

A KING FOREVER

David
1 Samuel 16:1–13;
2 Samuel 5:1–5;
7:4–17
1019 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God chooses unlikely people.

BIBLE VERSE

Bless the LORD, . . . who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. Psalm 103:2, 4

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that even though I am a sinner, God loves me and chose me to be His own.

LAW & GOSPEL

We judge by outward appearance and earthly standards, blind to the wisdom of God.

God sees and knows what we truly need—grace and mercy given to us through the unlikely gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

God sends Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel, with the reminder, “The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). God rejects each of Jesse’s sons, so Samuel sends for the youngest, David, whom God has chosen to become the greatest king of Israel. Surviving Saul’s insane jealousy, David becomes king and establishes Jerusalem as his stronghold.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 7:4–17 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read the section “The First Petition” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Paper or plastic crown
- Robe, towel, and broom handle
- Plush or paper sheep
- Stickers or adhesive gems
- Popcorn and pretzel sticks
- Cotton balls
- Rhythm instruments

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

PRAY

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for bringing us together to study Your Word. Help us learn how God chooses unlikely people to do His work. Guide us to see how You work in our lives to do Your will. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE YOUNGER** Bring in a paper or plastic crown and discuss the concept of kings before reading the narrative. Let children take turns wearing the crown.
- FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS** After reading the narrative, guide students in acting out the part of this story where Samuel meets Jesse's sons.
- FOR VISUAL LEARNERS** Dress up as David and retell the story. Use a robe with a rope belt, a broom handle for a staff, and a towel tied around your head for a headpiece. Remind children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

SAY

- Do you help take care of a baby brother or sister at home? Or do you help take care of a pet? Who chose you for that job? Today we'll learn about a boy who was chosen to be king.**
- Who are your favorite sports heroes? What about in the movies? Usually heroes do something great. They train their bodies to do something amazing or they show terrific bravery. We learn in our story today that what's on the outside isn't the only thing that matters.**

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose a few questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- Why did God choose David to be king?
- David took care of sheep when he was a boy. David took care of the people of Israel when he was king. How can you care for other people?
- David was a good shepherd and king, but he still sinned. A thousand years later, God sent another Shepherd and King—Jesus. How was Jesus similar to David? How was He different?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- David was not chosen because he was perfect or sinless. David loved God and God knew his heart.
- God calls us all to work in His kingdom in different ways at different times in our lives.
- Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who cares for us, His sheep. Jesus is our heavenly King, who paid the price for our sins on the cross and lives eternally.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Through the line of David, God fulfilled the promise of a Savior. David's story points to the Messiah.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Pretend you are David when you tell the story after “Let’s find out.”

Do you remember Samuel? He was the boy who grew up being a helper in God’s house, the temple. He became one of God’s prophets, a person who speaks to the people for God. A man named Jesse had many sons.

One day, God told Samuel to choose one of Jesse’s sons to be the new king. That means Samuel would pour oil on this son’s head. The oil meant that person would be the new king. Samuel thought that God would choose the oldest brother. But God wanted the youngest brother, David, to be king.

I wonder . . . what did Samuel do? *Pause for answer.*

Let’s listen to David tell his story and find out.

Let’s find out.

My name is David. I am a grown-up king now, but I was a child once, just like you. I was the youngest in my family. I had seven brothers who were older and bigger than me. My job was to watch my family’s sheep, out in the fields. I took good care of the sheep, leading them to green grass and cool water. I protected the sheep from wild animals like bears and lions.

One day, God’s prophet Samuel came to my father’s house. God was going to show him whom to anoint as the new king. Samuel looked at my oldest brother. He was tall and handsome. Samuel thought that he would be the new king. But God told him, “No, not this man. I have chosen

someone else. I don’t look at how a person looks on the outside—his skin color, or his eye color, or how tall or handsome he is. I look at a person’s heart and whether he loves and obeys Me.” My brothers stood before Samuel one by one, but God did not choose any of them. Samuel asked my father if all his sons were there. “No,” my father Jesse told him. “My youngest son, David, is in the field watching the sheep.” Then I was called to stand before Samuel. God told Samuel, “This is the one I have chosen. Pour the oil on his head to anoint him. He will be the next king for My people.”

Samuel poured oil on my head and anointed me. Then the Holy Spirit filled me with love and trust in God. When I got older, I became king. I took care of God’s people. I promised to always love and serve the true God. God was always with me, and He helped me be a good king to His people. Many years later, God sent another King to be born from my family. Jesus, God’s Son, came to pay for the sins of the whole world. He is the greatest King of all! *David story ends.*

God chooses us to be His children through water and His Word. He fills us with His Holy Spirit. Now we are children of Jesus, our King. Let’s thank God! *Say prayer.*

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

After Samuel was called by God in the temple, he grew up and became a judge. **He served God in many ways for a long time.** Samuel faithfully served King Saul for many years. King Saul wasn’t obeying God, and Samuel told him the Lord would take the kingdom away from him and give it to a man who put God first.

Samuel was very sad and upset. He loved Saul and prayed for God to give the king another chance. But God had made up His mind. He told Samuel to stop feeling sorry. **He was to go to the little town of Bethlehem and anoint one of the sons of a man named Jesse to be king.**

Samuel went to Bethlehem and prepared a sacrifice. Everyone from the town gathered, and Samuel met Jesse and his sons. Jesse’s oldest son, Eliab, was grown up and very tall and handsome. Samuel thought this must be the new king God had chosen. But God told Samuel not to look at how tall and handsome Eliab was. God had looked inside his heart and didn’t want him to be the next king.

Samuel met the rest of Jesse’s sons, but God did not choose any of them. Samuel asked, “Are all your sons

here?” Jesse told him there was still the youngest son, but he was watching the sheep. Samuel said, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”

Then Jesse’s youngest son, David, came in from the field. Samuel saw that he was not grown up yet and didn’t look like a king. **The Lord told Samuel, “Anoint him.” So Samuel took oil and poured it on David’s head.** Immediately, the Holy Spirit rushed upon David.

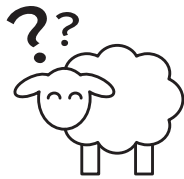
After Samuel anointed David, he did not become king right away. About ten years later, after King Saul died in battle, David became king over the twelve tribes of Israel. He fought many dangerous battles to defend Israel from their enemies. God was with him and helped him win every time. David captured a high, strong city called Jerusalem and made it his new home. The Israelites called it the city of David. God promised David that someday, He would raise up a new king from David’s descendants. **The greatest King, our Savior, Jesus, would be born from the line of David in his hometown of Bethlehem.**

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Shepherd, Shepherd, Where Is Your Sheep?

Have children sit in a circle with hands behind their backs. One child is the shepherd and sits in the center with eyes covered and head to the ground. Put a plush sheep or paper sheep in front of the child. Tap another child to get the sheep and return to his or her seat with the sheep hidden behind him or her. All children say, "Shepherd, shepherd, where is your sheep?" The shepherd tries to guess who took the sheep. Right or wrong, the shepherd switches places with child who took the sheep. Say, **David cared for sheep. When he became king, he ruled God's people and took care of them. God cares for us. He sent Jesus to forgive our sins. He makes us His children through Baptism and His Word. How can we share God's love and care for others?**



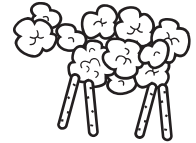
Crown Craft

Create paper-plate crowns. (Search online for examples.) Children color the bottom of a paper plate. Fold the plate in half and cut three slits through the plate, starting in the center of the folded edge. Cut one slit straight up, stopping 1.5" from the top; then starting at the point on the fold, cut one diagonal slit to the left and one to the right, again stopping 1.5" from the top. Unfold the plate and bend the points upward to form a crown. Give children stickers or gems to stick on the points of the crown. Say, **God has chosen us to be His children. Jesus is our Savior and King. That means we are children of the King!**



Sheep Snack

Give each child a handful of popcorn and four pretzel sticks on a small plate. Have children add pretzel sticks to the popcorn to make a sheep. Say, **David cared for his sheep and God's people. How does Jesus care for us?**



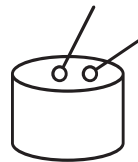
Sheep Puppet

Staple two paper plates together two-thirds of the way around (leaving an opening for a child's hand). Glue two black paper eyes and two ears on one side of the paper plate, opposite the opening. Glue cotton balls on the outside of the paper plates. Say, **God chose the shepherd boy David to be king. God chose us to be His children.**



Sing and Play

Set out rhythm instruments for the children to play. Lead them in singing songs about Jesus as they play. Say, **David learned how to play the harp when he was young. When he watched over his sheep, he would often sing songs to praise God and play music on his harp.**



LEAVE

SAY

Today we learned that God has chosen us. He has crowned us with His love. Best of all, He sent Jesus to be our Savior and King. Jesus forgives our sins and makes us His children.

PRAY

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for choosing us to be Your own. Thank You for all Your blessings, especially Jesus. Help us care for others as You care for us, Your children. Amen.