



Pre-K & Kindergarten

Unit 7 - Earthly Kings

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

Some Pre-K kids may arrive at the beginning of the service. Do these two activities with them:

TABLE ACTIVITIES - Start with play-doh, puzzles, pop beads, or coloring from the cabinet.

WORSHIP - At 8:45 / 10:30 have kids clean up and gather on the carpet for music. Sing songs with them as you feel led. You may use the CD player and song sheet or sing a song of your choice.

WELCOME - About 15–20 minutes after service starts, have kids sit in a circle on the rug. Consider welcoming them with the following song, to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

We're glad you're here today (*clap*), we're glad you're here today (*clap*),
Wave your hands and say hello (*everyone waves*), we're glad you're here today (*clap*).
God loves you, so do we (*hug yourself*), God loves you, so do we (*hug yourself*),
We are all a family (*everyone puts hands in the middle*), God loves you, so do we (*hug yourself*).

Set behavioral expectations with the following questions:

Where are we? *We're at church.*
Why are we here? *To learn about God and worship him.*
How should we act in this special place? *Listen carefully and respect each other.*

Go around the circle and let each kid introduce themselves and answer the Question of the Day. (At your discretion, pass a stuffie around during introductions.) *Have you ever had to do a big important job? What was it?*

*After the kids respond, you may want to close with: *Today we are going to learn about David. When he was just a boy, he learned that he would someday be king. That's a big job!*

BIBLE SKILLS - Get out the Bible. Explain that the Bible is our greatest treasure because it is the Word of God. (Pre-K will find the Bible in the Treasure Box). Explain how God, the creator of the world and everything in it, teaches us about himself in this special book. Go over the Bible knowledge points below:

The Bible teaches us to love Jesus with all our hearts.

Let kids pass the Bible around the circle, with each of them patting it gently and saying, “The Word of God.”

MEMORY VERSE - *“For those who love God all things work together for good.” ~Romans 8:28*

- Show them where the words are in the Bible to help them understand that it is a part of God's Word.
- Practice the verse together - Consider using one of the activities on the Memory Game List

BIBLE STORY - Have the kids move to the center of the rug if they are not already there for storytime. Using the pictures provided tell the story for today.

When the people asked for a king, they got what they wanted. **Who did God first anoint as king?** (*picture: Saul as King*) In the beginning Saul did a pretty good job, but he had one big problem. He cared more about what the people thought than about what God thought. **Do you think that was a good thing?** No! God decided that he would find a new king, a man after God's own heart.

God told Samuel, the priest, to go to Bethlehem and find a man named Jesse. He said that one of Jesse's sons would be the next king. Samuel was afraid to go because he knew that King Saul would be very angry to hear about a new king being chosen, so he made a plan to invite Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice to the Lord. That way Saul wouldn't know why he was really there. His plan worked perfectly and Jesse came with seven of his sons.

When Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, he was sure that he was the one God had chosen because he was so handsome and tall. **What do you think a king would look like?** God told Samuel that He doesn't look at what is on the outside of a person like we do, He looks at the heart. God wasn't going to choose the tallest, handsomest, man with the best hair and the strongest muscles to be the king. He was going to choose someone who loved God with all of his heart.

One by one, Jesse's seven sons walked by Samuel, but none of them were the one God had chosen as king. Samuel told Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen them. Are these the only sons you have?"

Jesse told Samuel that his youngest son, named David, was out taking care of the sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to send for David, and when he came in, God told Samuel that he was the one chosen to be the next king. Samuel took the animal horn filled with olive oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. (*picture: Samuel anointing David*) That means that he poured oil on David's head to show that God had chosen him as the next king. After that day the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David. Even though David had been chosen to be the next king, he wasn't king yet. **Can a young boy lead a nation?** No! He still had to grow up and learn everything he would need to know to lead the people the way God wanted.

Meanwhile, the Spirit of the Lord left King Saul and he was tormented by an evil spirit. One of his servants told him about David who could sing and play the lyre. (*picture: David playing the lyre*) David came to live at Saul's palace and when he played his lyre and sang to Saul, Saul felt peaceful again. David stayed with Saul and carried his armor for him. He stayed with Saul and never told him that someday he would be king.

Big Truth: **God chose a new king who would follow him and lead his people.**

5. SNACK & REVIEW - Pass out snacks and water at the table (**check allergies on attendance roster**). Ask kids if they have any prayer requests and pray before eating. As they're eating, review the story and take some time getting to know them!

6. ACTIVITY: DAVID THE SHEPHERD - Remind the kids that in David's time, being a shepherd was considered one of the worst jobs because it was hard work and sheep are stinky. It must have seemed very strange to Samuel that God was choosing a shepherd boy to be king. God knew that the main job of a shepherd is to keep the sheep safe and show them what to do. That's why Jesus is called the Good Shepherd, because he cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. In this game, the kids will try and keep the sheep safe like David did. Put the white balloons on the carpet in the middle of the circle and explain that they are the sheep. A shepherd has to keep the sheep safe, so they will keep the sheep inside the circle. Turn on the fan and direct it to the balloons to make them move out of the circle once they are put back.

7. PLAYTIME If time allows, kids may play with toys or do a community game until their parents come. Adapted from The Biggest Story Curriculum ~ Text copyright © 2023 by Crossway, Illustration copyright © 2021 by Crossway To be used only if the rights to The Biggest Story Curriculum have already been purchased.