

Oct 18, 2026

David is Chosen as King
1 Samuel 16

Story: Read the story ahead of time. Practice it. For the younger grades, feel free to summarize, if needed. It's okay to reference the story as you are telling it, but the goal is to know the story well enough that you don't have to read it word for word. :) And, we encourage you to have your Bible open during the telling of the story, so the kids know where this story came from.

★ **Introduction & Story:**

Quick Recap - We have finished our quick tour of the beginning of the Bible. God made the world. Mankind sinned. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. When we sin, we are separated from God. But God still loves us and wants to be with us. He told us that He would send a Savior. But the Israelites (God's chosen family) had to wait until the New Testament for Jesus to show up! While they waited, God showed them how He has a plan and He loves them even though they are not faithful to Him. God loves us the same way!! We are now in the history section of the Bible. Last week, we talked about the last judge and first king. Today we are going to talk about the most famous king of Israel.

After the Lord said that Saul was not going to be the king for much longer, he chose David to be the new king. He used Samuel again to anoint the next king. It is interesting how David was chosen.

1 Samuel 16:1

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected for myself a king from his sons."

The Lord told Samuel to talk to a man named Jesse who had eight sons. One of Jesse's sons was going to be chosen as the next king. When Samuel saw the oldest son, Eliab, he was sure this must be the one that the Lord had chosen. But God told him no.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.”

Jesse kept presenting his sons to Samuel, and each time the Lord told Samuel that this was not the one that was chosen.

1 Samuel 16:10-11

After Jesse presented seven of his sons to him, Samuel told Jesse, “The Lord hasn’t chosen any of these.” Samuel asked him, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” he answered, “but right now he’s tending the sheep.” Samuel told Jesse, “Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he gets here.”

The youngest son was David. When Samuel saw him, the Lord told him that this was the person he had chosen to be the next king.

1 Samuel 16:12-13

Then the Lord said, “Anoint him, for he is the one.” So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David from that day forward.

Samuel anointed David as King when David was just a boy. But he would not take over the throne for a long time. Saul remained king for many more years (perhaps about 15 years.)

David did not take over the throne until Saul had been killed in battle.

2 Samuel 5:4-5

David was thirty years old when he began his reign; he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

★ **Connection to God’s Overall Story/Plan:**

God chose David to be the next king of Israel. Many years later, Jesus would be born into David’s family. Jesus was God’s plan to save us from our sins.

There is real proof of David being alive and his kingdom. This helps us understand that the Bible is true.

God told Abraham that his family would bless all nations. He used Moses to save this family. Through David, God establishes that he will be king forever through Jesus, who came from this family.

Follow Up: As a church, we are encouraging disciple makers to practice the REAP method as it is one useful tool in learning to read the Bible on your own. Retell, Examine, Application, Prayer. Now this may not be everyone's preference, but it is an easy and consistent way to teach children to pull the meaning out of a passage and not just read it or rely on others to teach them what it means. Trees & Mountains - this is a station.

- ★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.
- ★ **Examine:**
 - Comprehension Questions:
 - What does it mean to “anoint” someone?
 - Anointing the head with oil in the Bible means honoring a guest, setting someone apart for a sacred role, or showing God’s protection, healing, and spiritual blessing.
 - In this case Samuel was anointing David’s head with oil to set David apart for a sacred role.
 - Why do you think Samuel thought the first son was going to be the one that God had chosen?
 - He was probably tall or handsome, or maybe both.
 - Do you think that maybe Samuel was getting frustrated as each son came to him and the Lord told him no?
 - Ask, “What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?”
 - God has a plan. He wanted Jesus to come from a line of kings – so he started that hundreds of years before Jesus was born. He also uses people most wouldn’t think of as important.
 - Ask, “What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?”
 - Sometimes we know that God is going to use us and we must wait for God to reveal how he is going to use us. David was going to be king, but he had to wait for that to become reality.
- ★ **Application:** Ask, “What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?”

- David is one of the most famous kings of Israel. He didn't become king because he was amazing, but he became king because God chose him. God chooses us for big and small things, too!

★ Prayer

Memory Verse: Have the kids use the Bible. They should either share or each have one. If kids have their own Bibles, we can encourage them to use it, but sometimes you may just need to use the class set. Trees & Mountains - this is one station.

★ **Verse:** "Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart." -1 Samuel 16:7b

Memory Verse Practice:

Verse Look Up: Explain the address of the verse (Book Chapter:Verse). Explain whether it's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Read and explain the verse.

- Rainbow Tip: Not necessary until we split classrooms.
- Fireweed Tip: Put Post-It notes on the book of the Bible for the memory verse. Then have them find the chapter and verse.

Practice the Verse:

- Rainbow: Not necessary :)
- Fireweed: Have the kids read it with you several times. Since they are learning to read, group practice is the focus.
- Trees & Mountains: Kids should be learning the verse and saying it on their own. We will provide activities - pick one to have the kids practice. We will PM provide: fill-in-the-blank verses, phrases for the kids to put in order, lines for the kids to write the verse out, and a worksheet for the kids to say the verse based on just the first letter of each word in the verse.

Books of the Bible:

- ★ If there is time or if kids have mastered the verse, have the kids practice the Books of the Bible. When we are doing Old Testament stories, have them practice the Old Testament; when in the New, practice the New Testament. We will have some activities for them to practice with.

- Trees/Mountains currently have pencil cases with sets of cards/bookmarks in them.

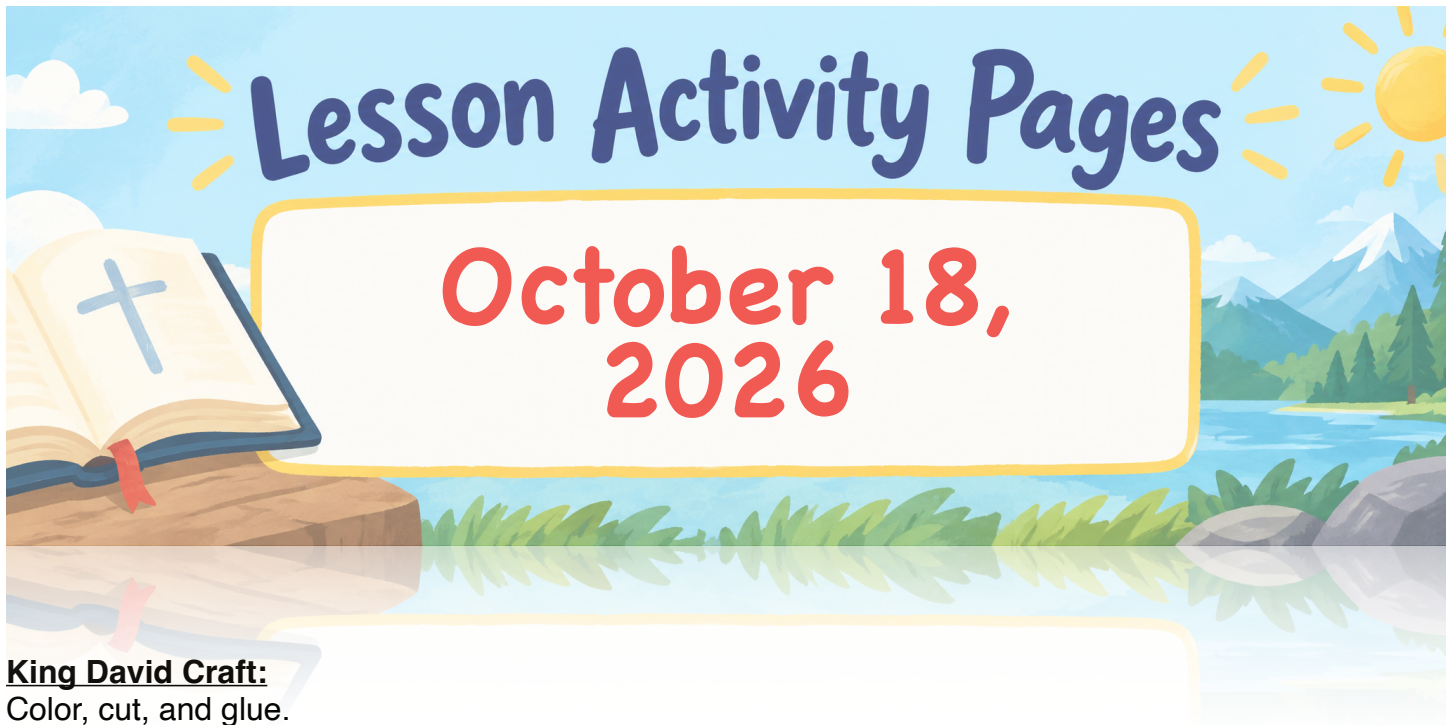
Sticky Activities: No need to do all of these! Pick which ones work best for your teaching style and time frame! For the Trees and Mountains - there is enough time for two of the stations to do activities.

★ **Sensory:**

Category	Activity 1	Activity 2
Experiential	What's Inside?: Put objects inside covered containers. Let kids guess based only on the outside, then reveal what's inside. Explain that we can't know someone's heart simply by looking at them.	Unexpected Choice: Give several objects different jobs: a small object for a big job, a large object for a small job, etc. Discuss how God's choices aren't always what people expect.
Visual	Jesse's Sons: Have volunteers stand in a line representing Jesse's sons. Samuel considers each one until David is chosen.	Outside vs. Inside: Display a plain box containing something special. Use it to teach: "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." — 1 Samuel 16:7
Smell	Shepherd's Field: Use clean hay, grass, or herbs to help children imagine David's life caring for sheep.	Shepherd's Garden: Let children smell rosemary, mint, or other herbs and talk about David spending time outdoors with the sheep.
Movement	Shepherd Says: Play Simon Says with commands such as "guide the sheep," "protect the sheep," "find the lost sheep," and "lead the flock."	Sheep & Shepherd: One child is the shepherd while the others are sheep. The shepherd guides the flock through a simple course.
Sound	David's Harp: Play gentle instrumental music and explain	Shepherd Soundscape: Kids create sounds for sheep, wind,

	that David was a musician and worshiper.	birds, footsteps, and David playing his harp.
Crafts	King David: Color, cut, and glue David and his crown.	Happy Lambs: Have children color and cut out the image of the lamb and glue to cardstock. Glue cotton balls to the lamb to represent things that make them happy.

Send Home Page: Please send home with parents. They are sized 4 to a page.

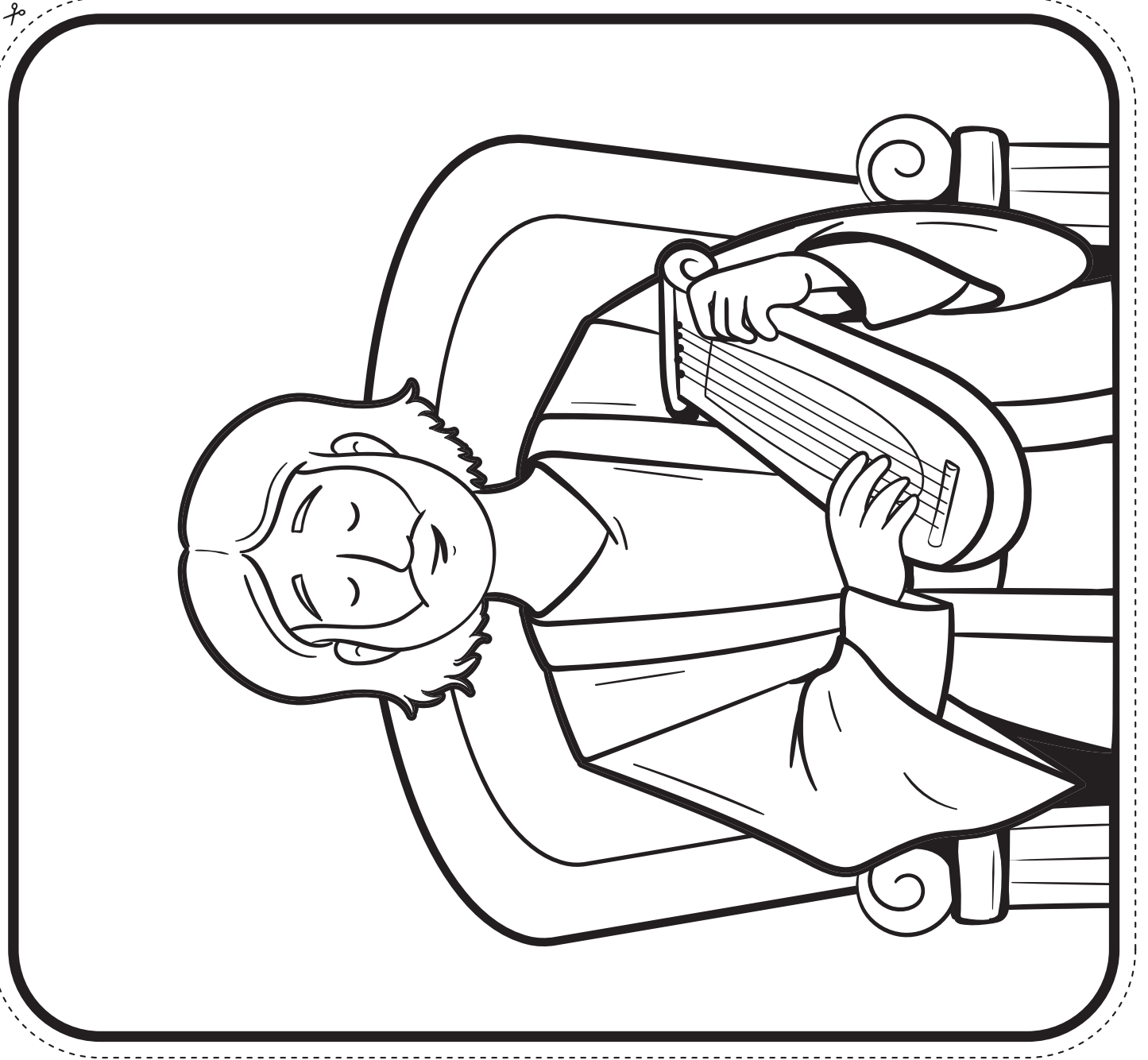
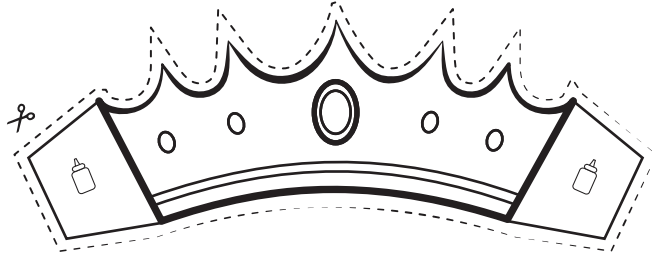


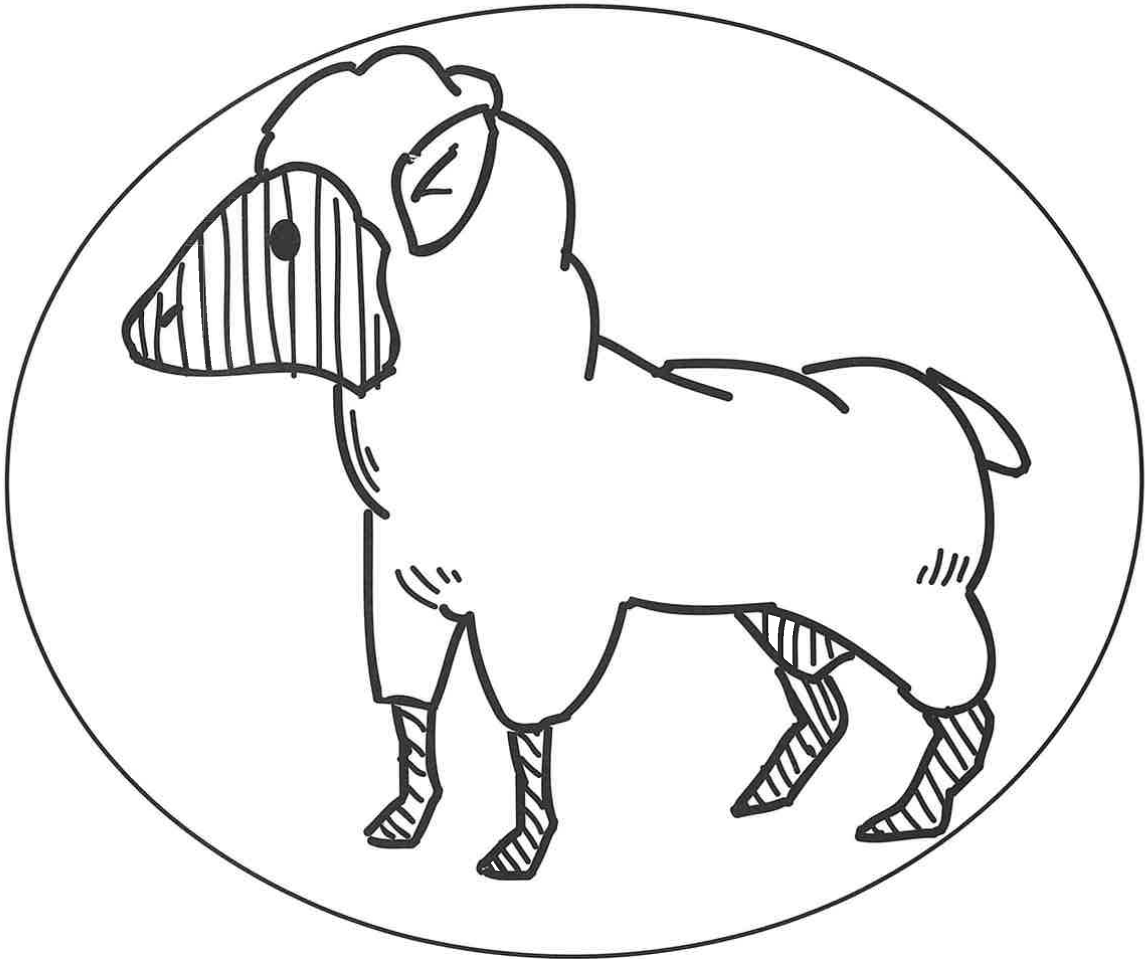
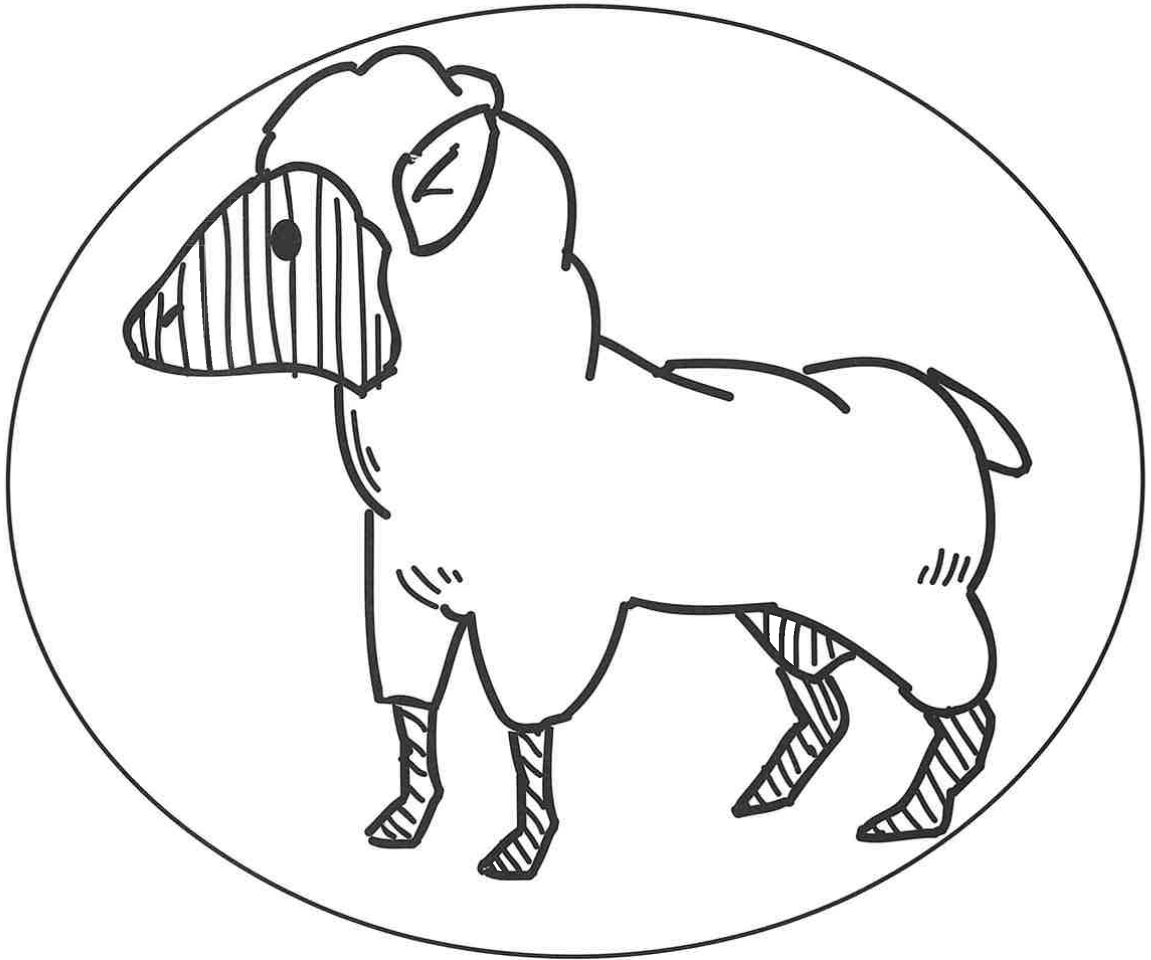
King David Craft:
Color, cut, and glue.



Happy Lambs:

Have children cut out the lamb and glue cotton balls to represent things that make them happy. The children can name their lamb and it can help remind them to be God's happy child. They will tend their sheep just as David did the flock.

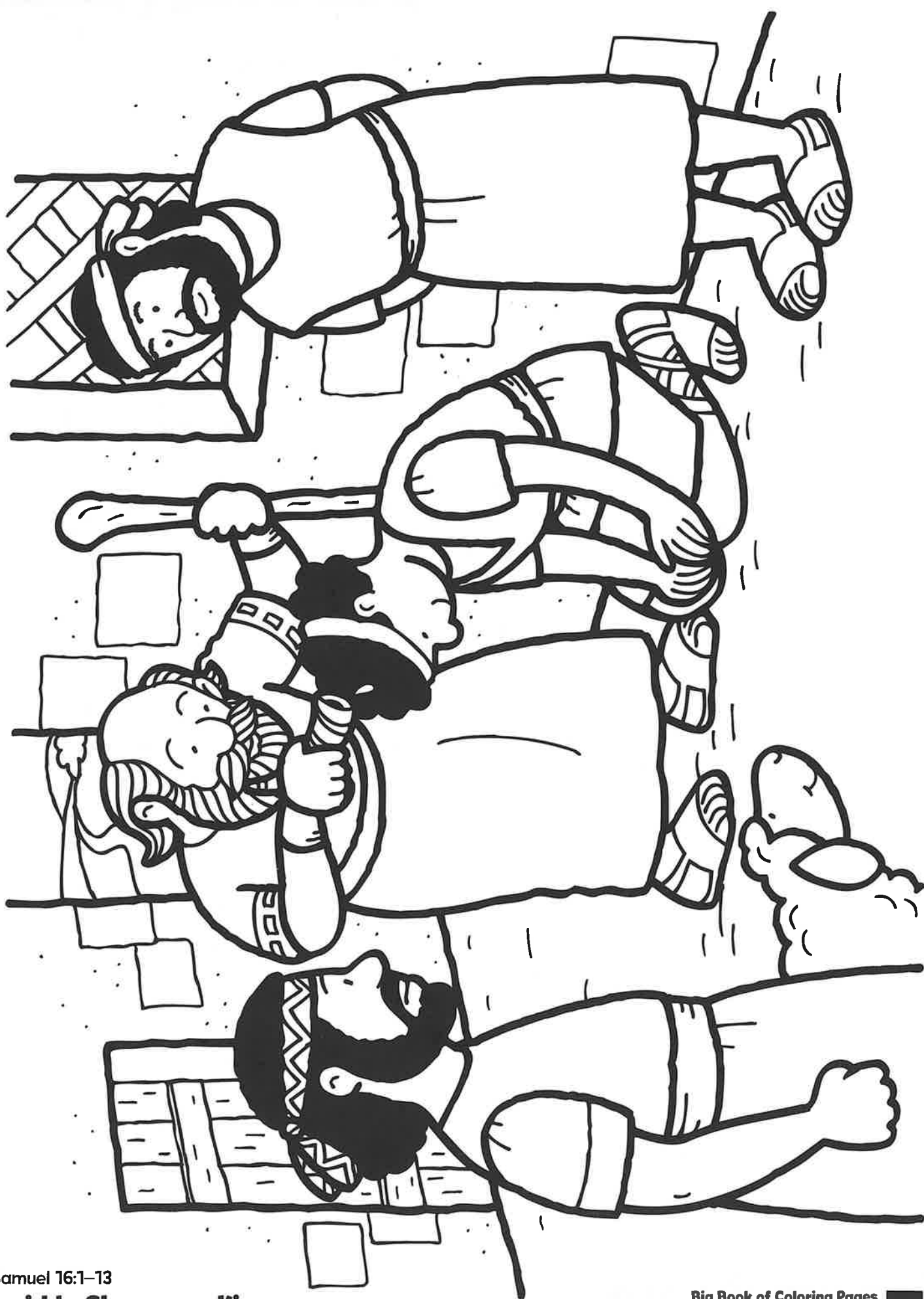




Color by number



Key: 1 = Brown 2 = Blue 3 = Green 4 = Yellow



1 Samuel 16:1-13

David Is Chosen as King

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1 Samuel 16:1-13

God had said that King Saul would not be king much longer. God told Samuel to go to the man God had chosen to be the new king. "Go to the town of Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse. I have chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the king."

Samuel obeyed God and went to Bethlehem. He talked to Jesse. He looked at each of Jesse's seven sons. The oldest son was tall and strong. *Surely this is the one God wants to be king*, thought Samuel.

"No," God said to Samuel, "he is not the one. You can only see how he looks on the outside. But I have chosen a man who loves Me and will obey Me. That cannot be seen from the outside."

So Samuel looked at the next son. But God said he wasn't the one either. One after another, Jesse's seven sons walked by. But none of them was the one God had picked! Finally Samuel asked Jesse, "Do you have any MORE sons?"

Jesse said that his youngest son, David, was out taking care of the sheep. Samuel asked to see him. When David walked in, God said, "This is the one I have chosen." So Samuel took out a little animal horn filled with oil. Samuel poured some oil on David's head to show that he was the one God had chosen to be the next king. God had chosen David because He knew David loved God with all his heart.



1 Samuel 16:14-23

David Plays His Harp for King Saul

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1 Samuel 16:14–23

King Saul sat on his throne. He didn't want to talk to anyone. He didn't want to do anything. King Saul felt sad. The king's servants were worried. They wanted to make the king feel better. What could the servants do? What might make the king feel better?

"Maybe some music would help," one of the servants said.

Another servant said, "There is a shepherd boy named David who is a good musician. He is a brave and handsome young man. He loves God. David could play his harp for the king."

King Saul sent a messenger to David's father. "Send David here so he can work for me."

David's father sent David to King Saul. Whenever King Saul felt sad, David played the harp for him. Then King Saul would feel better.

MEMORY VERSE:

October 18, 2026

“Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.”

--1 Samuel 16:7b

Fill in the Blanks

Humans do not ___ what the
_____ sees, for _____ see
what is _____, but the Lord
sees the _____.”

-1 Samuel 16:7b

Inside my heart, I want to have:

☐ Kindness

☐ Patience

☐ A desire to obey God

☐ Faith

☐ Love

☐ Joy

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 YOU CAN DO IT! 

Recite the verse next week & earn a prize!

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David - A Man After God's Own Heart

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Want to earn a prize?

Learn and recite the Old
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volunteer.

(Can earn this once a semester.)



**Link to Old Testament
Books Song**

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