LESSON 13

DAVID THE SHEPHERD BOY



Aim: **To show the children how God prepared David to be his servant and a great leader of his people.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 16:1–13; 17:34–35**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 1:2** (complete v 2) **Blessed is the man … [whose] delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night.**

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class to name some great and important people they know of. Do you realise that some of the greatest people who have ever lived were servants of God?

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. One of the greatest kings ever was King David of Israel, but he began his life by looking after his father's sheep. This meant that sometimes he had to act very bravely. He had to protect the flock from attack by wild animals, like lions and bears (17:34). **Show Picture 13.**
2. David also learnt to be a clever musician. While looking after the sheep he made up many of the songs of worship that now form part of the Book of Psalms. **Point to the instrument David used, which is leaning against the rock in the picture. This would be a good time to review Psalm 121 and Psalm 1:1–2.** David was growing up trusting and obeying God.
3. One day when David was out looking after the sheep his father, Jesse, sent for him to come home. When he arrived, he found the prophet Samuel there (16:11).
4. King Saul, who had begun so well, had by then become proud and disobedient to God's commands. God instructed Samuel to look among Jesse's family for a king that would be after God's own heart. Samuel had to do this in secret, for if Saul should hear about it he would become very angry. Therefore, Samuel told everyone that he had come to make a sacrifice and lead them in an act of worship (16:1–5).
5. As Jesse's sons arrived for the ceremony Samuel looked at them. Which one would be chosen to be the next king? They were big, good-looking men.
   Read verses 6–11 several times at home so that you can relate the story in your own words. You could act out the story in class, pretending to be Samuel.
6. God showed Samuel that David was the one he had chosen to be the next king of his people. Samuel anointed David with oil (16:12–13).

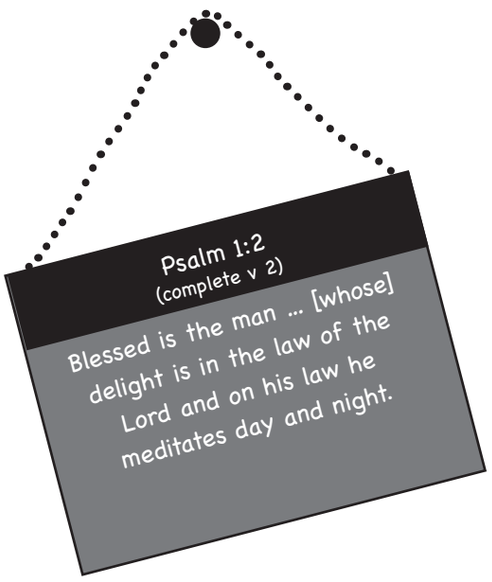
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Our Response to the Story

God had given his Spirit to Saul. In the same way the same Spirit came upon David to equip him for the Lord's service (10:9; 16:13). But unlike Saul, David trusted in God all his life, although he did some things that grieved God greatly (as we shall see). But he remained a person who wanted to serve God wholeheartedly. David is an example to us as he had the kind of relationship with God that God wants with every one of us (13:14).

Instil the Memory Verse



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