




# God Chooses David to Replace Saul

## 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Most 5- and 6-year-olds are proud of the giant strides they've made in their physical development. Children this age sometimes brag to younger, less capable children in order to make themselves feel important and "grown up." Teach your children that we all are important to God; it doesn't matter what age or size we are. Stress that God uses us right where we are, doing whatever we're capable of doing.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>No Worries</b> Watch as worries "miraculously" disappear!	Bible, CD player, 1 colorful scarf <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, bouncy ball	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a container filled with fruit has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, dark-colored plastic container, grapes or strawberries, napkins <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place a plastic container filled with fresh grapes or strawberries in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time</b> Put on costumes and act out the story.	Bible, CD player, trash bag, dress-up clothing, jewelry, pushpin, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, Paper Crown, Paper Heart, "David and His Brothers" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut out the Samuel figure as well as the crown. Hang the poster on a wall.

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



### ►Bible Point

God doesn't care how we look.

### Key Verse

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6-7).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will remember that God doesn't care how we look on the outside; God looks at the heart.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Small but Mighty</b> Dip a jack in paint to make “ant prints” across the page—tiny is mighty!	My Bible Playground, newspaper, paper plates, tempera paint, string, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> jacks	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Attach a 12-inch string to each of the jacks.
	<b>Center 2: It's in There!</b> Decorate the outsides of hard-boiled eggs, and discuss how the insides are all the same.	1 hard-boiled egg per child, egg carton, washable markers, newspapers	
	<b>Center 3: Amazing Me</b> Try a variety of physical activities and see how much they can do.	masking tape, 1 clown wig, 1 pair of sunglasses	
	<b>Center 4: Handsome Mirrors</b> Make mirrors to reveal that only the outside is seen by people. But God sees the inside, too!	yarn; ribbon; glue; marker; 1 each per child: 5-inch circle of poster board and aluminum foil, large craft stick, clothespin	Keep the foil as smooth as possible. You might want to make a sample of this craft so children have an idea of how it will look.
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>A Heartfelt Prayer</b> Eat M&M's and thank God for looking at their hearts.	1 M&M's candy per child	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



## 1 Samuel 16:1-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Saul Again Disobeys God

## God Leads Samuel to Young David

## The Jesus Connection

God has done so much for us! Seek daily to keep your heart focused on God. Ask God to help you have a heart that seeks him. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



## Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here We Are"  
(track 8); "My God Is"  
(track 3)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "Here We Are" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "This Old Man" and lead children in doing the motions.

 **Here we are** (*put your right hand on the back of the person on your right*)  
**Once again.** (*put your left hand on the back of the person on your left*)  
**We are here with all our friends.** (*pat the backs of both neighbors*)  
**We will play and sing and** (*clap to the beat twice*)  
**Talk to God above.** (*raise both hands high*)  
**This classroom is full of love.** (*cross both arms over chest to sign "love"*)  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **No matter where we are or what we're doing, God is good all the time. Let's sing our praise to God for his goodness—all the time.**

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "My God Is" (track 3 on the CD).

 **My God is the God of creation.**  
**My God made the land and the sea.**  
**My God gave me hope and salvation.**  
**Oh, that's what my God is to me.**

*(Chorus)*  
**Father, Savior—**  
**Oh, that's what my God is to me, to me.**  
**Creator, master—**  
**Oh, that's what my God is to me.**

**My God is a friend to the lonely.**  
**My God sets the prisoner free.**  
**My God is a loving companion.**  
**Oh, that's what my God is to me.**  
*(Repeat chorus 2x.)*





## 2

KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## No Worries

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:6-7, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” That means to tell God your worries. Let’s say that together.** Lead children in repeating the adapted Key Verse with you several times: **Tell God your worries.**

Ask:

- What does it mean to worry?
- What are some things you worry about?

Say: **Worrying is thinking about things that might go wrong. We feel afraid, wondering if something bad might happen. When you tell God your worries, you don’t have to worry anymore. We can trust God to take care of us no matter what happens.**

Have kids stand in a circle. Lay the scarf flat on the floor in the middle of the circle.

Say: **Let’s play a game and pretend this bouncy ball is a worry. No one wants to have worries, so when the worry comes to you, pass it to the person next to you. While we’re passing the worry around, I’ll play music. If you are the one holding the worry when the music stops, keep it in your hand.**

Give one child in the circle the bouncy ball, and begin “My God Is” (track 3 on the CD). After the ball has gone several times around the circle, stop the music.

Say: **Too bad! [Child’s name] is stuck holding on to the worry! Boys and girls, what should we do with our worries?** Encourage kids to shout the Key Verse, “Tell God your worries!” **If you’re holding the worry, get rid of it by hiding it under the scarf in the middle of the circle.** Have the child hide the ball under the scarf.



### No Worries Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
1 colorful scarf  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “My God Is” (track 3)  
bouncy ball



### Theo's News Supplies

CD player  
 Surprise Box (any box will do)  
 Theo puppet  
 dark-colored plastic container  
 grapes or strawberries  
 napkins  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)

### ALLERGY ALERT

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Place a plastic container filled with fresh grapes or strawberries in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What happens when we give our worries to God? Let's look and see.** Pick up the scarf with a flourish, removing the ball as well, so that it disappears from children's view.
- **What really happened to the ball?**
- **How is that like what happens when we give our worries to God?**

Say: **You can't get rid of worries on your own, but when you tell God your worries, he will help you trust him to take care of you. You don't have to worry anymore!**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

## What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

**Theo:** I hid it in the Surprise Box.

**Teacher:** Let's look inside to see what Theo found for us today.

*(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the plastic container around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Don't open it yet! Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide a plastic container in the Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, in today's Bible story, you have to look at what's on the inside of a person—what's in the heart.

**Teacher:** Kids, can you guess what's inside this container?

*(Pause for kids to guess.)*

**Teacher:** Who does know what's inside the container?

*(Pause to allow kids to answer your question. After kids answer the question, pass out napkins, and then open the container and share the fruit.)*

**Theo:** It's what's inside this container that makes the difference! The outside doesn't look that exciting, but the inside is filled with good fruit! In the Bible story, God told a man named Samuel the same thing: It's what's inside of us that makes the difference.

**Teacher:** That's right, kids. ► **GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK.** We can be big or little, young or old! The Lord looks at the heart. The Lord looks at how we act toward others. Let's listen to the story.

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!



**Teacher:** Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

## Bible Time

### What You'll Do

Pass around a trash bag filled with a variety of clothes, hats, sunglasses, and costume jewelry. Have kids each pull out two items from the bag and put them on. Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you.

**Now that we're in our costumes, let's act out the story! Before we begin, I need someone to be Samuel.** Choose one child to be Samuel and have him or her sit on a chair in the middle of the circle. Hand "Samuel" the Paper Crown from the Teacher Pack.

**Now for our Bible story...**

**God sent a man named Samuel to find a new king.** Have Samuel wave the crown in the air.

**Samuel was sure this king would be so big, tall, and mighty that he could do important things. But Samuel had to learn that ► GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK on the outside.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point.

**God told Samuel to go to the house of a man named Jesse. There he would find the person God had chosen to be king. He had to walk a long way. Let's all walk with Samuel.** Have everyone walk in place.

**Finally, Samuel arrived at Jesse's house.** Have the children sit down. Choose someone to be Jesse, and have him shake Samuel's hand.

**Jesse brought out all of his big, strong sons to walk in front of Samuel.** Lead the kids over to the "David and His Brothers" poster. **Look at all these big, strong brothers! Which one would you pick as king?** Affirm each child's choice, saying, "That's a good choice—he is very handsome," or "That's a good choice—that brother is very strong." Allow each child to point to one of the brothers on the poster. **Those were all very good choices. Those men all looked like kings. But God could see something that none of the rest of us can see. He could see the inside of each of these brothers; he could see their hearts. Even though these brothers were tall and strong and handsome, God could see that they wouldn't make the best kings. Let's find out whom God chose to be the king.** Lead the kids back to the story area. **Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all of your sons?"** Have Samuel repeat the phrase.



### Bible Time Supplies

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Bible  
CD player  
trash bag  
dress-up clothing  
jewelry  
pushpin  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "God Looks at Our  
Hearts" (track 24)  
Paper Crown  
Paper Heart  
"David and His  
Brothers" poster (from  
the Big Bible Poster  
Pack)

### Bible Time Easy Prep

.....  
Cut out the Samuel  
figure as well as the  
crown. Hang the poster  
on a wall.





Say: **Jesse said, “Well...there is David...”** Have Jesse repeat the phrase. **“But he’s just a young, little guy—and he’s doing his chores, feeding the sheep!”**

**Samuel said, “Go get him!”** Have Samuel repeat the phrase.

**And so, in came David.** Choose one child to be David, and have him squat down very small as he walks in front of Samuel.

**David was just a little guy—there wasn’t much there to make a king out of! But the Lord told Samuel, “Yep! That’s him!”** Have all the children shout, “Yep! That’s him!” Lead the children back to the poster. Use the Samuel figure to attach the crown to David.

**God had Samuel show that David was the one God had chosen.** Have Samuel place the crown on David’s head.


**Good job acting out our Bible story. Take a bow, all of you actors and actresses!** Lead everyone in applauding for their performance!

Ask:

- **If you had to choose a king, what would that king look like?**
- **Why do you think God chose someone small like David to be king?**
- **Do you think you would make a good king? Why or why not?**

Say: **God didn’t care if David’s brothers were big, tall, strong, or mighty. ► GOD DOESN’T CARE HOW WE LOOK** on the outside either. God looks inside. God chose David, because sometimes the best things come in small packages!

Get the Paper Heart and lay it on the floor. Have kids join hands in a circle around it. Walk in a circle as you sing “God Looks at Our Hearts” (track 24 on the CD) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

 **God looks at our hearts,  
At our hearts each day.  
He doesn’t care how we look;  
Love God and obey!**  
(Repeat 2x.)

At the end of the song, have kids place their costumes back in the bag, and return the other supplies to the Teacher Pack for use in later lessons.







## 4

WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

## CENTER 1:

## Small but Mighty

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 9 pages from My Bible Playground and let kids write their names on the pages.

Say: **Even though it's one of the smallest creatures God made, an ant is also one of the strongest. In fact, an ant can move an object that's 25 times heavier than the ant itself! It would be like you dragging 25 of your friends around. Let's see how that works.**

Have the kids sit in a line on the floor, hooking their arms and legs around each other. Choose one person to try to drag all the others.

Say: **Imagine trying to drag 25 of your friends around—ants are that strong! Even though an ant is so tiny, it's what's inside that counts. An ant may look small and weak on the outside, but inside, the ant is very strong.**

**Let's create "ant print" paintings to help you remember that ► GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK—even the small can be mighty!**

Have children each pick up a jack by the string and dip it in the paint. Then have kids move the strings up and down as they pull the jacks across the pages to create ant prints. Remind kids that even though David was tiny, God helped him do mighty things.

Center 1: Small but  
Mighty  
Supplies

My Bible Playground  
newspaper  
paper plates  
tempera paint  
string  
scissors

Teacher Pack  
jacksCenter 1: Small but  
Mighty  
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson  
9 pages from each  
My Bible Playground  
student book. Attach a  
12-inch string to each  
of the jacks.



### Center 2: It's in There! Supplies

1 hard-boiled egg per  
child  
egg carton  
washable markers  
newspapers

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Amazing Me Supplies

masking tape  
1 clown wig  
1 pair of sunglasses

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think David felt when God chose him to be king?
- When you look at your ant prints, what is something you can remember that God helps you do?

Say: **Even though you're not grown-ups yet, you're just as important to God. God can still use you to do great things! Remember, the ant is one of the smallest creatures—but just look what ants can do! ► GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK on the outside—the Lord looks at the heart.**

## ■ CENTER 2:

# It's in There!

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Cover your table with newspapers. Set out the eggs (still in their shells), along with brightly colored, washable markers. Have children use the markers to decorate their eggs in a variety of designs and colors. When the children have finished decorating the eggs, place the eggs in an empty egg carton and ask children to look at them.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do all of your eggs look different from each other?
- Will the colors make the eggs taste different?

Take the egg that you decorated and open it up so the children can see the inside.

Say: **God made each one of us different—just like these eggs look different on the outside. But God cares more about who we are on the inside than what we look like on the outside. God looks at the inside of our hearts.** Assist the children in removing the shells and enjoying their eggs for a snack. Invite one child to pray for the snack.

## ■ CENTER 3:

# Amazing Me

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Use masking tape to form “hopscotch” lines and “balance beam” lines on the floor. Supply a clown wig and sunglasses. Have kids walk the balance beam, count how many times they can hop on one foot, and play hopscotch. Have kids try everything once as they normally look, and then have them try again wearing a wig or sunglasses.



## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which activity were you best at in this center?
- Did you do better at any of these activities when you were wearing a wig or sunglasses? Why or why not?

Say: It doesn't matter what you look like on the outside, does it? It's what's inside that counts. Even though David was small and young, God chose David to be king!

► **GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK** on the outside either. He'll help us do great things every day!

## ■ CENTER 4:

# Handsome Mirrors

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Ask:

- What do you see when you look in a mirror?

Say: **You can only see the outside. But when God looks at us, he can see the inside.**

Have the children glue the foil circles to the poster board circles. Then have them turn the poster boards over and glue large craft sticks to the center bottoms as handles. Clip clothespins on the handles to hold them in place until they dry.

Encourage the children to decorate the outside of the mirrors to resemble their own heads. Have them use yarn, felt scraps, and ribbon to add hair, bows, or a hat to the outside perimeter of the circle around the mirror. Assist as needed with gluing the yarn. Write "God doesn't care how we look" on the backsides of the mirrors. Make sure you read this to each child as you write it on the mirror.

Ask:

- **We know how to make our outsides pretty. How can we make our hearts look good, too?**

Say: **We use a mirror to see how we look on the outside. But God can see what we are thinking and feeling on the inside. He sees our hearts. To God, it is more important how we look on the inside. We can ask God to help us make our hearts beautiful.**



## Handsome Mirrors Supplies

yarn  
ribbon  
glue  
marker  
1 each per child: 5-inch  
circle of poster board  
and aluminum foil,  
large craft stick,  
clothespin

## Handsome Mirrors Easy Prep

Keep the foil as smooth as possible. You might want to make a sample of this craft so children have an idea of how it will look.





### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

### A Heartfelt Prayer Supplies

1 M&M's candy per  
child

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW WE LOOK.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how God cares about your heart.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Play dress-up with a friend.** Put on the silliest clothing you can find, and tell your friend that God doesn't care how we look on the outside—God looks at the heart.
2. **Use a mirror to draw a picture of yourself.** Then put the mirror away and draw a picture of how you think God sees you.
3. **Ask your mom or dad to read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 with you.** Talk about what God sees when he looks at you inside and out.

Say: If you want to play dress-up, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to talk with your parents, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

### A Heartfelt Prayer

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle on the floor. Give each child one of the M&M's candies. Have kids hold their candies until the appropriate place in the prayer.

Dear God,

**Thank you that you don't care how we look. Thank you for looking at our hearts—it's what's inside each of us that counts.** One at a time, have kids say their names and then eat their candies.

**In Jesus' name, amen.**





## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



