samuel anointed David with oil. We’ll also learn that oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit who sets apart believers for the work of God.”

☐ OPTION 2: PASS THE CROWN



Direct kids to sit in a circle. Distribute a plastic crown to a kid. Challenge kids to listen closely as you shout out ways for them to pass the crown around the circle. For example, you may say, “Pass the crown with your feet!” Kid should pass the crown around the circle using only their feet, seeing how far they can pass the crown without it dropping. If kids drop the crown, direct them start over. Or you may say, “Pass the crown using only your pinky finger.” Play several rounds, and switch up directions as kids pass the crown around the circle.

SAY “As we hear today’s story, we will see that **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL**. David didn’t look very much like a king, but God doesn’t judge people by their outward appearance. God sees what is in a person’s heart.”





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 can’t wait to share God’s Word with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will continue to read from the book of 1 Samuel. Last week, we learned how God rejected Saul as king over His people. Saul was disobedient and did not show he loved God.

Since Saul would eventually no longer be king, God sent Samuel to find a new king over Israel. Today, we will learn that **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] As we learn about Samuel anointing David as king, let’s ask God to prepare our hearts to hear from His Word: ‘Lord, thank You for Your Word and how we can study it together. Open our ears to listen and our eyes to see what You want to show us during this time. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ What is the big picture question we have learned? [Allow responses.] **Who is our King?** Do you remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.**

When Jesus came to the earth, He did not look like a king to the people around Him. He wasn’t born in a palace. He wasn’t rich. He didn’t have any earthly importance. Yet, Jesus is the true King whose heart is always set on doing the will of His Father in heaven. Jesus never sinned and always obeyed. Jesus rules over everything He made forever. Today, we’ll see how David didn’t look much like a king either. However, God chose David to be king, not based on what he looked like, but based on what was in his heart. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

SAY “ God’s people cried out to God for a king to rule over them like the other nations around them. Saul became the first king of Israel. 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

Active: Invite kids to make a “heart” with their hands when they hear how God sees the heart.

Display it: Hold up a jar of oil as you describe how Samuel anointed David. Remind kids that anointing David with oil showed how David would be set apart as king and symbolized how the Holy Spirit would come upon him to give him the power to rule God’s people well.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God had rejected Saul as king because of his disobedience. So, God told Samuel to go to a man named Jesse in Bethlehem because God had chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be the next king. Samuel did what the Lord told him to do. Who did Samuel think God had chosen to be the next king of Israel? Look at 1 Samuel 16:6. **[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:6 aloud.]** Samuel saw Jesse’s oldest son and thought he was surely the one God had chosen as king. He was the oldest and looked like he could be a king, but God had not chosen him.

What did God tell Samuel He would look for in the next king? Look at 1 Samuel 16:7. **[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:7 aloud.]** God told Samuel that He was not looking for a king who had an impressive appearance, but a king who had a heart that pleased Him. Samuel went through each of Jesse’s sons, asking God if he had chosen them to be king, but God had not.

Finally, Samuel asked for David, Jesse’s youngest son who was out in the field taking care of the sheep, to be brought to him. **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL.** What did Samuel do to show that God had chosen David to be king? Look at 1 Samuel 16:12. **[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:12 aloud.]** 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. Jesus looked like an ordinary man to the people around Him, but He is God’s Son and the Savior of the world.

The Holy Spirit came upon David, empowering him to lead God’s people. Jesus, our perfect and forever King, was always filled with the Holy Spirit and accomplished the work of God through the Spirit’s power (Acts 10:38). When we trust in Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit, and we are set apart to do the good works He calls us to (1 John 2:20,27). ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL**, but He sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven of our sin and given new life. If you have not trusted in Jesus as your Savior, please let me know if you have any questions. ”

(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?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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.

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)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 103:19 together.

SAY “Let’s continue learning our key passage that reminds us the Lord is the King who rules over everything.”

Form kids into two groups, and give each group a set of sticky notes and pens. Direct the groups to each write a word from the key passage on individual sticky notes. Then lead groups to scatter the sticky notes on a wall. Guide groups to swap places, and challenge them to place the sticky notes in 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 “Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to live a perfect life in our place and die on the cross, taking the punishment our sin deserves. Help us have hearts and lives that please You. In Jesus’ name, 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 David was from Bethlehem. Share how Micah 5:2 prophesied that Jesus, or the Ruler over Israel, would be born in Bethlehem.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where this story took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Bethlehem [15]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 16:7, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “When the people chose Saul as their king, they looked at his outward appearance, especially noticing how he was a head taller than everyone else. But when God chose David as king, He looked at David’s heart. In 1 Samuel 13:14, Samuel spoke about the king God would choose and said, ‘The LORD has found a man after his own heart.’ This didn’t mean David was sinless. But David had a heart of faith that pleased God.

What does God see when He looks at our hearts? Does He see faith in Him? Or does He find a heart that seeks after its own way? We can ask God to give us a heart that loves Him and trusts in Him. When we place our faith in Jesus, God changes our hearts to love Him and follow Him.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why do you think people focus so much on outward appearances?”

Answers will vary. Discuss how people’s focus on outward appearances reveals what their heart seeks after. For example, people who are drawn to those who are wealthy might seek after money. Or those who focus on physical beauty may desire to be with people who the world idolizes. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:7.)

SAY “How can we have a heart that pleases God?”

Tell kids that Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21). Explain that God is pleased with a heart that treasures Him above all else. We can show we treasure God by our faith in Him and how faith in Him leads us to obey Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 13:22.)

SAY “How does the Holy Spirit help us live for God?”

Remind kids that after David was anointed, the Holy Spirit came powerfully upon him. Share how the Holy Spirit indwells all who trust in Jesus as Savior. Explain how the Holy Spirit gives us power to live for God by helping us turn away from sin, remember God’s words, and share the gospel with others. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 1:8.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GOD SEES THE HEART

Provide each kid with a “Glasses Template” printable. (Tip: For better durability, print the template on cardstock.) Lead kids to color the template and then cut out each piece. Place one lens on the contact paper. Direct kids to place a heart on the contact paper inside each lens. Glue the other lens piece to the first lens, making sure the colorful side of the lens is still visible. Cut away any excess contact paper. Fold the temple ear pieces, and glue them to the backside of the lens. Invite kids to try on their glasses.

SAY “ Today, we learned that God doesn’t look at the outward appearance but looks at the heart of a person. Through faith in Jesus, we can have hearts that please God. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit who helps us live for God and bring Him glory. ”

☐ OPTION 2: THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Scatter 100 or more cotton balls around the room. Explain that the cotton balls represent “sheep.” Form kids into pairs and distribute a cup to each pair. Tell kids they will be “shepherds” who need to collect sheep. Direct pairs to collect 10 sheep. Pairs who do not collect 10 sheep are out. Play several more times, leading kids to collect 15, 20, and 25 sheep.

Then read Psalm 78:70-72 and John 10:11-15. Discuss how David was a shepherd boy who tended the sheep of his father’s pasture. When God chose David as king, David became the shepherd over God’s people. Tell kids that Jesus is even greater than King David because He is the Son of God who laid down His life for His people.

SAY “ **GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL**, but King Jesus rules forever. Jesus is the better Shepherd who leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. King David was a good king, but he could never bring salvation. Only Jesus can forgive our sin. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for Jesus and how He laid down His life to save us. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Fill in the Blank” on the activity page.