



1st & 2nd

Unit 7 - Earthly Kings

Story 20.A - Young David (1 Samuel 16-17)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**1 Samuel 16**).

Read 1 Samuel 16: 1-3

Where did God send Samuel to find the next king? (God sent Samuel to Bethlehem where Jesse lived because God had chosen one of his sons to be anointed as king.)

What was Samuel scared about? (He thought that Saul would kill him if he knew that Samuel was anointing another man to be king.)

Do you think Samuel was wise to be scared? (Encourage discussion. The kids might connect with the fact that being replaced as king would make Saul indeed very angry or they might think about how God is the one who is commanding it, so He will keep Samuel safe. Just go with whichever direction the group takes.)

Main Point: God had a plan for replacing Saul as Israel's king.

[Summary of missing text: (1Samuel 16:4-5) Samuel did exactly as God commanded. He went to Bethlehem and invited Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice.]

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13

What was Samuel looking for in the next king? (He was looking for a tall, handsome man like Saul was.)

What did God say is different about how we look at people and how He looks at people? (People look at the outside appearance of a person, but God looks at their heart.)

Think about what it means to look at someone's heart. Why is this something that only God can do? (Only God can really know what a person is thinking or feeling. He is never tricked by actions that seem right even when a person's motives are bad.)

Where was David when all of the other sons were there to see Samuel? (He was out watching the sheep.)

Why do you think that he wasn't invited in by Jesse like the others? (Encourage discussion.)

David was a shepherd who was considered the lowest of the family. Years later someone else also called themselves a shepherd. Do you know who? (Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd who knows and cares for his sheep.)

What happened to David after Samuel anointed him as the next king of Israel? (The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on him.)

Main Point: David was not what people were expecting of their new king, but it was who God chose. People would have chosen another man like Saul who was tall and handsome, but God looked at the heart and chose a young shepherd boy to be king.

[Summary of missing text: (1 Samuel 16:14-20) The Spirit of the Lord left Saul and he was tormented by an evil spirit. One of his servants told Saul that he had heard of a boy from Bethlehem who could play the harp. Saul sent for David, so that he could play for him and bring him peace from the evil spirit.]

Read 1 Samuel 16:21-23

Did Saul know that David had been anointed to be the next king? (No)

How did Saul feel about David? (He was pleased with him.)

What would happen when David played his harp? (The evil spirit would leave Saul and he would feel better.)

Main Point: David was filled with the Spirit of the Lord. He lived with Saul as his armor bearer and played the harp for him.

***Extended Discussion: David gave God's people hints of what Jesus would be like.**

Playing music for someone and carrying their armor is something a servant does. Why is this a strange arrangement between David and Saul? (David is serving Saul, but he has already been anointed as the next king of Israel.)

David was a servant before he was a king. How does this point to the type of king that Jesus would be? (Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus as the king of all creation washed the feet of His disciples before giving his very life for his people.)

Can you name two other ways that David was like Jesus from what we read today? (David was a shepherd and he was from Bethlehem like Jesus.)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about David being anointed as the next king of Israel. Next week we will learn about how even as a young boy, he showed that he relied on God with his whole heart.

ACTIVITY: ARE YOU THE KING?- Have the kids sit at their tables or in a circle on the floor. Choose one kid to be Samuel who will look for the new king. Have 'Samuel' close his/her eyes or stand outside the room with the assistant while the leader hands a crown sticker to a child who will be the 'king'. Have all of the kids hide their hands so it isn't obvious who has the sticker. 'Samuel' will have three chances to try and find the new king by asking, "____ are you the king?" If Samuel finds the king within 3 tries, they will get the crown sticker. The king becomes the new 'Samuel'. Continue playing with a new sticker until every child has had a turn or interest wanes.

MEMORY VERSE - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

Unit 6 Memory Verse: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." ~Romans 8:28

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.