



12

God Chooses David

Key Theme

- God is sovereign over all things.

Key Passage

- 1 Samuel 16:6–19

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify why God chose David.
- Describe David's characteristics.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse using the Memory Verse Cards.



Activity 1: God Chooses David Class Notes

page 5

Students will circle the answers on the God Chooses David Class Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class notes before you begin to teach.



Studying God's Word

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God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint the next king of Israel. Jesse's least likely and youngest son, David, was the one God had chosen. Samuel anointed him king. David was a man after God's own heart. David loved and trusted God.



Activity 2: Looking for the Heart

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Students will recite the memory verse and try to guess who is hiding a toy heart.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Put complete sets into envelopes or small plastic bags.
- You may want to present this as a team activity.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Cards in envelopes or small plastic bags



GOD CHOOSES DAVID CLASS NOTES

- Print one God Chooses David Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- God Chooses David Class Notes for each student
- God Chooses David Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one set of 13 Lesson Mini-Posters from the Resource DVD-ROM. Cut them apart and put them in order.
- Print the two David Images from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- 13 Lesson Mini-Posters
- 2 David Images
- Poster putty or tape



LOOKING FOR THE HEART

- No preparation necessary.

- Small toy/paper heart
- Memory Verse Poster



Memory Verse

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson this week, please prepare your heart and mind by reading 1 Samuel 16.

Recall in the last lesson that the first king God chose to rule Israel, King Saul, demonstrated through his disobedience to God that he thought himself wiser than God. Saul's heart was not right with the Lord. Because of his rebellion, God would take his kingdom away. But who would take his place? God sought a man "after His own heart . . . to be commander over His people" (1 Samuel 13:14). God found such a man in David.

God sent Samuel to anoint the man God had determined to take Saul's place. This new king would come from the household of Jesse, a man from the tribe of Judah (1 Samuel 16:1). God promised to reveal to Samuel which of Jesse's eight sons was the one whom God had selected (1 Samuel 16:3).

As Jesse presented his sons to Samuel, we see that they must have been impressive young men! Samuel immediately thought that surely God must have chosen Eliab, Jesse's oldest son, as Israel's new king (1 Samuel 16:6). But the Lord revealed that what impressed Samuel was not important to God. Eliab's good looks and height were the focus of Samuel's admiration, but the Lord sees things differently—"for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Rejecting the seven older sons, God was about to reveal Jesse's youngest son, David, as the one who was fit to replace Saul as king. Jesse apparently didn't even think enough of David to bring him in from the fields where he was shepherding to attend this sacrifice and meeting with Samuel. And yet because of David's heart, he was the one God had chosen. God knew that David would seek after His will.

David was skillful in playing music, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, and prudent in speech; the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 16:18). Ruddy, bright-eyed, and good looking, David was the one God intended to be the next king (1 Samuel 16:12). At David's anointing, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in a special way "from that day forward" (1 Samuel 16:13). The Spirit would give David the power he needed to accomplish God's will.

While the Spirit of God entered David, God's Spirit left Saul, and a distressing spirit overcame him, causing him much anguish (1 Samuel 16:14). In God's sovereign plan, David was called into Saul's court to

comfort and soothe Saul with his harp playing. David obediently came and Saul loved him and made him his armor bearer (1 Samuel 16:21).

Looking ahead in Israel's history, we find that David did fall into sin at times during his reign. Even people with the most casual knowledge of the Bible are familiar with David's adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband (2 Samuel 11). David's heart was not perfect—no man's heart is. But David loved and trusted the true God rather than his own ways and judgments, as shown in his repentance over his sin (Psalm 51). This cannot be said of Saul, who rebelled against God and made excuses rather than seeking forgiveness through humble repentance.

A striking passage that shows a picture of David's heart is found in 1 Chronicles 29. In that passage, David exhorted Israel to give gifts to support the building of the Temple. The people responded generously, and David gave thanks in 1 Chronicles 29:10–19. David asked the Lord, "Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You" (1 Chronicles 29:14). David knew that all things come from God, including the gifts they were giving for the Temple. Though he was king, David knew that God was the true Ruler of all: "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all" (1 Chronicles 29:11).

This heart of faith and adoration is what led David to be brave in battle with Goliath: "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37). It is this heart that led David to act honorably toward King Saul and spare his life when Saul was seeking to kill him (1 Samuel 24:12). The characteristic pattern of David's heart was to trust that the Lord was in control over all things. David did all to serve, honor, and love the true God. Such is a heart that is fashioned after God's own.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

In Genesis 49, as Jacob was approaching death, he called his sons together and prophetically blessed them. These blessings were not for the individual sons, but for their families, which would become the tribes of Israel. Jacob's blessing on Judah is recorded in Genesis

49:8–12. In verse 8, Jacob said, “Your father’s children shall bow down before you,” and in verse 10 he said, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah.”

Israel’s first king, Saul, was from the tribe of Benjamin—not the tribe of Judah. We see the fulfillment of Jacob’s blessing as the “scepter,” or kingdom, was taken from Saul and passed to David, who was of the tribe of Judah. The Lord’s intent was that a descendant from the tribe of Judah would reign permanently. And ultimately, that descendant from the tribe of Judah and the Son of David is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior forever.

See the Online Resource Page for more information on this topic.



BEFORE THE THRONE

How marvelous are your works and your Word, O Lord. To think that you choose the small, the weak, and the foolish as yours. You chose David as king and you’ve chosen me to teach these students. Use me for your glory, Lord. Grant me your wisdom and patience and love, so that I will bless my students with the accurate teaching of your Word and the good example of my life. As David wrote, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and recite the verse together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided a template on the Resource DVD-ROM you can use to make Memory Verse Cards to be put in order each week. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



God Chooses David Class Notes

MATERIALS

- God Chooses David Class Notes for each student
- God Chooses David Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils or pens

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students circle the correct answers as you study 1 Samuel 16.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to

work ahead. You'll circle the correct answer as we move along in our lesson.

After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we finish with our class notes, we will have discovered who the Lord chose as the next king of Israel and what he was like.



Studying God's Word

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

1 Samuel 16:6–13

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

► Re-read the verses if necessary to get the students to answer from the text.

READ THE WORD

King Saul was disobedient to God. He didn't listen to God's commands and did what he thought was best. Saul's heart was not right with the Lord. He didn't trust the Lord. Because Saul was disobedient, God told him that he would no longer be king. But who would take Saul's place? God would choose a man with an obedient, faithful heart to take his place. Today we will find out who the Lord chose and what he was like. *Put the question mark image of David on the board.*

God sent Samuel on a mission to the home of Jesse in the town of Bethlehem to find the next king—the king God had already chosen—the man who had a heart after God's own heart. When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he offered a sacrifice to God and invited Jesse and his sons to join him. We will pick up right there. Samuel was looking at the sons of Jesse wondering which son would be the next king.

Listen as I read 1 Samuel 16:6–13. If you brought your Bible turn to 1 Samuel 16 and follow along. Remember, Samuel was looking at all of Jesse's sons and wondering who the next king would be. *Read the passage aloud enthusiastically with expression.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Were you paying attention? Let's ask some questions to understand better what God is saying!

Observe the Text

? First of all, who did Samuel think should be the next king?

Re-read 1 Samuel 16:6. Eliab.

Eliab was a very good-looking young man. Samuel was quite impressed by how he looked. But God quickly set him straight. Who remembers our memory verse? This is what the Lord said to Samuel when he was about to choose Jesse's son, Eliab, because he was a strong, good-looking young man. Let's read it together. We should know it by heart! *Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Have students recite the verse.*

? Hmmmm. That brings us to #1 on your class notes. What does the Lord look at? Which picture should you circle? *Heart. Have students complete #1.*

? How many of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel? *1 Samuel 16:10. Seven. Right! Circle the right answer for #2 on your class notes.*

- ? Were any of these sons the next king of Israel? *1 Samuel 16:10. No. Circle the answer on #3.*
- ? There was still one more son who hadn't come yet. It was Jesse's youngest son. Where was he? *1 Samuel 16:11. Tending the sheep. Great! Circle your answer for #4 on your class notes.*
- ? How was this son described? *1 Samuel 16:12. Ruddy, with bright eyes and good-looking.*
- ? What did the Lord tell Samuel when he saw this last son? *1 Samuel 16:12. Anoint him! He is the one!*
- ? What did God mean by anoint him? What did Samuel anoint David with? Why did he do that? *Allow discussion.*

Samuel poured special oil on David's head; he anointed him. This showed that God had chosen him. This was almost like getting a crown. David would get the crown—but not yet!

- ? How will you answer #5 on your class notes? What did Samuel anoint David with? Which picture will you circle? *The horn of oil. Have students complete #5.*

David would be the next king! Now look up here. We have found out a little more about David. *Place the more detailed image of David as a shepherd on the board on top of the other outline image. We know who the king would be. So we can put this picture up over the question mark.*

- ? What else have we learned about David? Who can read these mini-posters for me? *Have the children read them before putting them on the board. 1. He was the youngest son. 2. He was a shepherd. 3. He was ruddy, bright-eyed, and good-looking.*
- ? And what was this young man's name? *1 Samuel 16:13. Have the students read mini-poster 4. David. Put it on the board.*

Something wonderful happened to David after Samuel anointed him.

Listen to this and tell me what it was. *Re-read 1 Samuel 16:13. Hold up mini-poster 5. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him. Have the children read it. Put it on the board.*

Discover the Truth

Very good! David was the one who would be the next king. He was the youngest—the last one Samuel looked at—the son Jesse left out in the fields tending the sheep. No one thought he would be the next king. No one except God! Why would God choose David? Because he was a man after God's own heart. This was very important. David was a man after the Lord's own heart.

- ? Can someone read the memory verse for me again—1 Samuel 16:7? *Assign a reader.*

1 Samuel 16:7

Do you see? The Lord does not look at outward appearances. Jesse didn't bother to bring David in from the fields to attend the sacrifice with

Samuel. And yet, he was the one God had chosen. God refused all the other sons. But David had the kind of heart God was seeking. He had a heart that would seek God. And for his entire life, he would try to follow the will of the Lord. **Someone read this for me.** *Hold up mini-poster 6. A man after God's own heart. After someone reads it, put it on the board.*



READ THE WORD

1 Samuel 16:14–19

God had chosen David to be the next king, but God wanted Saul to remain king for a little while longer. Remember, the Spirit of the Lord came upon David. *Refer back to mini-poster 5.* Well, a different kind of spirit came upon Saul. Turn to 1 Samuel 16:14–19. Listen carefully. I want you to answer some questions when I'm finished! *Read the passage aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? What kind of a spirit came upon Saul? *1 Samuel 16:14. A distressing spirit from the Lord.*

The Bible tells us that the spirit of the Lord left Saul. And a distressing spirit came on him. This kind of spirit would have made Saul upset, or stressed, or very worried. King Saul was very troubled and his servants noticed it. They wanted to help him. They had an idea about what might make the king feel better. They thought hearing nice music would soothe and relax him.

? What instrument did they suggest be played? *1 Samuel 16:16. The harp.*

? Right, a harp would be played to help the king. How will you answer #6 on your class notes? *Harp.*

So the servants thought about people they knew. And they thought of David, Jesse's son. They knew he was a musician and he was asked to come and play the harp for the king. He was the very one who had been anointed by Samuel to be the next king! David would one day take Saul's place!

Now listen as I read 1 Samuel 16:18 again. This verse tells us a lot about the future King David. *Read 1 Samuel 16:18.*

? That's a lot of information about David. Let's add to our board display.
Look up here. Who can read these mini-posters for me? *Hold up mini-posters 7–13 one at a time. As the students read them, put them on the board. 7) Played music; 8) Son of Jesse; 9) Man of valor; 10) Man of war; 11) Prudent in speech; 12) Handsome; 13) The Lord was with him.*

? **He was all these things. What does “man of valor” mean?** *Allow discussion. Refer to mini-poster 9. Brave or courageous.*

Yes. David was very brave. And this says he was “prudent in speech.” *Refer to mini-poster 11. Prudent means wise and sensible; David was able to make good choices.*

Discover the Truth

Isn't God amazing! This David—the son of Jesse—was the very one King Saul called into his courts to comfort him by playing music. This young man was going to be the next king. But Saul didn't know it—yet! Wow. God really knows how to work things out! Actually, God is in control of everything. We should not be surprised that this was working out just the way God wanted it to.

? **What is the attribute of God that tells us that God is in control of everything?** *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Sovereign.*

Yes. God was working everything out so that when the time came, David would be a powerful, popular, wise king. God was putting every detail of history into place so that His plan would be accomplished. There was still a lot to happen, but King Saul would eventually die, and King David would come to power. And in the family tree of King David, the Savior of the World, Jesus Christ, would be born just as God had promised through the prophets long before. *Refer to the Scarlet Thread of Redemption Poster.*

In the meantime, the shepherd boy David, from Bethlehem, had been invited into King Saul's home. And because he was a man after God's own heart, he would become popular with all the people of Israel.



SOVEREIGN
(Refer to Attributes Poster)



Looking for the Heart

MATERIALS

- Small toy/paper heart
- Memory Verse Poster

INSTRUCTIONS

Have all of the students sit in a circle. Choose a student to be "Samuel." Samuel should sit in the center and close his/her eyes while the other students recite the memory verse and pass the heart around. When the verse is completed, stop passing the heart. Samuel will have two guesses to pick who has the heart. Whether Samuel gets it right or not, the student with the heart will be the next Samuel. Be sure to give each student a turn to be Samuel.

Well, we know that God looks at the heart while man looks at the outward appearance. Remember, when Samuel was with Jesse, he looked at the outward appearance of Jesse's sons. He would not have thought God would choose the youngest son—the one left in the field

to tend the sheep. We're going to play a game. Your job, if you are Samuel, is to close your eyes while we recite the memory verse. When we are finished, you have two guesses to pick who has this heart.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We can't see each other's hearts, but the Lord can. To God, our hearts are the most important part of us. Samuel obeyed the Lord and went to see Jesse in Bethlehem. He waited for God to tell him who He had chosen as king. Samuel thought the oldest son was surely the one. But the Lord chose the youngest son—the one with a heart that desired to please God. Our sovereign Lord knows all things. He looks into the heart and knows the heart. He had chosen David to be the king.



Applying God's Word

➤ Refer to the mini-posters as you summarize the lesson.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God called David. Why would God do that? The Bible tells us David's heart was true, faithful, and trusting toward God. David loved God and trusted Him. David was a man after God's own heart. David was the youngest son of Jesse.

Let's review the way the Bible described David. Each of you give me one way David was described today. Assign students to read from the mini-posters as you point to each of them: Youngest son; Shepherd; Ruddy, bright-eyed, good-looking; David; The Spirit of the Lord came upon him; A man after God's own heart; Played music; Son of Jesse; Man of valor; Man of war; Prudent in speech; Handsome; The Lord was with him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We talked a lot about God calling David. We know that David seemed to be the least likely of eight brothers to be chosen by God—according to what the world believes. He was the youngest and just a lowly shepherd boy.

We often think God will only use the smart, the brave, or the strong. That's not so. We aren't called by God because we are smart or strong or rich or beautiful. We are called if, like David, our hearts are obedient to God. God chooses the smallest and the lowest so that God will get the glory. David was great because he had faith in God. His heart was true and trusting toward God; that's why God chose him. He became the next king after Saul—and the Messiah, Jesus, the King of all Kings, would come from David's line. Jesus would be a part of David's family.

Do you want to be used by God? Be humble and obedient to God's commands. Don't show off or take pride in anything but the Lord. Give God the glory! And then God will gladly use you.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise the Lord that He is sovereign. He knows our hearts and what is best for us.
- Thank God for choosing the foolish things of this world, the small, and the weak to be His.
- Ask God to help us have faithful, trusting hearts like David.

