

# THE KINGS

Date: 3.24.24 | Title: David is Chosen as King | Scripture: 1 Samuel 16

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God commands people to obey Him. People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives.

### High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God commands people to obey Him. People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives. God wants us to share his messages with those around us.



### MEMORY VERSE

"But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them."

1 Samuel 8:6-7

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## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

In 1 Samuel Chapters 13 and 15, Samuel tells Saul that he is unworthy to be king and his kingdom and reign over Israel will not continue. The Lord will turn the kingship over to a neighbor whom Samuel will appoint, a man after the Lord's heart (13:14; 15:28). Saul's successor will be a son of Jesse of Bethlehem. The new king of Israel is one God has chosen and provided for Himself (Deuteronomy 17:15). This king (and ultimately the Messiah) will come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:2-6) and from the tribe of Judah (Ruth 4:12, 22; Genesis 49:10).

The dissolution of Saul's kingdom is set in motion immediately, as Samuel travels to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from Jesse's children. At this time, Saul's unbalanced emotional state is already known in Israel as Samuel's initial reaction to the word of the Lord is fear of Saul rather than rejoicing at God's provision to Israel (16:2). In 16:4, "Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem". The elders, and no doubt all of Israel still closely associated the "seer" or prophet with the not-so-distant past office of judge. They had heard of Samuel's execution of Agag (15:33) and therefore they "came to meet him trembling".

Samuel invites Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. Upon seeing Eliab, Samuel thinks, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him. But the Lord Said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart'" (16:7). God is concerned with one's emotions, morality, spirituality, reason, will, intellect and desires. Outward appearance cannot predict whether someone will faithfully obey the Lord, for a person's actions flow from the heart (Ps 51:10; Proverbs 4:23; Mark 7:21-23; Luke 6:45; 1 Thess. 2:4; Matthew 12:34-35).

This time, God goes with the least likely selection- Jesse's youngest son, David, who isn't even among his brothers when Samuel arrives because he is out tending sheep in the fields. God's favor/choice often falls on the younger and the least (Jacob, Joseph, Gideon). David, although the youngest, is the firstborn over Israel (Ps.89:27)

David's first anointing is before his family/house (16:13). He will later be anointed before the assembly of his tribe, Judah; and again before the nation Israel. When Samuel anoints David as the next king, God's Spirit rushes upon him just as He did upon Saul at the onset of his kingship.

The operation of the Holy Spirit in this case is not for regeneration, but for empowerment to perform David's role in God's plan for Israel. It is an external symbol of an inward work of God (10:6, 11; 11:6; 19:20, 23; 2 Chronicles 20:14; Ezekiel. 11:5; 37:1).

In 16:14, "the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul". This statement is not relevant to the issue of whether people can lose their salvations; it is not describing the Holy Spirit's role in individual regeneration in a NT sense. Considering vs. 13, it should be seen as being about gaining or losing the Spirit's empowering for the role of king. From this point to the end of his life, Saul will continually make futile attempts to govern without the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

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## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Now, Saul's slow and painful descent from kingship begins. Without God's empowering Holy Spirit, Saul is no longer king over Israel (15:28), although his physical removal from the throne and his death will happen many years later. God in his sovereignty, allows "a harmful spirit from the Lord" to torment Saul (16:14). The exact nature of this spirit is not clear in the text. This spirit operates according to the sovereign ordination of the Lord, proving that God's control does not stop where the infliction of harm begins. The Lord cannot commit moral evil, but He remains sovereign over it, and He can and does inflict pain as part of His holy judgement (Gen. 19:24; Amos 3:6; James 1:13). Though God himself never does evil, he sometimes sends evil agents to accomplish his purposes (Jer. 20:4-6, Gen. 50:18-21; Mark 14:21; Acts 2:23; 4:27; 4:28; 1 Kings 22:20-23). Saul whose inward constitution was already prone to questionable judgement and the fear of men began to experience God's judgment in the form of severe bouts of depression, anger, and delusion, initiated and aggravated by the evil spirit assigned to him. There are several NT occasions where God turned people over to demons or Satan for judgement (Acts 5:1-3, 1 Corinthians 5:1-7 and 1 Timothy 1:19-20). He also used Satan or demons for the strengthening of the saints (Job 1:1-2:6; Matthew 4:1; Luke 22:31-32; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Seeing that Saul was suffering, his servants encourage him to call a musician whose playing of the lyre could bring relief. Saul and David become acquainted when David begins serving Saul. David comes to Saul's court and plays his harp whenever Saul is under duress, refreshing Saul and driving away the evil spirit that plagues him. Not only is David a good musician, but he is also a "man of valor," a "man of war," and one "prudent in speech". Given that Saul prizes strength and valor, we are not surprised that Saul sends for David to serve him (16:19-23; 14:52). The writer of Samuel introduces David, the sweet psalmist of Israel (2 Samuel 23:1) David is the author of several songs (2 Samuel 1:17-27; 22:1-51; 1 Chron. 16:7-36) and many psalms. He is also credited with establishing the temple musicians (1 Chron. 6:31). The music that David habitually played in Saul's presence was not merely beautiful, but music of worship to the Lord; causing Saul to be refreshed and the harmful spirit to flee (2 Chron. 5:13-14). Most importantly, the Lord is with David (16:18), and that proves to be the secret of David's success. The Lord's presence in David's life is a theme in his story (17:37; 18:12; 20:13; 2 Sam. 5:10; 7:3, 9).

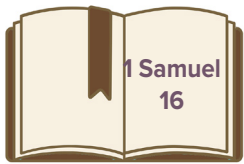
Over time, David will lose favor with Saul, even though he never once mentions that he has been chosen by God as the future king. Saul's rebellion against the Lord becomes even more apparent through his later treatment of David. Saul loved David for his abilities, but later grew to hate him because he knew he was blessed by the Lord (18:29).

We can see the hand of God's providence at work in David's life. Saul will remain on the throne a while longer, but David becomes a member of Saul's court where he can observe the ways of kings firsthand and learn how to- and how not to- lead the people of God. The Lord blesses David in his ministry to Saul, putting him in place to finally sit on God's throne (1 Samuel 16:23).

From the beginning we see how different David is from Saul. When Saul is introduced in the story, he is looking aimlessly for his father's lost donkeys (1 Samuel 9). In contrast, when David is introduced, he is watching over his father's sheep (16:11; 17:34-37). One of the main themes driving this portion of the Story is the stark contrast between Saul and David. Saul, a gifted individual by human standards, is a failure as a king, while David, a man after God's heart, has incredible success as king, at least for a while.

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## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



**Tell the story:** Use the Background Info for Leaders to help teach 1 Samuel 16. “The Teeny, Weenie...True King” is a wonderful re-telling in The Jesus Storybook Bible. The Message version of the Bible provides a good teaching summary for this text.

**TELL  
THE  
STORY**



**Re-tell the Bible Story:** put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

**Attributes of God:** Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

**Share the GOSPEL:**

Israel’s first two kings provided a direct contrast in what matters to God. Saul wanted people to think he was impressive, and he wanted to be served. David had the mindset of a shepherd- a man after God’s own heart. David’s humble beginnings as a shepherd and later rule as king typify Jesus, the ultimate Shepherd and king of Israel.



Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

# THE KINGS

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

# THE KINGS

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.

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## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students support their answers by sharing evidence they took from Scripture.

- 1. Why is Saul disqualified from being king?**
- 2. In what ways is David a better fit for king?**
- 3. In what ways is David a more unlikely king?**
- 4. What is David’s occupation? How is this a picture of Jesus? In what other ways does is David a picture of Christ?**
- 5. How does the Spirit of the Lord departing from Saul affect him?**
- 6. How does the Sprit of the Lord rushing on David affect him?**
- 7. How are David and Saul different?**

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## PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank you for being the perfect king over us! Help us to trust and follow You alone!

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

**Bible Skills Practice:** Encourage your students to not only know the order of the books of the bible but also the different divisions they come in.

**The Torah:** Genesis - Deuteronomy | **History:** Joshua - Esther | **Poetry:** Job - Song of Solomon | **Major Prophets:** Isaiah - Daniel | **Minor Prophets:** Hosea - Malachi | **Gospels:** Matthew - John | **Acts** | **Paul's Letter:** Romans - Philemon | **General Letters:** Hebrews - Jude | **Revelation**

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the month of March through Easter, our church will be collecting money for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering. This offering goes to fund missionaries in North America. Please encourage your group to collect change for the giving funnel in the lobby.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this week's verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

**BT TDSW TSGU AKTJUASPTTLATLSTSOTVOTPIATTSTYFTHNRYBTHRMFBKOT - 1 Samuel 8:6-7**



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## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?