



12

God Chooses David

Key Theme

- God is sovereign over all things.

Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 16:6–19, 13:14; 1 Corinthians 1:27

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify God's criteria for choosing David.
- Describe David's characteristics.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will place a bookmark at 1 Samuel 13 and 16. Students will practice the memory verse using the Memory Verse Strips.



Activity 1: God Chooses David Class Notes

page 5

Students will fill out 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 had a heart after God's own heart. David loved and trusted God.



Activity 2: David Anointed as King Skit

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Students will act out a simple skit about God choosing David as king.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Cut paper into strips for each student to mark today's study passages in 1 Samuel 13 and 16.
- If you haven't done this, print and cut the Memory Verse Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Print on cardstock if possible.
- You may want to present this as a team activity.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Paper strips
- Memory Verse Strips 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



DAVID ANOINTED AS KING SKIT

- Print eight copies of the David Anointed as King Script.

- 8 copies of the David Anointed as King Script
- Optional: Costumes and/or props



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 mark their Bibles at 1 Samuel 13 and 16 with strips of paper.
- They will put the Memory Verse Strips 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 Strips 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

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study 1 Samuel 13 and 16.

We will be filling in these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to work ahead. Complete it as we move along in

our lesson. I'll let you know when to fill in something.

After filling in 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

As we complete the class notes today, we will meet David, find out who he was and what he was like, and see how he came to be the next king of Israel.



Studying God's Word

READ THE 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.

The first king chosen by God, King Saul, was disobedient to God. Saul's heart was not right with the Lord. He didn't trust the Lord. That is what led Saul to disobey the Lord's commands.

As a consequence of Saul's disobedience, God told him that his kingdom would be taken away. But who would take Saul's place? It makes sense that since God took power away from Saul because of his disobedient and unfaithful heart that God would choose a man with an obedient, faithful heart to take his place. And that is just what God did—He chose someone who wanted to do His will. Today, we will find out who the Lord chose. *Put the outline image with the question mark on the board.*

God sent His prophet, Samuel, to Jesse of the tribe of Judah 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 made a sacrifice 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.

1 Samuel 16:6–13

Let's read 1 Samuel 16:6–13 together. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

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

Observe the Text

- ? Look at 1 Samuel 16:6. Who did Samuel think would be the next king at first? *Eliab.*
- ? Was Eliab the king God had chosen? What did God say to Samuel? *1 Samuel 16:7. No. "I have refused him."*
- ? What was Samuel looking at when he thought Eliab would be the next king? What does man look at? *1 Samuel 16:7. Man looks at the outward appearance.*
- ? That's right! And you should know this—what does God look at? *1 Samuel 16:7. God looks at the heart.*

That verse should sound familiar. It's our memory verse!

- ? God sees differently than man sees, doesn't He? *Yes.*

- ? Who did Jesse send to Samuel next? *1 Samuel 16:8. Abinadab.*
- ? Was this the Lord's chosen king? *No.*
- ? Which of Jesse's sons came next? *1 Samuel 16:9. Shammah.*
- ? Was this the Lord's chosen king? *No.*
- ? How many sons passed before Samuel? *1 Samuel 16:10. Seven.*
- ? Were any of these sons the next king of Israel? *1 Samuel 16:10. No.*
- ? Which of Jesse's sons had not come before Samuel? *1 Samuel 16:11. The youngest son.*
- ? What was the youngest son doing? *1 Samuel 16:11. Tending the sheep.*
- ? How was he described in 1 Samuel 16:12? *Ruddy, with bright eyes and good looking.*
- ? Was he to be the next king? *1 Samuel 16:12. Yes! Put the image of David as a shepherd up over the first one.*

Very good. Look at your class notes. Complete #1 through #3. Have students complete #1–3 on their class notes. Discuss the answers. The youngest son. Shepherd. Ruddy, eyes, looking.

As you summarize #1–3, put the mini-posters on the board. So we have learned a few things about David. He was a shepherd, the youngest son, ruddy, bright eyed, and good looking! Place the mini-posters (1–3) around the drawing of David: "Youngest son," "Shepherd," "Ruddy, bright eyed, good looking."

- ? Good. We are starting to know a little about the next king. What did the Lord tell Samuel? The answer is at the end of 1 Samuel 16:12. *Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!*
- ? What was this young man's name? *1 Samuel 16:13. David. Have students fill in #4 on their class notes. David. Place mini-poster 4 "David" on the board by his image.*

The prophet of the Lord anointed Jesse's youngest son David. After being anointed, something happened to him.

- ? What happened to David after Samuel anointed him? *1 Samuel 16:13. The spirit of the Lord came upon him. Place mini-poster 5 "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him" on the board next to the drawing of David.*

Discover the Truth

Very good! David was the one who would be the next king. He was the youngest—the one who was out tending the sheep. Why would God choose David? Turn to 1 Samuel 13:14. Someone read that for me. It tells us something about David. It tells us who the Lord sought. Listen carefully. *Assign a reader.*

Did you hear that? The Lord sought for Himself a man after His own heart to replace Saul who had not obeyed God.

1 Samuel 13:14

1 Samuel 16:7

Someone read the memory verse for me—1 Samuel 16:7. *Assign a reader.*

Do you see? The Lord does not look at outward appearances. Jesse didn't even think enough of David to bring him 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 after what God wanted for him. And for his entire life, he would try to follow the will of the Lord. Go ahead and complete #5 on the class notes. *Have students complete #5 with "man," "heart." Place mini-poster 6 "a man after God's own heart" on the board.*



READ THE WORD

God had chosen David to be the next king, and even though David had been anointed to be the next king, God wanted Saul to remain the king for a while. You know how we read that the Spirit of the Lord had come upon David? Well, a different spirit came upon Saul. We talked about it in Lesson 11.

1 Samuel 16:14–19

Let's read 1 Samuel 16:14–19 together. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. We need to know more about this passage. Let's ask some questions to see what the Lord is saying here.

Observe the Text

- ? **What was wrong with King Saul?** *1 Samuel 16:14. The Spirit of the Lord had left him and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.*
- ? **He 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. What was their idea?** *1 Samuel 16:16. Find someone who could play the harp when the king was troubled. This would make the king well.*
- ? **Right. So the servants went to find such a man. And whom did they suggest would be perfect to make the king feel better?** *1 Samuel 16:18–19. Jesse's son, David.*
- ? **Interesting! 1 Samuel 16:18 tells us more about David. What do we learn about David here?** *1 Samuel 16:18. Played music; son of Jesse; man of valor; man of war; prudent in speech; handsome; the Lord is with him.*

- ? There are a couple of words here you may not know. What does “man of valor” mean? *Allow discussion. Brave or courageous.*
- ? And what does “prudent” mean? The Bible says David was prudent in speech. *Allow discussion. Wise, sensible.*

Great! I want you to complete #6 on your class notes while I’m putting these mini-posters on the board. *Have students fill in #6 on their class notes. Music. Valor. War. Prudent. Handsome. Place the matching mini-posters (7–13) on the board. “Played music,” “Son of Jesse,” “Man of valor,” “Man of war,” “Prudent in speech,” “Handsome,” “The Lord was with him.”*

- ? And what did Saul do? Who did Saul call for? *1 Samuel 16:19. He sent a messenger to Jesse for David to come to the palace.*

Discover the Truth

God is truly amazing! He is sovereign in all things. It is not likely that Saul knew anything about David before this time. And now, after being anointed as the next king to take over after Saul, David was asked into Saul’s royal home.

Not only that, Saul made David his armor bearer—which meant that David had to spend a lot of time with King Saul. God was working every detail of history into place so that His plan would be accomplished. There was a lot to happen yet, but we know that eventually King Saul would die and King David would come to power. And from the line of King David, from the house of Judah, the Savior of the World, Jesus Christ, would be born just as God had promised through the prophets long before this.

In the meantime, the shepherd boy from Bethlehem had been invited into King Saul’s court. 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)



David Anointed as King Skit

MATERIALS

- Eight David Anointed as King Scripts—one for each part

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose students to act out the skit. You may want to make name tags for the characters they are playing. There are both speaking and non-speaking roles. Have students act out this simple skit to illustrate how God used Samuel, Jesse, and his sons to choose the great King David.

Well, we know that God looks at the heart while man looks at the outward appearance. Remember, when Samuel was with Jesse on the mission to find the new king, even he was swayed by 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 do a skit about God sending Samuel to anoint the new king. Assign the parts and pass out the scripts. Perform the action in an area of the room where the students can move around, or make it a simple reader's theater.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Samuel obeyed the Lord and went to see Jesse in Bethlehem. He waited for God to tell him who God had chosen as king. Samuel thought the oldest son, Eliab, 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

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

- ? God called David. Why would God do that? *Allow discussion.*

The Bible tells us David's heart was true, faithful, and trusting toward God. David loved God and trusted Him.

Refer to your mini-posters as you summarize. 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 them out. He was the youngest son, a shepherd, good looking, full of the Spirit of the Lord, had a heart after God's own heart, a musician, man of valor, man of war, prudent in speech, handsome.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We talked a lot about God calling David. We know that David was the least likely of eight brothers to be chosen by God—according to what the world believes. And yet, because his heart was true, faithful, and trusting toward God, God did choose him—he became the next king after Saul—and the Messiah, Jesus, the King of all kings, would come from his line. Jesus would be a part of David's family. Sometimes things don't make sense to us.

? Someone turn to 1 Corinthians 1:27. I want you to read this. *Assign a reader.*

1 Corinthians 1:27

Hmmm. God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise. God has chosen the weak things to put to shame the things that seem mighty. We often think it should be the very opposite, that God will use the smart, the brave, the strong. It'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 soft and obedient to God. God chooses the smallest and the lowest so that He will get the glory.

Do you want to be used by God? Be humble. Don't seek greatness. Be obedient to God's commands. Don't boast in anything but the Lord. Don't be prideful. Give God the glory! And then God will gladly use you.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students 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 to have faithful, trusting hearts like David.

