

## **August 2nd \*Unit 11\*Session 1\* Elementary**

### **David was Anointed**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 16–17

**STORY POINT:** God chose David to be king instead of Saul.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 145:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

#### **Opening Activity:** Battle Plans

Provide each kid with a sheet of paper and pencils, markers, or crayons. Ask them to draw their idea of perfect armor. Then ask them to draw a diagram of what battle plan they might use if they had to fight a powerful enemy. Would they bring a large army with them or go into battle alone?

Say: If you had to fight a powerful enemy, you might choose to bring many people with you into the battle. But if the other warriors were too afraid to fight, would you go in alone? Today we will learn about a time David fought a powerful enemy. David wasn't alone though; he had God fighting for him!

## **THE BIBLE STORY**

David Was Anointed

1 Samuel 16–17

Saul was the king of Israel, but he disobeyed God. So God chose a new king for Israel, a better king. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to visit a man named Jesse. One of Jesse's sons would be Israel's next king. Jesse had eight sons. Jesse's oldest son was tall and handsome. When Samuel saw him, he thought, This must be the one God chose to be king. But God told Samuel, "He's not the one. Do not pay attention to what he looks like. You look at what you can see on the outside, but I see the heart." One by one, Jesse's sons approached Samuel, but God had not chosen them either. "Do you have any more sons?" Samuel asked. "Yes," Jesse said. "My youngest son, David, is in the field taking care of the sheep." Jesse sent for David. When David arrived, God told Samuel, "He's the one!" Samuel anointed David; he poured oil on David's head to show God had chosen him to be the king. The Spirit of the Lord was with David, and Samuel went back home.

When the Philistines gathered an army to fight Israel, King Saul got his army ready too. The Philistines had a great warrior named Goliath. Goliath shouted at the Israelites, "Send me your best man, and we'll fight one-on-one." But none of the

Israelites wanted to fight Goliath. They were afraid of him. One day, Jesse told David to take food to the battlefield. David's brothers were in Israel's army. David saw Goliath and how the Israelites were so afraid. David turned to King Saul and said, "I'll fight him!" David had fought off lions and bears. He trusted God to keep him safe. Saul offered his armor to David, but it was too heavy. Instead, David chose five smooth stones from a nearby stream and met Goliath armed only with the stones and a slingshot.

Goliath made fun of David because he was a young boy, but David said, "You come to fight with a spear and sword, but I come to fight in the name of God! God always wins His battles!" David ran toward Goliath. He slung a rock and hit Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell facedown, and David killed him. The Israelites won the battle, and the Philistines ran away.

**Christ Connection:** 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.

### **Key passage activity**

Develop hand motions for the key passage. You may choose to research some basic sign language on which to base your hand motions. Then use a simple rhythm to make the verse and motions easier to remember. Practice saying the key passage with the kids multiple times. Challenge kids to say the passage without reading the poster.

Say: Our key passage reminds us that God's kingdom will go on and on forever. God is faithful. He has promised to send Jesus back to rule over the world as our perfect King. How is Jesus our perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

### **Discussion & Bible skills**

Ask the following questions:

- 1. Where did God send Samuel to find the next king of Israel?** (to the town of Bethlehem to a man named Jesse, 1 Sam. 16:1)
- 2. People see what is on the outside. What does God see?** (The Lord sees the heart, 1 Sam. 16:7)
- 3. When Goliath taunted David, how did David respond?** ("I come against you in the name of the Lord," 1 Sam. 17:45)

**4. Why is it important that God sees our hearts?** Guide kids to discuss the idea that we cannot hide our sin from God. No matter how much we may try to be good, God knows that our hearts are dead in sin. God knows that we need Jesus to rescue us.

**5. How are we like the Israelites?** Help the kids to see that the Israelites were cowering in fear. They were unwilling and unable to fight Goliath. When David defeated Goliath, the Israelites enjoyed the freedom and victory David won, even though they did not earn it. We benefit from Jesus' victory, even though we could not have earned it and do not deserve it.

SAY: When God chose David to be king instead of Saul,  
His choice may have seemed odd to Samuel at first.  
Similarly, Jesus did not seem like a king when He  
died on the cross, but because He died and rose  
again, we can have victory over sin and death.

**Craft:** Cotton launchers

Help kids make cotton ball launchers. Cut off the bottom of a small plastic cup. Knot the end of the balloon and snip off the top of the balloon. Stretch that opening over the open bottom of the cup so that the tied-off point is centered over the cup and the latex covers the end of the cup. Use tape to secure the balloon onto the plastic cup. Kids can place cotton balls into the open end of the cup so they settle against the balloon. By pulling on the tied-off point and releasing, they can launch the cotton balls.

Say: Our cotton launchers probably can't hurt anyone. But today we will learn about how David trusted God to defeat a powerful enemy. Do you think David used cotton balls?

**Reflection and prayer**

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

**End by praying together**

