

GOD'S BIG PLAN

God's King 1 Samuel 16-17

Supporting Scriptures: 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 2 Samuel 7; Acts 13:16-23



Lesson Goals: To see that God reaches out to and communicates with us.
To see that God is faithful.
To see that to please God requires faith.

Scripture Memory People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts. 1 Samuel 16:7 (CEV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as “He said. . . She said” or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Let's review what we have learned so far about God's Big Plan. (Review the previous stories, encouraging more and more students to share.)

Last week, we saw God's people reject Him and ask for a king so that they could be like all the other nations. God gave them what they asked for. What was King Saul like? (He was taller than everyone else. He was also handsome. He was from an important family and he was older. He was already thirty years old.) Did Saul obey God? (No.) King Saul didn't obey God and God was sorry that He had ever made Saul king. So while Saul was still king, God looked for the next king.

READ: 1 Samuel 16:1 (Remember to hold the Bible open throughout the story.)

King Saul was still on the throne, but God was ready to find the king's replacement. God sent Samuel, the man of God, to Bethlehem, to Jesse's family. Do you remember before the battle of Jericho, when Israel was going into the promised land? There was a woman from Jericho who helped save the spies by hiding them on her roof. That woman was Rahab and Jesse was Rahab's great-grandson. One of Jesse's sons would be the next king. When Samuel entered Jesse's home, he saw the oldest son and thought, "He has got to be the one." But God told Samuel, "What someone looks like on the outside isn't important even though that's how men decide how important someone is. What's important is the heart; that's what I look at." Then Jesse brought one son after the other, seven in all, but God rejected all of them. "Do you have more sons?" Samuel asked Jesse. Jesse had one more son, the youngest. He was out taking care of the sheep. They sent for the youngest son, David. When he arrived, Samuel could see that David was young, still a teenager. His skin was red, but he was handsome. Saul had looked like a king; he was tall and handsome and important. David was none of that; he was young, small and unimportant. Even so, when he walked in, God told Samuel, "Get up and anoint him. He's the one!" David, the shepherd, the son of Jesse, would be the next king!

Before long, King Saul called his armies to war. David's three oldest brothers went while young David stayed home to take care of his sheep. David may have been young, but taking care of sheep wasn't an easy job. Sheep are not the smartest animals and they need lots of supervision. Wild animals like to snack on sheep! To protect his sheep, David had killed lions and bears! He was very brave. While David was taking care of the sheep, Israel's enemy, the Philistines, were getting ready for battle. They paired off with Israel on

opposite hills across the Valley of Elah. The Philistines sent out their champion. Goliath was almost ten feet tall. He wore armor that weighed 125 pounds. He was huge and the Israelites were afraid. Goliath shouted insults at the Israelites and their God day and night for forty days!

Meanwhile, Jesse wanted to know how his sons were doing away at battle. He sent David with grain, bread, and cheese. David left someone in charge of his sheep and headed for the valley of Elah. When he arrived, he ran to the battle line and his brothers. And then Goliath came out, shouting at the armies of Israel. They all ran from him; all but one! "Who does he think he is to make fun of the armies of the living God," David asked. "This Philistine will be just like those lions and bears I've killed. The God who delivered me from them will save me from this giant." So David went to a stream and chose five smooth stones and put them in his shepherd's bag. He returned with his sling in his hand and went out to meet Goliath. Huge Goliath sneered at puny David and threatened to feed him to the birds! David's answer to Goliath was this, "You are coming at me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the God you've made fun of. Today this same God is going to give you to me so that everyone will know that God doesn't deliver us with swords and spears! This fight is God's." At that, Goliath began to move toward David. And instead of running away, David ran to meet Goliath, grabbing a stone and slinging it. It hit the giant right between the eyes! Down he went, face first! David had killed Goliath with a sling and a stone! God had delivered His people! And God continued to deliver His people from their enemies through David. David became king and ruled God's people. When he was thirty, and because he had been very musical since he was young, David wrote many songs to God. David sang about how amazing God is. He sang when he was scared. And David sang songs just to thank God.

After David had become king and was living in his house, the palace, he realized that God was still living among them in a tent. David wanted to do something very special for God. David wanted to build a permanent house for God. Instead of David building God a house, David's son, the next king, would build God's house. But God shared something amazing with David. God wanted to build David a house. Not a house with walls and a roof; God wanted David's family to rule forever. David's son would follow him on the throne, but that was just the beginning. God promised David that the Promised One - the Savior - would one day come from David's family. Through David, the whole world would be blessed!

Review:

Let's review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Why was David chosen to be king? (Because King Saul disobeyed God by trying to do things his own way.) When God began to look for Saul's replacement, He looked for someone with a heart like His own. He found it in the young shepherd, David. David wasn't perfect, but He did what God asked him to do. David's obedience was rewarded. The faithful God, who completes what He promises, made a promise to David. Someone very special would come from David's family - the Savior of the world, the One who would crush the head of Satan! Just as God was faithful to David, He has been faithful to us. Many years later, God completed His promise to David. God sent His One and Only Son. Jesus was born to a man and woman who were descendants of King David. Jesus was born in the town of David, Bethlehem. Jesus came to be a blessing to all, to be the Savior of the world.

Have you accepted Jesus into your life as Savior. You may ask, "What do I need to be saved from?" You need to be saved from the sin that wants to rule you. Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, we've had a problem and there's not a thing we can do to get rid of that sin. But God showed us how much He loved us. While we were still sinning, Jesus died for us. He died for you. Will you begin to live for Him, today?

**Planning for Next Week
Lesson 20 - King Solomon
1 Kings**

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “Big and Small” to the tune of “Deep and Wide”

SHARE: While Saul was still the king, God was looking for a new king. God sent Samuel, the man of God, to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse. One of Jesse’s sons would be the next king.

When Samuel entered Jesse’s home, he saw the oldest son and thought, “He’s the one.” But God told Samuel, “You are looking at how tall he is and how he looks. I care about what he thinks and if he will obey me.” Then Jesse brought one son after the other, seven in all. God said “No,” to all of them. “Do you have more sons?,” Samuel asked Jesse. Jesse had one more son, the youngest. He was out taking care of the sheep. They sent for him and when he got there, Samuel could see that David was young, still a teenager. His skin was red, but he was handsome. Saul had looked like a king; he was tall and handsome and important. David was none of that; he was young, small and unimportant. Even so, when he walked in, God told Samuel, “Get up and anoint him with the oil. He’s the one!” David, the shepherd, the son of Jesse, would be the next king!

Before long, King Saul called his armies to war. David’s three oldest brothers went while young David stayed home to take care of his sheep. Israel’s enemy, the Philistines, were also getting ready for battle. They met Israel on opposite hills across a valley. The Philistines sent out their champion. Goliath was almost ten feet tall. He wore heavy armor. He was huge and the Israelites were afraid. Goliath shouted insults at the Israelites and their God. He did this day and night for forty days!

While all of this was going on, Jesse wanted to know how his sons were doing away at battle. He sent David. David left someone in charge of his sheep and headed for the valley. When he got there, he ran to the battle line to see his brothers. Then, Goliath came out. He shouted at the army. They all ran from him; all of them but one! “Who does he think he is to make fun of the armies of the living God,” David asked. “God will save us from this giant.”

David went to a stream and picked five smooth stones. He put them in his bag. He went back with his sling in his hand and went out to meet Goliath. Huge Goliath laughed at little David. David told Goliath, “Today God is going to give you to me so that everyone will know that God doesn’t need swords and spears!”

Goliath came towards David. Instead of running away, David ran to Goliath, grabbing a stone and slinging it. It hit the giant right between the eyes! Down he went, face first! God delivered His people! David sang a song to God.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for using someone small like David.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Play “Five Smooth Stones” memory game. Preparation: On five stone shaped cards, print phrases of the memory verse. Place the five smooth stones in a bag. Play: Encourage students to draw a “stone” out of the bag until all have been drawn. Help your students place the stones in order, practicing the verse over and over again.
- Help your students collect bags of stones the way David did. Use brown paper lunch sacks. Write the memory verse on each bag. If available, go outside and encourage each student to collect five stones. If going outside is not possible, hide stones in your study area for your students to find or make stones from clay.
- Make a large cardboard replica of Goliath’s head, cutting a hole at his forehead. Take turns throwing bean bags in an attempt to hit Goliath as David did.
- Make slingshots.
- Make harps. Draw harps onto construction paper or cardstock. Punch holes across the top of the harp with corresponding holes across the bottom. Thread with yarn.
- Make “God’s Eyes.” Talk about how God sees differently than we do. He can see our hearts.
- Make crowns again. Use large pieces of construction paper, cutting points across one long side. Across the front, print “David-God’s King.” Tape to fit individual students’ heads.
- For adults or older students: Look over some of the Psalms. Have someone read and then discuss what has been read, discussing David’s faithfulness to God. Suggestions: Psalm 8, 15,19 (written after David was anointed by Samuel), 23, 24, 27, or 51 (If appropriate, you might want to discuss David and Bathsheba. This psalm is David’s response to God when confronted by the prophet Nathan.)
- For adults or older students: Read and discuss 2 Chronicles 16:9a (*For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*) in light of God’s choice of David and His desire for us.