

**Bible Passage:** 1 SAMUEL 16**Key Passage:** Ephesians 1:7-8**Big Picture Question:** *What is grace? Grace is when God gives us something good even when we do not deserve it.*

## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

At some point we have probably encountered the underdog rising to a position of prominence or victory. We see this in sports, in business, and in other situations. In a similar way, the Lord often uses unexpected people to display His glory. The Bible tells us that God chooses to use what is “weak in the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor. 1:27).

And Isaiah 55:9 says, “For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” While we may look at current circumstances or outward appearances to determine a particular outcome, God’s ways are always better because only He holds all wisdom.

In 1 Samuel 16, we find an example of this. God chose to use David, a young shepherd with musical talent, to lead Israel.

David’s outward appearance and young age may not have fit with the cultural standard of a king, but God saw David’s heart. God’s choice was not based on visible characteristics, but rather on the invisible character of the heart.

Similar to David, Jesus was not a King the people expected. Rather than come to earth in power, prestige, or prominence, Jesus came in humility. He did not have an impressive physical stature, yet His heart was fully set on obeying His Father and loving others through self-sacrifice.

Like David, God looks at our hearts and desires that we follow after Him. Regardless of our physical stature, age, or occupation, God desires to use us for His glory. And He wants us to grow in Christlikeness so that our gifts can be used for His kingdom purposes.

Who would have thought that David’s ability to play the lyre would get him into Saul’s inner circle? God did. It was His plan all along. And it is His plan to use us in great ways too. God is faithful to use the gifts He’s given us. May we have hearts that are willing to serve Him for His glory and our joy.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

**David:** the first king to receive the promise of a royal Messiah in his line. David was pictured as the ideal king of God’s people. He ruled from about 1005 to 965 B.C.

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## WELCOME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY:** *Imagine you are in charge of choosing the next leader of your country. What would be important to you? Would you want him or her to look or act a certain way?*

## ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “This or That?” on the activity page.

**SAY:** *Each one of you have things you like more than others. You like the way your favorite food tastes or the way your favorite color looks. Today, we will learn what God saw as important when He chose the future king of Israel.*

## KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

*Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Ephesians 1:7-8 together.*

**SAY:** *God chose David to be king. God also chose to lead us to salvation. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die in our place on the cross. Jesus’ blood covered our sin and provided our salvation.*

*Before the session, write each word of the key passage on an index card. Tape the index cards on the floor to create a path. (Keep the key passage words in the correct order.) Instruct the kids to recite the key passage aloud together from the key passage poster. Invite the kids to walk or jump from card to card, reciting each word as they step on it.*

## SESSION STARTER

### CHOSEN

Form kids into one large circle, or several smaller circles, depending on the size of the group. Direct kids to sit down and listen carefully to each statement you call out. If the statement applies to them, they are to get up and run around the circle one time until they get back to their spot and then sit down. Some ideas for statements to use are: kids who are wearing red, kids with brown eyes, kids who have brothers, kids who have traveled out of state, and kids who have a pet. Be sure to adjust this list in order to include each kid at least once.

**SAY:** *For this activity, each of you got to run around the circle because you were chosen to do so by what I called out. In our story today, we will see how God chose a special man named David to be the next king of Israel.*

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## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

### Introduce the session

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY:** *Hello kids! I am so glad you're here! My name is [your name] and I am so excited to study God's Word with you. If you have your Bible with you today, will you stand up and hold your Bible up in the air? [Provide a Bible to any kid who does not have one.] Everything God says in His Word is true, so today as you listen, I hope you will remember a truth or many truths to take home with you and think about this week.*

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

**SAY:** *Each time we meet together, we focus on a question and an answer from the Bible. Our big picture question for the next several weeks is, **what is grace?** As we study God's Word, we will see that the answer to that question is, **Grace is when God gives us something good even when we do not deserve it.** I am looking forward to learning more about this with you as we study stories from God's Word.*

### Review the timeline

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY:** *This week we will begin to study another king of Israel, King David. David became king after King Saul. You'll remember that the people of Israel demanded a king, so the Lord gave them King Saul. Saul sinned against the Lord and was rejected. Today, we will see how God appointed Samuel to anoint David as the next king. Open your Bible to Genesis 18. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story or show the Bible story video "God Is Good to Judge Sin." Use the bold text to retell or review the story.*

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Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story or show the Bible story video “God Chose David to Be King.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

**GOD CHOSE DAVID TO BE KING**

*Saul was the king of Israel, but he had disobeyed God. So, God told Samuel to fill a horn with oil and go to Bethlehem. A man named Jesse lived there. God had chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be Israel’s next king. God said, “Visit Jesse and his sons. I will show you which one I have chosen.”*

*Samuel went to Bethlehem and met with Jesse and his 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.”*

*Jesse brought his next son to Samuel, but Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen him either.”*

*One-by-one, Jesse’s sons approached Samuel. Each time, Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen him 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.*

*Now King Saul was bothered by an evil spirit. Saul’s servants thought Saul might feel better if he listened to beautiful music. One of Saul’s officials knew that Jesse’s son David could play the lyre. So, David came to Saul and whenever Saul felt troubled, David played his lyre and Saul felt better.*

*Christ Connection: Samuel anointed David, setting him apart to be the next king. God’s choice for Israel’s king was surprising; David was the youngest in his family, but God saw David’s heart for the Lord. When Jesus came to earth, He seemed like a surprising choice for a king. Jesus is the perfect King who saves us from our sin and reigns forever.*

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## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY:** *What a great story! God chose David to be the next king of Israel in a different way than we might choose leaders. In the story, God told Samuel to go and anoint the next king, who God would show him. Do you remember what God told Samuel as he looked at Jesse's sons? [Allow kids to respond.] Look at 1 Samuel 16:7. [Choose a volunteer to read 1 Sam. 16:7 aloud.] God told Samuel to look beyond each man's physical appearance. He reminded Samuel that humans see the way a person looks on the outside, but what is important to God is a person's heart.*

*Many of Jesse's sons looked like they could be king, but they were not who the Lord chose. God chose David. What did Samuel do to David to show that he had been chosen as the next king? [Allow kids to respond.] That's right! He anointed David. Look at 1 Samuel 16:13 [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Sam. 16:13.] God set David apart as king because God saw that David wanted to serve Him. It is important to remember that what God values most about any person is not how they look but if their hearts love Him.*

### Questions from kids

What might you need to do if you want to work with a church when you grow up?

How can you serve and honor God no matter where you work?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Small Group ACTIVITIES



**Say** • Raise your hand if you had heard this Bible story before today.

Distribute Bibles and help the kids find 1 Samuel 16. Explain this section of Scripture transitions from the reign of King Saul to King David. This chapter opens with God reminding Samuel that it was time for a new king. Saul had sinned against the Lord and God rejected him as king.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. Locate the areas in and around modern-day central Israel (F4).

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 16:2-4.

**SAY:** *Samuel was nervous to anoint a new king because he thought Saul would hear about it and be furious, but Samuel obeyed God. The selection of David as king was very surprising. Many of Jesse's sons were older and seemed to make more sense to be chosen as king, but God had different plans. While we do not always understand why or how God does something, His plans are always the best. As our story reminded us, God sees what we cannot. He knows each person's heart. He sees all that has happened and will happen. We can trust Him and His plans for our lives.*

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY:** *Why does God often choose to use unexpected, unqualified, or ordinary people?*

Point out that God displays His power when He works through ordinary people. God does not look at how talented, qualified, or attractive a person is, He looks at that person's character. When God uses ordinary people, we can clearly see that it is God alone at work in their lives equipping them to do extraordinary things.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 1:26-31.)

**SAY** *What does it mean that God sees every person's heart?*

Remind kids that God values what is inside a person more than his or her outward appearance. God is all-knowing and knows the intentions, thoughts, and motives behind every person's actions.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 139:1.)

**SAY** *If your heart is not where it should be, what can you do?*

Discuss how the Bible tells us that we are all sinners and that our hearts, by nature, are wicked. This is why we need the perfect King, Jesus, who came to save us from the sin and provide us with new life in Him. Encourage kids to accept God's free gift of salvation. God wants to give us new life in Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 51:10.)

## **PRAYER TIME**

Take prayer requests. Pray for your group.