

# David, the Shepherd

## Bible Verse

The LORD looks on the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

## Bible Story

1 Samuel 16:1-13

## FaithPoint

God knows who we are and what we can do.

## What You Need to Know


David was the youngest son of Jesse, a wealthy land owner who lived in the town of Bethlehem. The responsibility for caring for the family's flocks of sheep had fallen to David. This work did much for molding his character and creating the man that David was to become.

Being a shepherd was difficult work. A shepherd spent the greater part of the year outdoors—both day and night, in all kinds of weather. Since sheep and goats were a primary source of food, clothing, and income for the family, David had a responsible job. The sheep depended exclusively on the shepherd for food, water, shelter, and safety. David was the source of all these things for the family herd.

When Saul deliberately disobeyed God's instructions, God sent Samuel to find a new king, one whom God had already chosen. All Samuel knew was that God had selected one of Jesse's sons. How surprised he was to discover that it was David, the youngest of the bunch.

Like Samuel, children can identify with David, the youngest, who was stuck with doing all the menial tasks that the older brothers would rather not do. He was probably not included in the grown-up stuff. God saw something in David that was out of the ordinary. God loves and cares for us. God knows what we are capable of doing. It is not the outward person that counts, but what is on the inside.



Activities marked with  contain options to use recycled or repurposed materials.



Activities marked with  may require extra preparation.

# Arrival Fun



**SUPPLIES:** Attendance Chart (**Resource Pak**—pp. 2, 28, 31), Stickers, CD and CD player (optional), offering basket

- Play music as the children arrive. Greet each parent and child as they enter the room. Tell each child that you are glad to see him or her.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Give each child a sticker of David the shepherd boy, and show the child where to place it on the attendance chart.

**SAY:** Today's Bible story is about a boy named David who grew up to be a powerful king. When David was a boy, he was a shepherd and took care of his family's sheep.

## Fun Beginnings

*The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group to introduce the Bible story.*

### Fun Pak Fun

**SUPPLIES:** Fun Pak 5, white glue, lunch-size paper bags, cotton balls

- Let the children enjoy making a sheep puppet.

### Begin Nothing But Nets

**SUPPLIES:** Leader's Guide—p. 91, old crayons with papers removed, net produce bags (such as onion or orange bags), masking tape, adult scissors, safety scissors, glue sticks or clear tape

 Photocopy the letter for each child. Cut net bags open. Tape the net to the table with masking tape.

**SAY:** These letters are for you to take home. They will explain our mission project for the month of October.

- Give each child the mission letter to cut out.
- Show the children how to place the letter on top of the net. Lay a crayon on its side; rub back and forth over the letter. Fold the edges down and glue or tape.
- Save each child's letter to give to a parent at the end of today's session.

Nothing But Nets is the children's mission project for this quarter. For information, see p. 91.

## Game Fun

**SUPPLIES:** Resource Pak—pp. 4, 29

 Place “All About David Gameboard” on a table or the floor. Separate “All About David Sheep Cards.”

- As the children play the game, they will collect sheep cards. When they have a matching pair, they will lay them down.
- At the end of the game, let each child count how many pairs of cards he or she has.

**SAY:** Today we will learn about David when he was a shepherd boy. For the next few weeks we will learn more about David’s life.

## Friendship Time

**SUPPLIES:** none

Invite the children to stand in a circle and hold hands. Say the following words, asking the children to repeat them with you and do the motions described in the words.

“We all join hands and walk in a circle; we all join hands and walk in a circle; we all join hands and walk in a circle; we will have fun today! We all join hands and hop in a circle; we all join hands and hop in a circle; we all join hands and hop in a circle; we will have fun today! We all step in and bump in the center; we all step in and bump in the center; we all step in and bump in the center; we will have fun today! Now we all bow and smile at our neighbor; we all bow and smile at our neighbor; we all bow and smile at our neighbor; we will have fun today!”

## Bible Time

### Get Ready

**SUPPLIES:** blindfold (optional)

**SAY:** In Bible times shepherds had important jobs. They had to keep track of all the sheep and keep them safe. Let’s take turns pretending to be shepherds.

- Select one child to be the shepherd. The rest of the children will be sheep. Blindfold the shepherd or have the shepherd close his or her eyes.
- Have the sheep tiptoe quietly around the room. The shepherd will call out, “Where are you, my little sheep?”



- All the sheep will stop moving and begin to say “baa.” The shepherd moves around the room until he or she touches one of the sheep. The sheep that is touched becomes the shepherd.

Play the game until several children have been the shepherd.

# Enjoy the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible Storybook 5, Stickers, pencils or crayons

- Read the Bible story to the children.
- Invite the children to add stickers to complete the picture and to circle the correct answers.

**ASK:** Which son did God chose to be king? (*David, Jesse's youngest son*) What work did David do? (*He was a shepherd boy.*) How did God know that David would be a good and kind king? (*God does not just see how we look on the outside. God looks in our hearts and knows what kind of persons we are.*) What did Samuel do to show that David would be king? (*Samuel poured oil on David's head.*)

## Bible Verse Fun

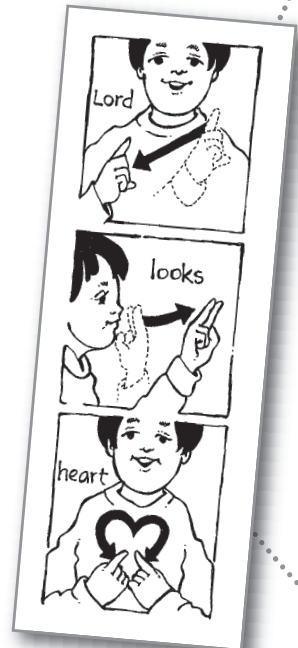
SUPPLIES: none

- Say today's Bible verse with the children several times: "The LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Teach the children how to say the verse in American Sign Language.

**Lord:** Make an "L" with the index finger and thumb of the right hand. Place the "L" at the left shoulder and then move across the body to the right waist.

**Looks:** Make a "V" with one hand. Place the "V" in front of the face, with the palm facing the face. Turn the "V" out so that the palm faces away from the face.

**Heart:** Draw an outline of a heart on the chest using the index fingers.



# Live God's Word

## Living as a Christian Kid

SUPPLIES: Bible Storybook 5

- Invite the children to follow along with you as you read "Living as a Christian Kid."

**ASK:** What did Jason discover while he and his uncle built a birdhouse for Micah? (*What is in our heart is more important than how old or how tall we are.*)

## Affirm One Another

**SUPPLIES:** CD and CD player (optional), heart shape cut out of cardstock or fun foam

- Have the children stand in a circle. Give one child the heart shape.

Gently guide the children to say nice things about appearance and inner qualities.

**SAY:** God loves us just as we are. When I stop the music, we will think of something nice to say about the child who is holding the heart. We will say something nice about this person on the outside and the inside.

- Stop and start the music so that all the children get a chance to be affirmed by the group.

# Worship

## Come Together

**SUPPLIES:** Resource Pak—pp. 5, 9, 14, 16, 17, 19, CD and CD player (optional), adult scissors, clear tape

- Play music as a signal to come to the worship area.
- Give one child the figure with today's Bible verse to place on the poster. Say the Bible verse aloud together.
- Hold up the picture cards of Samuel the Judge and David the shepherd boy.

**SAY:** God knew David had a loving heart. Having a loving heart means that David loved God and loved others.

**ASK:** How can we show we have loving hearts? *(Accept answers.)*

## Praise and Respond

**SUPPLIES:** CD and CD player (optional)

- If you will be playing "Great Is the Lord," first play the song and let the children listen. Then play the song again. Encourage the children to move with the music and sing the words, "great is the Lord," each time they hear them in the song.
- Have the children stand shoulder to shoulder in a "Squishy Prayer Circle." Tell the children that we are all connected—all Christians around the world.



**PRAY:** Dear God, thank you for loving us. Help us have loving hearts. Amen.

# Extra! Extra!



## Love Glasses

**SUPPLIES:** *Leader's Guide*—p. 92, fun foam or cardstock, red cellophane, white glue, chenille stems, adult scissors, paper punch

🕒 Use the heart frame pattern to cut out an eyeglass frame from fun foam or cardstock for each child. Cut red cellophane into 3½-inch squares.

**SAY:** God knew that David had a loving heart. We can wear our love glasses to help us remember that the kind of person we are inside is more important than how we look on the outside.

- Follow the directions on p. 92.

## Mosquito Magnets

**SUPPLIES:** *Leader's Guide*—p. 93, 3-inch cardboard circles, self-adhesive magnetic strips (or old refrigerator calendars cut into strips), adult scissors, clear adhesive paper, crayons, markers, safety scissors, glue sticks

🕒 Cut two cardboard circles for each child. Cut magnetic strips into 2-inch lengths.

**SAY:** Our mission project for this fall is Nothing But Nets. In Africa families have serious problems with mosquitoes. We can buy mosquito nets for the people to use. They can cover up with a net when they go to bed at night and mosquitoes cannot bite them. Each of us will make two refrigerator magnets to share with our family or members of our congregation. When you give someone the magnet, be sure they know that on the magnet is the website that we want everyone to visit to learn more about the program.

- Follow the directions on p. 93.

# Peek at Next Week

**Harp Fun:** Bring a shallow box, box lid, or 5-ounce aluminum can for each child.

**Friendship Time:** Cut the cards (*Leader's Guide*—p. 94) apart and place them in a paper bag.

**A Gift to Share:** Cut junk mail envelopes in half to make two pockets.