

David the King

Lesson 26a — Shepherd Boy

Lesson 26b — David and Goliath

Lesson 26c — Two Friends

Lesson 26d — David Becomes King

OVERVIEW

Our second unit of this quarter is an in-depth character study of one of the most prominent people in the Bible, David — the shepherd boy, the giant-slayer, the friend, and finally, the king. Although the title of our unit reflects only this last position, interwoven through all of the lessons will be the thought of how God was preparing the man He had chosen for the job He had called him to do.

God's selection of David as the one to be anointed by Samuel marks the beginning point of this study. Destined to be Israel's most famous king and the prototype for the promised Messiah, David was Jesse's youngest son and a shepherd, when God's plan for his life began

to be revealed. David's deep trust in God, his courage, and his sense of justice fitted him for the position.

Drama and adventure are woven into this account, and it will be a series sure to capture the interest of your young students. There are valuable lessons to be learned from the story of David which apply even on the primary level. It is important that your students conclude the quarter with an understanding that God sees the heart, that He has promised to be with those who put their trust in Him, that true friendship is an expression of love in good times and bad, and that God's plan in each of our lives will be fulfilled if we yield to Him.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Cut several "rocks" from brown paper, one rock for each word of the memory verse. (Do not write the words on the rocks.) Tape the rocks to the floor in a stepping-stone pattern across an imaginary river. As the children take turns stepping across the river on the stones they should say one word of the verse for each stone they step on. If they recite the verse correctly they can make it safely to the other side of the river. If they fail, they fall into the river (sit on the floor beside the stones) and must wait for someone to rescue them. When the next person comes by, the child in the "water" has a chance to try and recite the verse again. If he is correct he can be pulled from the water to safety. If not, he must wait for the next person to try to rescue him.

Have the children form a line facing you. Ask them, one at a time, a review question about the story of the day. If they answer the questions correctly they may take a giant step forward. If they fail to give the correct answer they must stay where they are or take a giant step backward.

Give each child a 3" x 5" card and a pencil. Let them draw a small picture using stick people to illustrate one of the stories in this unit. Put the cards in a basket and mix them up. Everyone chooses a card and takes turns identifying the lesson by the picture drawn on the card.

CONTEST IDEAS

At the beginning of the unit, give each child a sheet of construction paper which you have titled, **LEARNING FROM DAVID**. Cut out shapes of the lamb, sling, hearts, and crown for each student on which are written a task for each week (see Patterns). Each Sunday, give them the appropriate shape to go with the following week's lesson and tell them if they bring the shape back with the task completed, they may attach the shape to their construction paper background. At the end of the unit, each student who has accomplished all four tasks should receive a small reward.

Make a dot-to-dot crown chart on heavy paper for each child (see Patterns). At each dot insert a metal paper fastener so yarn can be wrapped around it to connect

the dots. Each week that the students know their memory verse, bring a friend, etc., they may string the yarn from one fastener to another for each deed. The first crown completed is the winner.

Compile a set of Psalms verse cards by writing some of the verses from Psalms that the children would enjoy learning (Psalms 23:1; 29:1; 34:3; 41:1; etc.). Write the complete verse on the card so the parents will have an incentive to help the child. Make enough so all the children will have a chance to learn as many as they want. Mix up the cards in a large box and have the children choose the cards they want. Each week they should bring back the cards they chose and give them to their teachers. At that time the teachers will have them recite the verses. If they are correct the teachers should put the students' name and their own name on the card. The cards are then put into a designated container and that student is awarded a small prize (a bookmark, a sticker, money, etc.) for each verse learned. At the end of the unit the cards are counted and the student who learned the most verses is the grand winner and receives something special (a Bible, a special book, etc.).

BULLETIN BOARD

Enlarge the shapes given with tasks written on them as described under Contest Ideas. Under a large heading, GOD PREPARES DAVID, arrange the shapes. On the lamb write the word "Thankful." On the sling write the word "Courageous." On the heart write the word "Friendly." On the crown write the word "Willing." You might also wish to leave space on your board for your students to post their projects using the same shapes so they can keep visual track of their progress.

This unit is ideal for focusing on the Psalms that David wrote. Prepare the bulletin board titled, POETRY OF KING DAVID (see Patterns). Display the large Bible in the center of your board and put music notes all around it. On each page of the Bible write the words given, "The Lord is my _____." Write this enough times so all of your students can fill in one or more spaces (whatever you choose). Help them a bit to get them started because they might all think they need to write "shepherd" in their blank. Suggest words such as: helper, comforter, encourager, friend, joy. Remember, there are no wrong answers.

UNIT PROJECTS

Copy enough of the Life of David placemats so each child will have a complete set at the end of the unit (see Patterns). Here are two ideas on how to use these:

1. Use four different colors of paper for the mats, one for each Sunday. Laminate each mat with clear contact paper or have them done professionally. Be sure that one side has the place setting and the other side has a memory verse picture. Present these to the children each Sunday and have a special place for them to be kept until they have a complete set at the end of the unit.
2. Each week give the children a copy of the memory verse mat for that Sunday. Let them color their mat and then put it in a special place which you have designated until the end of the unit, at which time you can back each of their mats with the place setting copies you have made and then you have them laminated. The children will have to wait one extra Sunday to receive their completed set.

CHART IDEAS

Make a copy of the David's Story chart for each child (see Patterns). Each week let the students cut out and glue the chosen squares onto the correct spaces.

Prepare a picture-strip chart for each child (see Patterns). Let the children pull the strip through the viewer to show the correct story for each week.

Give each of your students a copy of the crown chart (see Patterns). Each week give them a jewel (made from different colors of paper) to add to their crown.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

David and Goliath — coloring strip — 8 17" x 2' panels join to form a mural, Concordia
The Shepherd Psalm — bookmark, picture of shepherd, Standard Publishing
Stories About David — Pict-o-graph, Standard Publishing
Old Testament Bible Pictures to Color — 8 each of 6 pictures, Standard Publishing
David: Shepherd, Musician, and King — Biblearn Series, Broadman Press
David — book by Rebecca Daniel, Shining Star