

David, The Shepherd Boy

Worship Emphasis

Man looks on the outside,
but God looks on the heart.

Scripture Reference

I Samuel 16

Hymn of the Month

Praise My Soul, the King of
Heaven

Morning Overview

First Hour

9:35 - 10:00

Kinder Church (4s/5s)

10:05 - 10:30

Cherub Church (2s/3s)

Craft: Harps
Snack

Second Hour

Craft: Two Hearts

Story

Questions for Review

Singing

Scripture Memory

Optional Activities

Preparing Your Heart to Share the Wonders

"Hence we have another of Yahweh's who-would-have-thought episodes. There was no need, so Jesse imagined, to invite the youngest; he could stay with the sheep. In fact, the youngest son is so obscure that we aren't told his name until verse 13. Yet Yahweh insisted, 'This is the one.' Again we see God's strange and refreshing way of trampling on human standards. Again we see how Yahweh chooses the most unlikely people to do his will and how he frequently stands human logic on its head. Our God is not a slave to our conventions.

Perhaps at no time did the living God disclose a more flabbergasting choice than in the case of David's greater Descendant. The vote was in. The folks at home said, 'He's just one of us' (Mark 6:3). Others complained, 'He has too much fun' (Matt. 11:18-19), and still other objected, 'He's not from the right place' (John 7:41-42). But the clincher for many was: "Messiahs don't suffer' (Matt. 27:42-43). And what clout did this opinion pack? None. 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner' (Ps. 118:22; see I Pet. 2:4). What should we deduce from that? We should realize Yahweh made his choice (Ps. 118:23a), and we should relish it (Ps. 118:23b). There is a delight we should have over Yahweh's unusual, unguessable ways. It honors him when we revel in his surprises.

Dale Ralph Davis, *Looking on the Heart*

"When God would please the people with a king he chose a comely man; but, when he would have one after his own heart, he should not be chosen by the outside. Men judge by the sight of the eyes, but God does not, Isa. 11:3. The Lord looks on the heart, that is, He knows it. We can tell how men look, but he can tell what they are. Man looks on the eyes and is pleased with the liveliness and sprightliness that appear in them; but God looks on the heart, and see the thoughts and intents of that. He judges of men by it. The good disposition of the heart, the holiness or goodness of that, recommends us to God, and is in his sight of great price (I Pet. 3:4), not the majesty of the look, or the strength and stature of the body."

Matthew Henry, *Commentary on the Whole Bible*

Notes for 9:30

Craft: Harps

Supplies: paper bowls, rubber bands, markers, tape

Directions:

Let the children decorate the bowls with markers.

Help the children put the rubber bands over the bowls and strum to make music. You may find it helpful to tape the rubber bands to the back of the bowl to hold them in place.

Lesson Objectives

1. Children will complete the craft with help.
2. Children will participate in the Transition Game.
3. Two and three year olds will sit quietly for at least 8 minutes and listen to the story. Four and five year olds will sit quietly for at least 12 minutes and listen to the story.
4. Children will be able to give simple answers to the questions listed at the end of the lesson. You may want to intersperse the questions throughout the story rather than waiting to ask them all at the end.

11:00 Craft and Transition to Story Time

Craft: Two Kinds of Hearts

Supplies: coloring sheet with 2 men, crayons, glue sticks, white and black die cut hearts

Directions:

Let the children color the two men. Then they will glue a white heart on one and a black heart on the other.

Activity

Oh the Noble King of York, he had ten thousand men
(march standing halfway up)

He marched them up to the top of the hill and he
(gradually stand taller as you march)

Marched them down again.

(march to a kneeling position)

Now when you're up you're up and when you're down your down
(stand up and kneel down)

And when you're only halfway up, you're neither up nor down.

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NOTE:

The illustration for this "transition" is wonderful. You will need to bring the objects from home if you decide to use it.

Key Concepts:

It would be wonderful if our little ones could grasp these main points:

- Samuel was sad because King Saul did not love and obey God.
- God chose another king, a young shepherd boy named David to become Israel's king.
- God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

Prayer

Dear Father, help us to sit still and listen to this true story from your word. In Jesus' name.

Transition

You'll need to bring two containers. One should be a beautifully wrapped box (maybe a left-over Christmas gift), but fill the inside with something worthless, crumpled up newspaper, grass, stones, anything like that. The other container can be a grocery bag or anything that is not pleasing to the eye. Fill the inside with M&Ms or something similar (no nuts!) for the children to enjoy.

Ask the class which container they'd like to have. Chances are it will be the beautiful one – because we're all more attracted to outward appearances! Let them choose which container they'd like. (The older children may try to out-smart you and our youngest ones might not have a clue! You may just want to explain that most of us would choose the pretty box over the other and open it to show them that we never know what's inside! This is just an idea. You decide whether to use it or not. You know your class best.)

This box looks better to us, doesn't it? And this one doesn't look like it would have anything good in it at all! But we were wrong. You see, we can only see the outside, not inside to what's really important. But boys and girls God can see deep within. When you look at me you see a lady with (for example ... brown hair wearing a red dress), but God sees so much more than that. He sees past my brown hair and red dress deep into my heart. Listen to my story and see what's most important to him. I can find that story right here in I Samuel 16.

Story

King Saul is rejected

Who remembers the name of Israel's first king? You're right. His name was Saul. That was our story last week. Israel wanted a king so badly. Why they wanted to be just like all the other nations. And sure enough, God gave them a king. But after Saul became the king he was not a good king. As a matter of fact King Saul disobeyed God and did not love him. It was very sad. God's prophet Samuel was very unhappy. Remember how he had put oil on Saul's head and the people shouted, "Long live the King!"

Now God gave Samuel other words to say to Saul, "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not last; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

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But the prophet Samuel was so sad. He was sad that King Saul did not love the Lord. One day God said to him, "Samuel how long will you be sad for Saul? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to a man named Jesse who lives in the city of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be the king." Then the Lord told Samuel to take a sacrifice and when he got to Bethlehem to invite Jesse to sacrifice to the Lord with him. The Lord told Samuel, "I will show you what to do. You will anoint for me the one I tell you."

Well Samuel did exactly what the Lord had said. Off to Bethlehem he went to sacrifice to the Lord. When Samuel got there he found Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, he thought he knew for sure who Israel's next king would be! Eliab looked like he would be the perfect king. But Samuel was not looking at the right thing. God said to him, "Samuel, do not look at Eliab's appearance, what he looks like, even if he's tall. For he isn't the one I've chosen to be the next king." Then God said these very important words, "Man looks at the outward appearance (what a person looks like), but the Lord looks at the heart." Eliab was not the one God has chosen to be king.

Then Jesse called his other son, Abinadab, and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel heard the Lord's words and said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either."

And then Jesse had his third son, Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either."

After Jesse had each one of his seven sons pass before Samuel, Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen any of these". Then he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have." I bet Samuel was confused. God had told him one of Jesse's sons would be the next king. Seven of them had walked by, but God had said none of them would be the next king!

David

Jesse said, "Well, there still is the youngest one, but he is taking care of the sheep". (Say it like poor David was barely worth mentioning!)

You see Jesse's youngest son was a shepherd. He worked in the fields caring for the sheep. His name was David. David was very young but he was a good shepherd. David would make sure his sheep were safe, that lions and bears wouldn't harm them. David would lead his sheep to tender green grass and fresh cool water. David loved his sheep. But you know what? The Bible says more than his sheep, David loved the Lord. He loved him so much.

As David sat alone on the hillside he would look out into the beautiful sky.

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Maybe during the daytime, David would look at the blue sky and puffy white clouds and the wildflowers on the hillside. Maybe David could even smell them! At night when the sheep were quiet, he looked into the big black sky filled with beautiful sparkling stars. There on the hillside David worshipped God. The Bible says as David thought about God he would play his harp. David would sing beautiful songs to the Lord.

Many of David's songs are right here in the Bible. They are called Psalms. David wrote, (open to Psalm 8) 'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man?' Or these words (turn to Psalm 19) "the heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands"; or this Psalm which a lot of people say is their very favorite part of the whole Bible (turn to Psalm 23): "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." David was a shepherd of sheep, but he knew God is like a shepherd to his children. Why just like David loved and cared for his little sheep, David knew God loved and cared for him.

Anointing

But Samuel didn't know any of these things about David (smile). All he knew was that the Lord had promised that one of Jesse's sons would be the king. Samuel said, "Send for your youngest son, this shepherd boy. We will not even sit down until he arrives." And so Jesse probably called a servant or maybe he even had one of his other sons go to find David, the one who was out in the field taking care of the sheep.

Finally David arrived. The Bible tells us a little bit about what David looked like. His hair was kind of a reddish color and he looked very handsome. He was probably pretty strong from taking good care of those sheep. And maybe his skin was tan from being outside all the time. But as soon as Samuel saw him, the Lord spoke some very important words, "Rise and anoint David; he is the one, the one I've chosen to be king."

So Samuel took the oil that he had brought and as David knelt before him, Samuel poured the oil on David's head. David's brothers and fathers watched. The Bible says from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

Playing his harp for Saul

Well, the Spirit of the Lord had come upon David, but you know what? The Bible says the Spirit of the Lord had left King Saul. And sometimes he would act very sad or very mean.

One day King Saul's servant said, "Why don't we search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when you're not well and you will feel better." (A harp has such a soft sweet sound.) So Saul told his servants to look and find someone who could play the harp. Just then one of the servants called out, "I

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have seen one of Jesse's sons. He knows how to play the harp. And he is a brave man and a warrior as well. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him." That servant knew all about David!

Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." So Jesse brought David home from the fields of sheep. Then Jesse loaded a donkey with bread and wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

So David came to King Saul and began to work for him. The King liked him very much and he gave David another job as well, to carry the king's armor. Then Saul sent word to Jesse, "Allow David to stay with me, for I am pleased with him."

Whenever Saul would feel sad or angry, David would take his harp and play beautiful music. Then Saul felt so much better. When David sat before King Saul playing his harp or carrying his armor, the king had no idea that God had chosen David and one day he would be the king. But that didn't happen for a long time. Saul remained the King of Israel until he died. And David patiently waited.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for this story about David. Thank you that even though we can only see the outside, you see deep inside, deep inside all the way to our hearts. You can even see when we're happy or sad even though our face may not show it at all. And thank you that the Bible says if we love Jesus it's because you have given us a new heart; a soft heart, one that is happy and wants to obey you. Thank you for loving us enough to do that. In Jesus' name, amen.

Questions

- younger: Why was Samuel sad?
 Who was the shepherd boy who God chose to be the king?
 When God looks at us, what is most important to him?
- older: What instrument did David play?
 What are his songs called?
 What jobs did he do for King Saul?

Singing Review

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven.

ABC Scripture Memory: Q

"Quench not the Spirit."

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Notes

Q.9 What is God?

A. God is a Spirit and has no body as we do.

Optional Activities

Little Lost Sheep (similar to Marco Polo)

Establish boundaries so the children understand where they (the little sheep) can hide and where the "sheepfold" will be.

Blindfold the shepherd.

Direct the class to act like sheep while the blindfolded shepherd finds them.

The shepherd repeats "little sheep" while the lost sheep must respond "BAAA".

When the shepherd touches the little sheep, the teacher escorts the found sheep to the "sheepfold" where he no longer "BAAAAs" but acts like a content little sheep.

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN — PRAISE MY SOUL

Original Trinity Hymnal, #70

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me, his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him,
Praise him, praise him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Praise him, praise him,
Praise him, praise him,
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes;
Praise him, praise him,
Praise him, praise him,
Widely as his mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him, praise him,
Praise him, praise him,
Praise with us the God of grace.