



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

**2 Samuel 5:1-5,
6:1-5, 16-22**

1 Peter 3:20b-21

**Session Theme:
Celebration**

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. Warm Up: Coronation Celebration!

Draw the outline of a crown on the board or on a piece of paper. Ask kids what this shape brings to mind (*a king or queen*). Explain that a coronation is a special day where a king or queen gets their crown and officially becomes the leader of their nation. Usually, people throw a big celebration or party on that important day. Invite kids to name any kings or queens they can think of, including Biblical ones.

In today's story, we're going to learn about David, a young shepherd boy who grew up to be king of Israel. David had been chosen by God for his role, and he took it very seriously. But it was a big job, and not always easy. Let's hear what happened on the very day he became king!

c. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, thank you for this day, and for those who lead our own country. Bless and guide them, and all world leaders. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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:

- "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (kids' song)
- "Let All Things Now Living" (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: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5, 16-22

1. The story of the actual anointing of young David by the prophet Samuel is told in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. In verse 3 of our lesson today, it says that the “elders of Israel” anointed David. How does this public declaration of David as king confirm a decision that had been made by God years earlier?

The original anointing of David by Samuel at the home of Jesse (in 1 Samuel) was described as a secret event, known only to a few. It stresses that the choice of David was God's from the beginning, not simply based on human popularity. The anointing in today's story shows the public recognition of his God-given kingship.

2. In verse 5:2, God refers to David as the chosen shepherd of his people Israel. What is the role of a shepherd? Why is this an appropriate image with which to describe a faithful ruler?

A shepherd cares for the sheep by leading them, providing for them, and protecting them — even going so far as laying down his life. In the same way, a good and faithful ruler cares for the people (not simply his own position). Good rulers serve the nation and the people for the common good.

Compare John 10:11-16, where Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd.

3. After capturing the city of Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:7), David made the city his capital. From what you know of Scripture, what significant events in biblical history later took place in this city?

Jerusalem became the location of the great Temple and the center of politics and religion in the region. In the story of Jesus, Jerusalem was the city he entered on Palm Sunday and where he had his Last Supper with the disciples. It was also where Jesus was crucified and rose again.

4. Verses 6:1-5 say that David brought up the Ark of the Covenant with him into the city. What is the significance of the Ark of God? What did this ceremonial box contain?

We are not talking about Noah's ark here. The Ark of the covenant (described in Exodus 25:10-22) was a sacred box which held the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The “mercy seat” on the top of the Ark was regarded as God's physical throne on earth, where his divine presence was

located. The Ark was kept in the Holy of Holies in the temple, an area accessed only by the high priest.

5. Read 2 Samuel 6:12b-22. What were David and the people doing when the Ark entered the city? Who disapproved of this? Why?

David and the people were celebrating, playing music, blowing horns, and dancing in praise. Saul's daughter, Princess Michal, looked on David with scorn, because she thought he was not behaving like a dignified king, but was flaunting his shirtless body in front of the commoners. (Michal was David's wife in a political marriage; the two had a love-hate relationship.)

6. Read Mark 11:8-10. This event happened at the same location, 1000 years later. Who was entering the city? What were the people doing?

In the last week prior to his death, Jesus entered the city in celebration, not unlike the way David did many years before. The palms of Palm Sunday were symbols of national power (much like we might wave the flag at a parade). The people thought Jesus was going to take the throne and become a warrior king like David.

7. How do David's words in 2 Samuel 6:21-22 foreshadow what would happen to Jesus? How was Christ the fulfillment of the promise God made to David?

David reminded Michal that he had been chosen by God to replace her father Saul. His celebration was an expression of praise to God — he didn't care if she thought he looked foolish by “debasing” himself.

This foreshadows what would happen to Jesus. Though he was celebrated as king before the crowds in Jerusalem, he would submit to being rejected by the authorities, and debased and scorned in his trial and crucifixion. In doing so, he proved himself to be God's faithful shepherd, giving his life for us (John 10:17-18).

Psalm 118:20-22, 26 says:

“This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone ... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.”

Note the Palm Sunday imagery in this psalm, written 1,000 years earlier.

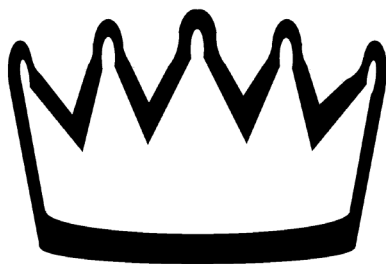
Classroom Craft and Activity Page

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: The King's Crown Game

Materials Needed:

- White board (or chalkboard)
- Dry erase markers (or chalk)



Instructions:

Explain to the class that you will be playing a game like Hangman, but will be drawing a crown instead.

Think of a word you want kids to review. Examples from today's story include: King, David, Israel, Jerusalem, ark, celebrate, God, harps, cymbals, songs, tent, etc.

Draw one line on the board for each letter of your chosen word.

Next, invite kids to take turns guessing the letters to the word. For each correct guess, you will write the letter on a line in the proper spot. For each wrong guess, you will draw one line of a crown. (To draw the crown: For the first wrong guess, draw the bottom of the crown. For the next wrong guess, draw the left side. From there for each wrong guess the follows, you will add a downward slanting line, then an upward slanting line, and so on until you finish the crown.)

If the kids guess the word before you have completed the crown, they win that round. If you finish the crown before they guess the word, you win the round. Play several rounds using the suggested words.

If possible, keep a tally of who wins each round, you or the class, until all the words have been covered. At the end, add up the tallies and declare the winner.

Can you use several of the words from our game to make a sentence? Let's try: "God chose King David to be ruler of Israel." What other sentences can you make with the words from our game?

I S R A E L

Activity 2: Solve the Situation! Activity

Materials Needed:

- Index cards
- Paper
- Pen

Instructions:

Before class, take a pile of index card and write one situation to solve on each one. Situations should all be quandaries that a national leader might actually face.

Ideas could include:

- The country is running out of food.
- There is a rumor that another nation may attack.
- A bad sickness is going through the land.
- Many people do not have safe homes to live in.
- People in the nation have turned away from God.
- There hasn't been any rain for a long time, and crops are withering in the fields.

Divide the class into pairs or groups of three. Give each group an index card, a piece of paper and a pen. Ask kids to discuss how they would handle the issue on their index card if they were the leader of a nation and were facing this. One person in each group can jot down their solutions. Then, go around the room and invite each pair to read the issue they faced and how they might solve the situation.

While it would be fun to be celebrated as a new leader, being in charge comes with many challenges, as well. How do you solve practical problems and guide an entire nation? It can't be easy, no matter how smart the leader is.

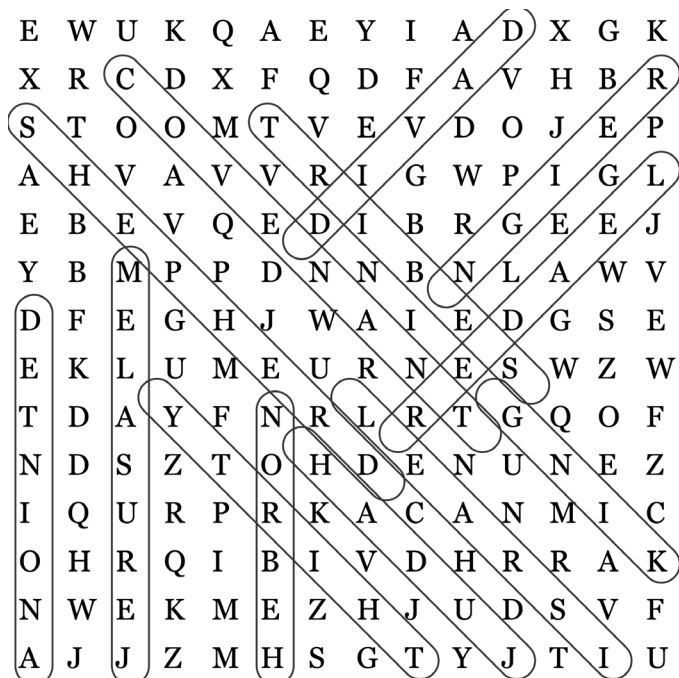
Part of why King David was a celebrated leader and king is that he looked to God for help. At times he got caught up in his own power and made some bad decisions. He was not perfect by any means. But ultimately, David recognized that the true leader over all was God, not himself. And for that, he is remembered and celebrated to this day.

Solve the situation:

There is a big storm coming, and many people don't have shelter.

Worksheet Answer Key

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



Vocabulary Word for the Week:

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

Celebration

when people have a party and express joy
when something good is happening

*Having David become their new King
was a cause for celebration among the people,
who gladly welcomed him to Jerusalem.*

Reflection for the Week Ahead

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1). When we give our respect to governing authorities, we recognize the function of the office. But that certainly doesn't mean the authorities are perfect. We do not follow them blindly.

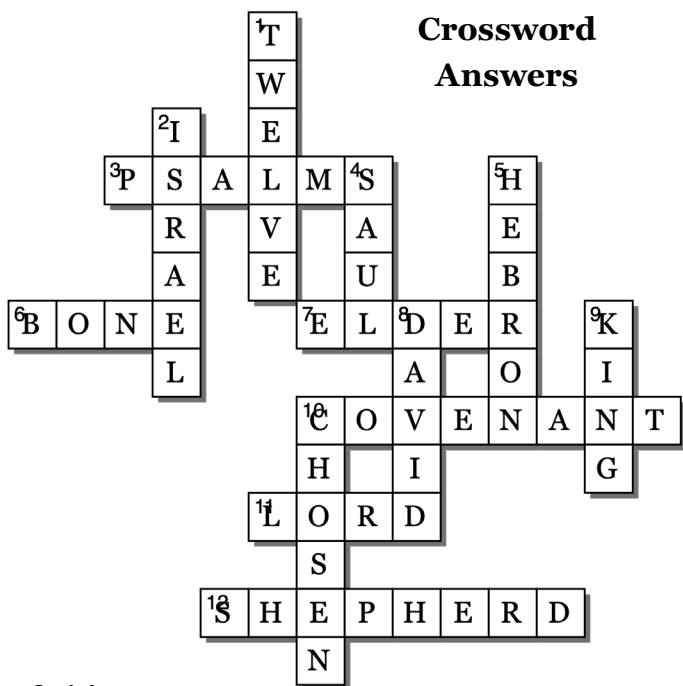
King David was a sinner like the rest of us. He made mistakes and did wrong things. Nevertheless, God called him to serve as king for the sake of the people. But even David's followers had to keep their eyes open as individuals accountable to God.

This week, every time you see a traffic sign or a posted list of rules, ask yourself how that sign or list is meant to keep people safe or promote the common good. Would you know what to do or how to act in all things without such direction? How is respect for authority one of the ways we love our neighbors?

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, thank God for his guidance and instruction. Pray that God would lift up fair and just rulers that would work for the benefit of all people. Ask God to help you live as a law-abiding citizen for the sake of your community and country.

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

Crossword
Answers

Definitions:

To *anoint* someone literally means to pour oil on them. Among the Israelites, a person had oil poured on their head in a ceremony to show they were the king chosen by God. Jesus is called "Messiah" and "Christ" — these words mean "anointed one" in Hebrew and Greek.