

Unit 11, Session 1: David Was Anointed

Dear Parents,

Samuel had anointed Saul as king over Israel, but it wasn't long before Saul's disobedience led God to reject him as king. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to meet Jesse—a man in the family line of Judah. God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be Israel's king.

When Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, he thought, "This must be the one God has chosen!" Eliab was likely tall and good-looking. Why wouldn't God choose someone like that? But God doesn't make decisions like people do. Read what God said to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7.

Jesse's sons took turns passing before Samuel, one by one. Samuel was probably eager to hear which son God had chosen to be Israel's next king! Abinadab? No, not him. Shammah? No. "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either."

It seemed Samuel was out of options, but Jesse had one more son; his youngest, David, was out tending the sheep. David came in and God said, "This is the one." Samuel anointed David, and the Spirit of the Lord was with David.

David did not become king right away. Saul was still on the throne, and David was still young. One day, David found himself at the battle where the Philistines had gathered to fight the Israelites. The story of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known accounts in the Old Testament. When the Israelites cowered in fear, David—with God's power—stepped up and defeated the enemy with just a sling and a stone.

David did not look like a king or a mighty warrior, but God chose him to be king over Israel and gave him victory over Goliath. The Israelites were too weak and afraid to face Goliath; they needed David to fight on their behalf. In a similar way, though Jesus did not look like a warrior or king, we need Him to fight for us. Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is our King.
 - God chose David to be king after Saul.
 - God gave David power to fight Goliath.
 - Jesus has power to fight sin and death.
- **Preschool**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
 - God chose David to be king.
- **Kids**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
 - God chose David to be king instead of Saul.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Psalms 145:13**

NEXT WEEK

- **"David Showed Mercy" (1 Samuel 24)**

Unit 11, Session 2: David Showed Mercy

Dear Parents,

David's relationship with King Saul was complicated. Early on, David served the king by playing the lyre for him whenever he felt unwell. After David killed Goliath, he became good friends with Saul's son Jonathan. But David's success made Saul jealous. Saul could see that David was rising in popularity. He won victory after victory. Saul made several attempts on David's life, and David fled to the land of Moab.

David wasn't alone. His family and other men—anyone who was “desperate, in debt, or discontented” (1 Sam. 22:2)—joined David, and he became their leader. About 400 men were with David. Once in Moab, the prophet Gad instructed David to return to the land of Judah. When Saul found out David's location, he pursued David, intending to kill him. Yet God protected David from Saul.

Saul was in pursuit of David when he stopped to relieve himself. Imagine David's surprise when Saul entered the very cave in which David and his men were hiding. This was David's chance! Saul was outnumbered and could easily be defeated. David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe, but he did not allow his men to hurt Saul.

When Saul left the cave, David followed after him. He acknowledged Saul's authority—“My lord the king!” (1 Sam. 24:8)—and showed Saul the corner of his robe, proof of David's passed-up opportunity. Saul wept upon realizing David's mercy toward him. God had put Saul in David's hand, and David let him go unharmed. Saul realized God had clearly chosen David to be Israel's king.

David showed mercy to Saul, his enemy, because David trusted God's plan. Jesus also trusted His Father's plan. He died on the cross so His enemies could experience God's mercy and live forever as part of God's family.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is our King.
 - King Saul wanted to hurt David.
 - David showed mercy to King Saul.
 - Jesus shows us mercy when we do not deserve it.
- **Preschool**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
 - David showed mercy to Saul.
- **Kids**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
 - David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Psalm 145:13**

NEXT WEEK

- **“God's Covenant with David” (2 Samuel 6–7)**

Unit 11, Session 3: God's Covenant with David

Dear Parents,

The path to Israel's throne was not easy for David. Saul had tried multiple times to kill him, and David had to flee for his life, leaving behind his good friend Jonathan. But God had appointed David to be king, and God was faithful. Leading up to 2 Samuel 7, Jonathan was killed in battle against the Philistines. Saul fell on his own sword, and David became the king of Israel.

David moved the ark of God to Jerusalem—a cause for joyous celebration—and settled into his palace there. God blessed David and gave him peace from his enemies. But when David looked around, something didn't seem right. He was living in a majestic palace while the ark of God was in a tent! David determined to build God a temple. That night, God gave the prophet, Nathan, a message for David. "Have I ever asked you to build Me a house?" God said. No, for four hundred years—since God brought the Israelites out of Egypt—He had dwelled in a tent.

David had been a shepherd, but God made him a king! God promised to give the Israelites a place to stay so they wouldn't need to move around anymore. God promised to give His people rest from their enemies so they could stop fighting. Though God denied David's desire to build God a house, God promised to make a house for David: a dynasty of his descendants and an everlasting kingdom.

God promised David that every future king of Israel would come from David's family, and David's kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, as one of David's descendants. Jesus is our King who will never die; He will rule over God's people forever.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is our King.
 - God made a special promise to David.
 - God promised to make David's family kings.
 - God sent Jesus through David's family.
- **Preschool**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
 - God promised that every king of Israel would come from David's family.
- **Kids**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
 - God promised that the Messiah would come from David's family.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Psalms 145:13**

NEXT WEEK

- **"David's Kindness"** (2 Samuel 9)

Unit 11, Session 4: David's Kindness

Dear Parents,

Though King Saul was an adversary to David, Saul's son Jonathan loved him as much as he loved himself. (See 1 Sam. 18:1.) Before David fled from King Saul and journeyed toward Moab, Jonathan appealed to his friend David, "If I continue to live, show me kindness from the Lord, but if I die, don't ever withdraw your kindness from my household" (1 Sam. 20:14-15a).

Following the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan, David was made king over Israel. The Lord was with David, and he experienced numerous military victories. David remembered the promise he made to his best friend Jonathan and was determined to keep it.

David asked a servant of Saul's family if anyone remained from Saul's family. The servant mentioned Jonathan's son. Jonathan's son Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth) had been injured when he was five years old, so his feet were crippled. (2 Sam. 4:4) David brought Mephibosheth to his house. Mephibosheth fell facedown before David. As a descendant of Saul, he was right to fear the king. But David said, "Don't be afraid."

David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, promising to restore to him all of Saul's fields. He appointed servants to work the fields. The fields would provide an income for Mephibosheth. David also announced that Mephibosheth would eat meals at David's table, just like one of the king's sons. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem and always ate at the king's table.

King David showed surprising kindness to Mephibosheth even though he didn't have to. In a greater way, God shows surprising kindness to us. Because of Jesus, He invites us into His family and gives us life with Him forever.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is our King.
 - David remembered his promise to Jonathan.
 - David showed kindness to Mephibosheth.
 - One day, Jesus will eat with us at His table.
- **Preschool**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
 - David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.
- **Kids**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
 - David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Psalm 145:13**

NEXT WEEK

- **"David Sinned and Was Restored"** (2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51)

Unit 11, Session 5: David Sinned and Was Restored

Dear Parents,

The Ammonites were no strangers to the Israelites. They often fought over the region of Gilead, which stretched east of the Jordan River. David had tried showing kindness to the Ammonites, but they humiliated the Israelite ambassadors. (See 2 Sam. 10:1-5.) Thus began a war between the Israelites and Ammonites. This context sets the scene for the story of David's sin and restoration.

David had experienced a season of blessing from God and success on the battlefield. The tribes of Israel united under David. But the upward trajectory of David's life did not continue much longer.

One evening, David looked from his rooftop and saw Bathsheba bathing. He found out that she was the wife of Uriah, one of David's elite soldiers. Her married status alone made her off-limits to David, but he nevertheless called for her and slept with her. David probably assumed his sin would go unnoticed, until Bathsheba told him she was pregnant. With Uriah gone to war, it was obvious the baby was not her husband's.

David called Uriah home from the battle and encouraged him to be with his wife. But Uriah refused. Uriah didn't think it was fair for him to be with his wife while other men were at war.

So David instructed his army commander to position Uriah in the most violent part of the battle so he would be killed. This time, David's plan worked. Uriah was killed, and David took Bathsheba as his wife.

God knew David's sin and sent Nathan the prophet to confront David. David's confession is recorded in Psalm 51. God wanted David's heart to change so he would not want to sin again.

Like David, we need more than a changed lifestyle to be made right with God; we need new hearts. Jesus died to satisfy God's wrath against sin so that we could be made alive in Him.

When David sinned against God, God forgave him, but sin always comes with a price. God spared David's life, but David's son died. When we sin, we deserve death. But we can receive God's forgiveness because God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sin.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is our King.
 - David made a wrong choice.
 - David asked God to forgive him, and God forgave David.
 - Jesus came to forgive us from our wrong choices.
- **Preschool**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
 - God forgave David.
- **Kids**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
 - David repented and God forgave him.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Psalm 145:13**

NEXT WEEK

- **"David's Psalm" (Psalm 23)**

Unit 11, Session 6: David's Psalm

Dear Parents,

The Book of Psalms contains 150 psalms—poems, songs, and prayers—from a time in Israel's history spanning from Moses (about the 1400s BC) to Israel's exile to Babylon (about the 500s BC). Nearly half of the psalms are attributed to King David.

David wrote Psalm 23, one of the most well-known psalms in the Bible. David's background as a shepherd equipped him to use the imagery of a sheep and shepherd to describe the Lord's guidance and care for His people. When Saul went to Jesse to anoint one of his sons, David was with the sheep. (1 Sam. 16:19) David's experience protecting his father's sheep gave him confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver. (1 Sam. 17:37)

A shepherd leads his sheep to pastures where they can find food. He watches over his sheep to protect them from danger. He cares for them, lifting a fallen sheep from a pit and ensuring not one is lost.

This was David's experience of the Lord. He provided for David's needs. He led him to places of peace and rest. He guided him on the right paths. The Lord was with David, and He is with us.

Jesus had compassion on the crowds who were "like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36). Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Jesus laid down His life to save people from sin. He assured His disciples that when He returns, He will gather His sheep from among the nations and welcome them into His kingdom. (Matt. 26:32-34)

David compared God's love, protection, and guidance for His people to that provided by a shepherd for his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He laid down His life to save people from sin. Because of Jesus, we have hope that one day we will live with God forever.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is our King.
 - David wrote a song about God's kindness.
 - David said God is like a shepherd.
 - God shows His goodness and faithful love to us.
- **Preschool**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
 - David wrote a song to praise God.
- **Kids**
 - How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
 - David wrote a psalm to praise God.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Psalm 145:13**

NEXT WEEK

- **"Solomon Asked for Wisdom" (1 Kings 2–3)**