



UNIT 11 | SESSION 1

GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING

1 SAMUEL 16

KEY PASSAGE:

Ephesians 1:7-8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is grace? Grace is when God gives us something good even when we do not deserve it.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Samuel anointed David, setting him apart to be the next king. God's choice for Israel's king was surprising; David was the youngest in his family, but God saw David's heart for the Lord. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice for a King. Jesus is the perfect King who saves us from our sin and reigns forever.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

At some point we have probably encountered the underdog rising to a position of prominence or victory. We see this in sports, in business, and in other situations. In a similar way, the Lord often uses unexpected people to display His glory. The Bible tells us that God chooses to use what is “weak in the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor. 1:27).

And Isaiah 55:9 says, “For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” While we may look at current circumstances or outward appearances to determine a particular outcome, God’s ways are always better because only He holds all wisdom.

In 1 Samuel 16, we find an example of this. God chose to use David, a young shepherd with musical talent, to lead Israel.

David’s outward appearance and young age may not have fit with the cultural standard of a king, but God saw David’s heart. God’s choice was not based on visible characteristics, but rather on the invisible character of the heart.

Similar to David, Jesus was not a King the people expected. Rather than come to earth in power, prestige, or prominence, Jesus came in humility. He did not have an

impressive physical stature, yet His heart was fully set on obeying His Father and loving others through self sacrifice.

Like David, God looks at our hearts and desires that we follow after Him. Regardless of our physical stature, age, or occupation, God desires to use us for His glory. And He wants us to grow in Christlikeness so that our gifts can be used for His kingdom purposes.

Who would have thought that David’s ability to play the lyre would get him into Saul’s inner circle? God did. It was His plan all along. And it is His plan to use us in great ways too. God is faithful to use the gifts He’s given us. May we have hearts that are willing to serve Him for His glory and our joy.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

David: the first king to receive the promise of a royal Messiah in his line. David was pictured as the ideal king of God’s people. He ruled from about 1005 to 965 B.C.



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 “ Imagine you are in charge of choosing the next leader of your country. What would be important to you? Would you want him or her to look or act a certain way? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “This or That?” on the activity page.

SAY “ Each one of you have things you like more than others. You like the way your favorite food tastes or the way your favorite color looks. Today, we will learn what God saw as important when He chose the future king of Israel. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE

Form groups of four or five kids and distribute a fruit or vegetable to each group. Ask kids to look at the item and discuss what the outside looks like. Is it clean? Does it look pretty or good to eat? Then, direct adult helpers to go to each table and cut the fruit or vegetable in half to reveal the center. Encourage kids to discuss how the inside looks compared to the outside. Challenge them to think about whether they would want to eat the fruit or vegetable based only on what they saw on the outside and ask them if their view changed after they saw the inside.

SAY “ These fruits and vegetables didn't look very good to eat from the outside, but once they were opened, they looked much better. Today's story reminds us that God doesn't look at the outward appearance but the inside character of a person. ”

OPTION 2: CHOSEN



Form kids into one large circle, or several smaller circles, depending on the size of the group. Direct kids to sit down and listen carefully to each statement you call out. If the statement applies to them, they are to get up and run around the circle one time until they get back to their spot and then sit down. Some ideas for statements to use are: kids who are wearing red, kids with brown eyes, kids who have brothers, kids who have traveled out of state, and kids who have a pet. Be sure to adjust this list in order to include each kid at least once.

SAY “ For this activity, each of you got to run around the circle because you were chosen to do so by what I called out. In our story today, we will see how God chose a special man named David to be the next king of Israel. ”

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





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Chose David to Be King.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING

“Saul was the king of Israel, but he had disobeyed God. So God told Samuel to fill a horn with oil and go to Bethlehem. A man named Jesse lived there. God had chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be Israel’s next king. God said, “Visit Jesse and his sons. I will show you which one I have chosen.”

Samuel went to Bethlehem and met with Jesse and his sons. Jesse’s oldest son was tall and handsome. When Samuel saw him, he thought, This must be the one God chose to be king.

But God told Samuel, “He’s not the one. Do not pay attention to what he looks like. You look at what you can see on the outside, but I see the heart.”

Jesse brought his next son to Samuel, but Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen him either.”

One-by-one, Jesse’s sons approached Samuel. Each time, Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen him either.”

“Do you have any more sons?” Samuel asked.

“Yes,” Jesse said. “My youngest son, David, is in the field taking care of the sheep.”

Jesse sent for David. When David arrived, God told Samuel, “He’s the one!”

Samuel anointed David; he poured oil on David’s head to show God had chosen him to be the king. The Spirit of the Lord was with David, and Samuel went back home.

Now King Saul was bothered by an evil spirit. Saul’s servants thought Saul might feel better if he listened to beautiful music. One of Saul’s officials knew that Jesse’s son David could play the lyre. So David came to Saul and whenever Saul felt troubled, David played his lyre and Saul felt better.

Christ Connection: Samuel anointed David, setting him apart to be the next king. God’s choice for Israel’s king was surprising; David was the youngest in his family, but God saw David’s heart for the Lord. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice for a king. Jesus is the perfect King who saves us from our sin and reigns forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Stay engaged: Make eye contact with kids as you tell the story. This helps you encourage kids to stay engaged in the story.

Use visuals: Provide drawings of what David and his brothers may have looked like. This can help them see how God chose David as king, even though he looked the least like a king.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ““ What a great story! God chose David to be the next king of Israel in a different way than we might choose leaders. In the story, God told Samuel to go and anoint the next king, who God would show him. Do you remember what God told Samuel as he looked at Jesse’s sons? [Allow kids to respond.] Look at 1 Samuel 16:7. [Choose a volunteer to read 1 Sam. 16:7 aloud.] God told Samuel to look beyond each man’s physical appearance. He reminded Samuel that humans see the way a person looks on the outside, but what is important to God is a person’s heart.

Many of Jesse’s sons looked like they could be king, but they were not who the Lord chose. God chose David. What did Samuel do to David to show that he had been chosen as the next king? [Allow kids to respond.] That’s right! He anointed David. Look at 1 Samuel 16:13 [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Sam. 16:13.] God set David apart as king because God saw that David wanted to serve Him. It is important to remember that what God values most about any person is not how they look but if their hearts love Him. ””

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY ““ Samuel anointed David, setting him apart to be the next king. God’s choice for Israel’s king was surprising; David was the youngest in his family, but God saw David’s heart for the Lord. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice for a king. Jesus is the perfect King who saves us from our sin and reigns forever. ””

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 11, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What might you need to do if you want to work with a church when you grow up?
2. How can you serve and honor God no matter where you work?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display a radio and ask kids to identify its purpose.

SAY ““ The way we have listened to the radio has changed through the years. At one time, families all gathered around the radio in their living room to listen to programs together. Radios started getting smaller and easier to carry around. Now people can listen to the radio using their phone. ””

Explain that missionaries have discovered ways to use the radio to share the gospel. Play the missions video.

SAY ““ What does Eric broadcast on the radio each day? (15-minute Bible lessons) Every day when Eric broadcasts on the radio about 40,000 people listen in. Isn’t that amazing? Missionaries can