

Preschool
David Was Anointed
Parent Devo & Bible Study

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 16–17

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

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 145:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

Parent Devotional

Samuel had anointed Saul as king over Israel, but it wasn't long before Saul's disobedience led God to reject him as king. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to meet Jesse—a man in the family line of Judah. God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be Israel's king.

When Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, he thought, "This must be the one God has chosen!" Eliab was likely tall and good-looking. Why wouldn't God choose someone like that? But God doesn't make decisions like people do. Read what God said to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7.

Jesse's sons took turns passing before Samuel, one by one. Samuel was probably eager to hear which son God had chosen to be Israel's next king! Abinadab? No, not him. Shammah? No. "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either."

It seemed Samuel was out of options, but Jesse had one more son; his youngest, David, was out tending the sheep. David came in and God said, "This is the one." Samuel anointed David, and the Spirit of the Lord was with David.

David did not become king right away. Saul was still on the throne, and David was still young. One day, David found himself at the battle where the Philistines had gathered to fight the Israelites. The story of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known accounts in the Old Testament. When the Israelites cowered in fear, David—with God's power—stepped up and defeated the enemy with just a sling and a stone.

As you teach this week, help the kids relate to the terrified Israelites. Apart from Christ, we are powerless before our enemies of sin and death. None of us would step up like David. Even if we tried, we would fail on our own. David reminds us of Jesus, the greatest hero, who came to save us. When we look to Jesus, He gives us salvation and eternal life.

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.

Memory Verse:

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.