A New King

BIBLE STORY

A New King
1 Samuel 16:1-13

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. This Scripture starts off on a sad note. God has rejected Saul, the first king of Israel, because of his continued disobedience. Saul was head and shoulders taller and more kingly than anyone else in Israel. Yet he was not a man of God.

God’s chosen replacement for Saul would be one of Jesse’s sons. Samuel recognized the danger of anointing another king while Saul was still on the throne. If Saul were to hear of this action, both Samuel and Jesse’s families would be endangered. So Samuel took a sacrifice and invited Jesse and his family.

Samuel told Jesse to consecrate himself and his sons. However, by verse 11, we realize David was not part of the sacrificial rituals or Samuel’s evaluation of Jesse’s sons.

Before they ate the sacrificial meal, Jesse’s sons stood before Samuel, each seeking to be the next king of Israel. Samuel listened for the voice of the Lord to tell him which one He had chosen.

Eliab, Jesse’s oldest son, was big and strong. “Surely this is the one God has chosen”, Samuel thought. But the Lord said, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Each of Jesse’s sons passed in front of Samuel, and each one was rejected by the Lord. Samuel inquired if Jesse had any more sons. Jesse told him his youngest, smallest son was tending the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to send for David; they would not sit down to eat until the boy arrived.

When David arrived, the Lord told Samuel he was the one chosen to be king of Israel. Samuel anointed David as king. Anointing was a way to set a person apart, and as a sign of promise that God would fulfill what He said. While Samuel would have mistakenly anointed the oldest, strongest, or most handsome son, God led him to the one He had chosen. David’s kingship was not because of his physical prowess; it was because of his heart for God.

VERSE-A-MONTH

“My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2, ncv).

Think about the following:

- Have you ever misjudged someone based on their appearance?
- How should we act knowing that we can misjudge someone based on how they look?

BIBLE TRUTH

God helps us.

This lesson will help preschoolers realize God helped Samuel know David would be a good king.

This lesson will help kindergartners know God chooses people and helps them to do special work for Him.

LESSON HELPS

HELPING HAND

Tips for teachers.

DIGGING DEEPER

Important biblical and theological insights.

FaithWorks

Foundational words of the faith.

BASIC LESSON PLANNER

1. Choose preschool or kindergarten. Check the appropriate box.
3. If you would like additional lesson options, turn to pages 10 and 11.
4. Look at each activity to find needed supplies.
David and Samuel Bulletin Board

**Before class,** Prepare the bulletin board for the next five weeks. Cover the bulletin board with the background paper and border. Hide the first clue from Resources, Item 2.

**In class,** Gather children at the bulletin board. Place the first stone on the board. Say, I want all of you to look around the room for a special clue. It is a picture. Allow children to find the clue and bring it back to the bulletin board. Say, This is a shepherd’s staff. We will find out later what this clue is about. I wonder what this has to do with today’s Bible story?

**Preschool option,** Ask, What do you see in this picture? Allow guesses. Say, The boy’s name is David. The man’s name is Samuel. We will hear more about David and Samuel in our Bible story.

**Kindergarten option,** Ask, What do you think is happening in this picture? Allow guesses. Say, This is David. He is bowing. Can you bow like David? Allow children to bow. Ask, Why would David be bowing in front of this man, Samuel? Allow guesses. Say, We will find out in today’s Bible story.

**Say and Sign Bible Verse**

**Before class,** Practice the signs for help, Lord, heaven, earth. Learn the words and signs for this Bible verse.

**In class,** Have children help you place the Bible verse poster on a classroom wall. Place the poster at eye level for the children.

**Preschool option,** Point to each sign. Say the word as you do the sign. Repeat each signed word, having children do the sign and say the word. Say, We are going to learn this Bible verse by using our words and doing sign language. Say the verse four times, doing the signs. Then have volunteers lead the class.

**Kindergarten option,** Follow the same steps for kindergartners as for preschoolers. Then, cover the poster or remove it from the wall. Have the group say the verse with you. Then, have the group say the verse without your help. Next, have them sign the verse as you say it. Say, Our Bible verse says that God helps us. Let’s find out who God helps in today’s Bible story.

**Royal Crown**

**Before class,** Cut out a crown shape for each of the children. Set out crown decoration supplies in small bowls.

**In class,** Give each child a crown and say, God chose someone special in our story today. He knew just the right person for a special job. God had a special purpose for David. Let’s make a crown. What special job do you think David was given?

**Preschool option,** Give the children glue sticks and a variety of supplies. Use larger buttons and decorative pieces for little hands.

**Kindergarten option,** Have the children write their names on the crown with glue. Then have them decorate with glitter and add additional decorations to their crowns as desired.

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**You’ll need**
- Resources, Items 1A and 2
- Bulletin board, background paper, and border
- Plasti-Tak or removable tape
- Stapler and staples

**You’ll need**
- Resources, Item 3
- Plasti-Tak or double-sided tape

**You’ll need**
- Construction paper
- Round pasta
- Zigzag trim
- Buttons
- Stickers
- Markers, crayons
- Glitter
- Glue

Go to page 10 for additional Attention Getters options.
In class, Say, What do you want to do when you grow up? Has anyone ever wanted to be a king or queen? Being a king would be a very important job. What would you do if you were told you would be a king one day? Let’s listen to a story about a young boy who was going to be king one day.

God’s help: God’s help means the things that God does to care for us and help us know what He wants us to do. How can we know what God wants us to do? Allow children to come up with ideas. Distribute the two word cards to two children to display during the Bible story.

You’ll need
• Faith Word card God’s help
• Kindergarten Sight Word card you

Tell the Bible Story

GOD’S CHOSEN KING – Samuel was a helper of God. He loved God and wanted to listen to Him. The Lord said to Samuel, “Fill up a horn with oil and be on your way. I want you to go to Bethlehem and find a man named Jesse. One of his sons will be the new king. Get an animal to sacrifice and invite Jesse and his sons to help you. Then, I will tell you who is going to be the new king.”

So Samuel left to go to Bethlehem and when he arrived everyone wondered why he was there. Samuel told them, “I come to you in peace to worship the Lord God with His follower named Jesse.”

Samuel looked all through town until he found Jesse and told him, “I want to worship the Lord God with you. God has told me one of your sons is going to be the new king. I need to worship with all of them so God can tell me which one will be the new king.”

Jesse’s oldest and biggest son came to worship the Lord. Samuel thought, “This has to be the one that God will choose. He is very big and strong.” God did not choose this son. God told Samuel, “The Lord doesn’t look at the things people look at. I don’t look at the outside of a person. I look at what is on the inside. I see what a person’s heart looks like.”

All Jesse’s older sons passed Samuel but the Lord did not choose any of them to be the new king. Samuel knew he needed God’s help to know which one was the right son. Finally, Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all of your sons or do you have another?”

Jesse said, “I have one other. His name is David. He is with the sheep. He is also very young.”

Samuel said, “Bring him to me.” When David came into the room, the Lord told Samuel, “This is the one I have chosen. Go and anoint his head with oil.” God helped Samuel know who He was calling to be the new king. Samuel thought, “You are the one that God will make king.” David had the Spirit of the Lord upon him forever.

Bible Story Review Questions

Ask Preschoolers,
1. What did God want Samuel to do?
2. Who did Samuel think should be the new king?
3. Which son did God choose to be the new king?

Ask Kindergartners,
1. What did God ask Samuel to do?
2. Who was Samuel supposed to see when he went to Bethlehem?
3. Was David the person that Samuel thought would be the king? What did God look at when He chose David?
Special People Collage

**Before class,** Write “God chooses people to help Him do special work” on top of the butcher paper.

**In class,** Give children magazines and safety scissors. Have them cut out pictures of people doing special jobs for the Lord and glue them to the butcher paper.

**Preschool option,** Say, We have learned that God had a special purpose for David. He wanted David to be king. God chooses everyone to do special work for Him. Everyone’s jobs are important because we do it for God. Let’s look through the pictures to see who is doing special work.

**Kindergarten option,** Ask, Who can God choose to do special work for Him? Assure children that everyone’s jobs are important to God as they do what God wants them to do. Let’s look through these magazines to find people doing jobs that are important to God. Glue them to the paper when you find one. Hang this paper in the room for children to show their parents.

Connecting with God Through Prayer

**In class,** Note children’s requests and praises. Write them on the flip chart or in a journal. Refer to these during prayer time.


**Kindergarten Enrichment,** Allow children to pray aloud for the requests and praises before you close in prayer.

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You’ll need
- Butcher paper
- Markers or crayons
- Old magazines
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors

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Connections to Life

**Before class,** Separate the activity sheets.

**In class,** Give each child Sheet 1. Help children punch out the hats and crown as they are able (you will need to do this for young children). Say, God helped Samuel know David would be a good king. Put the crown on David to make him king. Now put the other hats on the correct people. Help children punch out robe sticker (or pre-punch for the children) and put it on David. Turn over the page and help children draw portraits.

David to be king. He chooses us to do special work for Him. Find and circle David in the picture. Help children trace the words and turn over the page. Say, Circle who you would choose to be king. God chose David, who was the smallest of all his brothers. Draw a crown on David to show he was chosen to be king.

You’ll need
- Connections, Sheet 1 & sticker
- Glue stick
The Shepherd (K)

Before class, Draw a shepherd’s staff and make copies for each child. In class, Give the children a copy of the staff. Say, Who knows who might use a special stick like this? Allow responses. If children do not guess, tell them that it is used by a shepherd to rescue sheep. Say, Today we’re going to learn about a boy that used a staff. He thought that he would only be a shepherd, but God had a different plan for this boy. Let’s decorate our staff and remember that we can do special things for God too.

What God Looks For (P/K)

In class, Place magazines on a table. As children come in, ask them to look through the magazines and cut out pictures of people who they think would make good kings or queens. Then ask them to glue the pictures to the outside edges of a piece of construction paper.

As you help children cut and glue, ask, Why did you choose these people? Is it because they look rich, famous, tall, young, old, or strong? After children have all had an opportunity to cut and glue a few pictures, ask them to draw a picture of themselves in the middle of the page. Say, You chose the people around the outside of the page because of what they looked like on the outside. But God looks at what is in our hearts. God has something special for you too!

Bible Story

God’s Chosen King
1 Samuel 16:1-13

My name is Samuel and I have many wonderful things I can share about God. I have lived my life to help Him and to let others know that He is the leader of my life. One time God asked me to do something that I didn’t understand.

God said, “How long are you going to be upset about King Saul? You know I do not want Saul to be king. I have a new job for you. Take some oil and go see a man named Jesse. He lives in Bethlehem. I want one of his sons to be the new king.”

I was very surprised when God told me to go, but I listened. I told God I was afraid to go. If Saul, the king, found out I was going, he would kill me. But God gave me a great idea! He said, “Take an animal with you and invite Jesse to sacrifice the animal with you.” Yeah, back then we would sacrifice animals to God because animals were like our money. They were important to us. When we gave them to God, God knew we loved Him and trusted Him. God wanted me to do this and I was going to! If Saul knew I was finding a new king to replace him, he would be angry, but this sacrifice was a great idea!

So, I left and went to Bethlehem. When I found Jesse, I told him, “Don’t worry. I come in peace. I want to sacrifice an animal with you so we can worship the Lord. I also have some good news to tell you. God has told me that one of your sons is going to be the new king.” Jesse was very surprised when I told him that, but he knew that if God wanted one of his sons to be king, it must come true.

Jesse, his sons, and I, went to sacrifice the animal. As each son passed me, I would ask God if this was the son who was to be king. I saw the oldest son to the
youngest. God said, “No. He is not the new king.”

I said to God, “But he is the biggest and strongest.”

“I am not looking for the biggest and the strongest,” said God. “I do not care what he looks like on the outside. I care about the inside. I care about his heart.”

Finally, I asked if there was another son. That is when Jesse’s youngest son, David, passed by me. God told me that this young shepherd boy would be the new king. So, I took my special oil and put it on David’s head. He was filled with the Spirit of the Lord and we knew he would be the new king. He was chosen by God.

**Brother, Brother, David (P)**

*In class,* Have the children sit in a circle. Say, *We are going to play a game like “Duck, Duck, Goose.” But instead of using those words, we will say, “Brother, Brother, David.” The person that is chosen as David will try to catch Samuel so that he can be anointed as the new king. Samuel is “it.” Play as time and interest allow. Say, *Samuel came to David. God told Samuel, “This is the one I have chosen to be king.”*

**Searching for a King (P or K)**

*Before class,* Make sure that there is a large enough space in the classroom where children can safely play this game.

*In class,* Choose one child to be Samuel. Wrap the blindfold around the child who is Samuel. Say, *Samuel didn’t know who God was going to choose as king, but he trusted God to show him who was right for the job.* Ask the children to spread out around the room and stand still in one place. Say, *I am going to silently choose one student to be David.* Point to one child and make sure that all the rest of the children know who it is. Say, *The rest of you can help Samuel find David by saying “hot” if Samuel is getting closer and “cold” if he is getting further away.* When Samuel finds David, rejoice with the children. Say, *You all helped [Child’s name] find [Child’s name] just like God helped Samuel find David.* If time allows, play the game again with different children playing Samuel and David.

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You may want to have a celebration feast as a part of this class. Provide crackers, grapes (cut in two pieces), and cheese. Thank God for His direction in helping us know to do special work for Him. Remember to check for food allergies before serving snacks.