



3rd & 4th

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)

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 was given the Holy Spirit.

Think about what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In David's time only a few people were given the Holy Spirit and for some of them like Saul, the indwelling of the Spirit was temporary. How is that different from The Holy Spirit today? (Today the Holy Spirit lives in every person who has accepted Christ as their savior and will never leave.)

How did having the Holy Spirit affect those around David like Saul? (When David would play the lyre, Saul would feel safe and calm. This didn't happen with other people or instruments, so we can assume that it was not the music, but the fact that it was played by David after his anointing and filling with the Holy Spirit.)

Have you ever been really upset and just being around someone made you feel safe and calmer? (Encourage discussion.)

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: LOOK AT THE HEART - Review with the kids that Samuel had a hard time finding the person God had chosen because he was looking at outward appearances, while God looks at the heart. Draw a pair of eyes and a heart on the white board. For this activity the leader will read one of the statements below and the kids will decide if it is focused on outward appearance or on the heart. Place a tally under the picture to show their answers.

- The brown haired girl picked up the fallen glass.
- The scared boy ran to the car.
- Freddie always shared what he had with others.
- Everyone laughed at Betsy who had freckles and red hair.
- Simon was known for his terrible temper tantrums at the smallest provocation.
- Johnny's strong arm threw the football across the field.
- Anna was tall and beautiful.
- The child cried every time she heard a sad story.

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.