



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Acts 2:22-32

Session Theme:

Election

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: Rock, Paper, Scissors

Divide kids into pairs and tell them to face each other. Explain how to play “Rock, Paper, Scissors” as follows: Place a fist on top of your open palm. Say, “Rock, paper, scissors, throw!” while lightly pounding your fist on your palm. On “throw,” both of you will simultaneously use your fisted hand to make a rock (closed fist), paper (an open palm) or scissors (a “V” with fingers.). Whoever chooses the “strongest” symbol wins. (Rock smashes scissors, scissors cut paper, and paper covers rock to win the round.) Have pairs play three rounds.

Rock, Paper, Scissors is a game people play to choose someone for a special reward or task. Yet in real life, choosing a leader isn't so simple. Let's begin our lesson and learn about a time God did the choosing!

c. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you are in control, and your choices are wise and good. Help us to trust you in all circumstances. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- “He Leadeth Me” (hymn)
- “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” (hymn)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today’s Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Monarchy

God’s people settled in their own land and were united for the first time under the reign of three great kings: Saul, David, and Solomon.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level.

Upper Elementary: Read the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read the Scripture text from the Bible

For Upper and Lower Elementary, use the Storyteller questions to help the students think about the events of the story.

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Upper Elementary: Worksheet and Drama

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, Questions)

Adult: Bible Study Sheet (Introduction and Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day’s lesson one last time. If you have not already done so, introduce the Theme Word for the week, providing the definition, and asking how the lesson connects to that theme.

Youth/Adult: Discuss “Reflection for the Week Ahead”

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Upper Elementary: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord’s Prayer, Luther’s Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 16-22

1. When God told Samuel to go to Jesse and choose a king, Samuel was afraid. Why? What was he worried about? What did Samuel finally do?

The prophet Samuel was afraid that Saul (the current king) would be upset that a new king was being chosen, and would kill him. (In fact, this is what King Saul later tried to do to David.) But despite his fears, Samuel trusted God and did what God asked him to do.

2. What was the reaction of the people in Bethlehem when they saw the prophet Samuel coming? Why might some Christians have a similar reaction when the pastor comes to visit? Is this understandable?

The people's first reaction to the arrival of Samuel was apprehension and fear. They didn't know if Samuel was coming with good news (God's blessing) or bad news (God's condemnation). Sometimes, the presence of a "religious authority" or a member of the clergy makes people self-conscious of their behavior — even though that person may not be judging them in any way.

3. Who did Samuel think should be the king? Why? Did God agree with Samuel's choice? What did God tell him?

Samuel assumed that Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, would be the one God would choose to be the king, for he was strong and tall (and, after all, he was the firstborn). But God thought otherwise and chose the youngest of the brothers — a shepherd boy named David. God told Samuel, "The Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (v. 7).

4. How many of Jesse's sons did Samuel see before David appeared? How did the prophet know to anoint young David as king?

Seven of Jesse's sons passed by Samuel, but God told him that none of them were to be king. When David was brought before Samuel, God said that this was the chosen king. The fact that David was not even present is proof that God was the one making the choice.

5. Seeing that God chose David as king over his older, stronger brothers, what does this tell us about how God

does his work among us? How is that encouraging to you in your life of faith?

God doesn't look at outward appearances and status, but cares about what is inside a person. You may not be popular or well known; you may not be the greatest athlete or performer; you may not think you have the skills or talents to serve God. But God is able to use even the smallest and most humble person to do his work — even you! As is often said, "God does not choose the worthy; he makes worthy those whom he has chosen."

6. Have you ever compared yourself to other people and felt jealous of something they had? Do you think David's brothers felt this way? How can this story help you let go of that jealousy?

Knowing that God looks first and foremost at our hearts can help us realize what is truly important in life. We don't have to be the strongest, wealthiest, or most beautiful. God made us, loves us, and can use us just as we are!

Just as God established David's identity as king through the means of anointing, God establishes our identity as his child by means of our baptism.

7. Read Acts 2:22-32. The Apostle Peter was speaking nearly 1000 years after David lived. What did David foretell about the Lord Jesus (v. 25-28)? How does Peter say that Jesus differs from David (v. 29-32)?

Peter quotes Psalm 16, where David wrote about the Messiah (God's anointed one), and how the Messiah would not stay dead or experience decay. Peter makes the point that David could not have been talking about himself, since he was long dead and buried (and likely decayed to dust). Instead, David was talking about One who would come from his family line, who would serve an eternal king — Jesus himself. Peter says David foresaw the resurrection of Jesus, his ascension to the right hand of the Father, as well as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

8. What does the story of David's anointing have in common with the story of Jesus' birth — literally and thematically?

Jesus was from the same family line as David. Both were born in the city of Bethlehem. Both came from humble beginnings among animals. The public declaration of David as king is similar to the message of the angels at Jesus' birth: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The title Christ means Messiah, the anointed one.

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Child of God Self-Portrait

Materials Needed:

- Copy Paper
- Markers
- Crayons or colored pencils (optional)
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Construction Paper
- Stapler



Instructions:

David was a young man when God chose him to be king. Samuel didn't think David had the height, or the age, or the experience for the job, but God knew there was more to him than met the eye.

Give each person a piece of copy paper, a pencil with an eraser, and some markers. Invite kids to draw a portrait of themselves in pencil.

In the background of the picture, kids can write things that are special about them—interests or talents they have, dreams for the future, things they are thankful for, etc. (See illustration for an idea of how this might look.)

Once kids are satisfied with their portraits, have them go over the pencil lines with marker. They can then color in the portrait further with markers, crayons or colored pencils.

Give everyone a piece of construction paper. Center each person's portrait on construction paper and staple it in place. Kids will now have a "framed" portrait of themselves at this particular age — a snapshot in time.

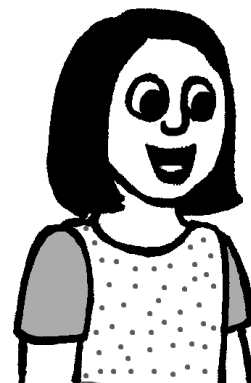
Invite them to write 1 Samuel 16:7 around the picture frame: "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

It is easy to think that we cannot serve God until we are older, but God can use us at every point in our lives — even right now! God made you, loves you, and wants the best for you. Trust him, and walk by faith as David did.

Activity 2: The King's Court Game

Materials Needed:

- Large open area to play a game
- **If playing outside:**
6 orange cones or 3 long pieces of yarn
- **If playing inside:**
3 long pieces of masking tape



Instructions:

Before playing: Use two long pieces of yarn or masking tape (or four orange cones) to make two separate finish lines (side by side) at the end of a field or large room. Then, use one more long piece of yarn or masking tape (or two orange cones) to make a starting line at the other end of the field or room.

Divide the class into two teams. Choose one person from each team to be the "king" of that team. Have kings stand together near the finish lines.

Invite all other players (the "subjects") from both teams to mix together and stand, with their backs to the kings, along the starting line.

Direct each king to stand behind a finish line. This area is each king's "court." It is important that "subjects" don't know which finish line belongs to which king.

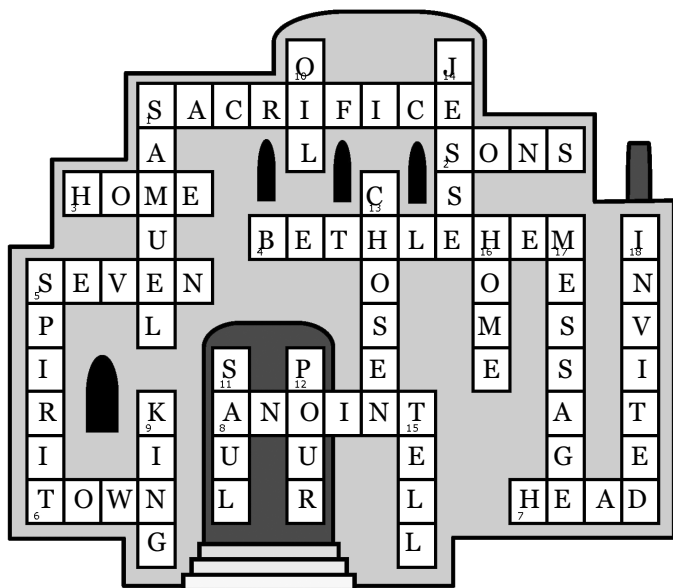
When you say, "Go," both kings will begin talking loudly in order to direct their team members, who continue to face away from the kings, to cross the finish line where they (not the other king) are standing. Whichever king gets all subjects across the proper finish line and into their court first wins the game!

The job of a king may seem glorious, but it requires a lot of perseverance too. For that reason, God was careful in whom he chose for that position. King David's age and looks didn't matter — God looked at David's heart. And there, God saw bravery, and steadfastness, and faith — all qualities that would be needed to lead God's people.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Jesse's House



Crossword Answers

Across

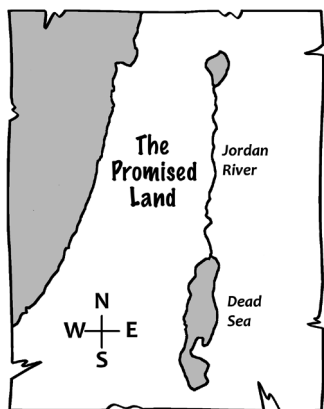
- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. sacrifice | 2. sons | 3. home |
| 4. Bethlehem | 5. seven | 6. town |
| 7. head | 8. anoint | |

Down

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Samuel | 5. Spirit | 9. king |
| 10. oil | 11. Saul | 12. pour |
| 13. chosen | 14. Jesse | 15. tell |
| 16. horn | 17. message | 18. invited |

Map Question

People don't realize how small the land of Israel really is. The distance between **Ramathaim-zophim** and **Shiloh** is about 18 miles.



Vocabulary Word for the Week:

Teachers may want to introduce the theme word for the week to help expand students' biblical vocabulary:

Election

to be chosen for a purpose
(in the Bible, it is God who chooses!)

*It was not Samuel who chose David to be king.
David's election came from God.*

Reflection for the Week Ahead

In our lesson for this week we heard these words, "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

God saw something that the prophet Samuel couldn't see — that David was a young man after God's own heart. It didn't matter that David was the smallest of Jesse's sons, or the shortest, or even the weakest. God had a plan for David that only God could see.

Talk together with your family members about a time when they were chosen by God (even through the choosing by another person) for a certain purpose, even though they might not have been the strongest or smartest or what seemed like the best person for the role.

In what ways can we trust that God knows best when it comes to choosing who he wants for a particular purpose? How can we trust that God knows exactly who we are and where we are needed?

Jesus said: "You did not choose me, but I chose you" (John 15:16). Why is that important to remember, especially when we have doubts about ourselves?



The Practice of Prayer

Thank God for his guidance and instruction. Ask him for a deeper faith to trust that he knows what he's doing when he chooses us for a purpose.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.