Lesson #2-7

DAVID BECOMES KING

2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150

KIDS 3RD-6TH NL

Key Verse:

The LORD said to [David]: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel."
2 Samuel 5:2

The Point:

A good leader serves God and the people.

Making Connections:

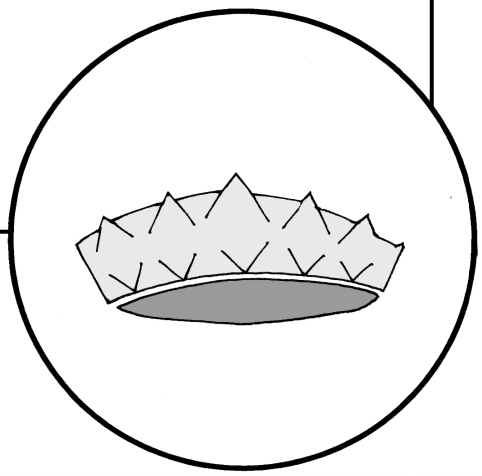
God's Way of Leading

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Desert to the Kingdom

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



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ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES		SUPPLIES
INTO THE STORY		
HOW WOULD YOU CELEBRATE? Prepare for a big day.	10 MIN.	† None
BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS		
THE DESERT TO THE KINGDOM The story from the exodus to King David.	10 MIN.	† Bible † Activity Sheet #2-7.A † Mural paper † Markers or crayons † Tape
LEARNING THE STORY		
DAVID BECOMES KING Share a humorous skit with music and dance.	15 MIN.	† Activity Sheet #2-7.B † Optional: percussion instruments, highlighters
LIVING THE STORY		
CHOSEN BY GOD Worship with anointing.	15 MIN.	† Olive oil † Glass dish † Paper towels † Index cards † Pens or pencils

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ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

WRITING OUR OWN PSALM
10 MIN.

Construct a communal psalm.

- † Bible
- † White board or mural paper
- † Markers

BRINGING THE ARK HOME
15 MIN.

Race to carry the ark.

- † Medium cardboard boxes
- † Pool noodles
- † Optional: glitter, contact paper, balloons

PSALMS: LOVE SONGS TO GOD
10 MIN.

Express love to God through song.

- † Bible
- † Optional: music player

BIBLE BOOK
5 MIN.

Optional ongoing activity.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Card stock or plain paper
- † Pens
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

SENDING THE STORY

5 MIN.

- † The Story @ Home

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BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Making Connections

The Book of Ruth ends when she gives birth to a baby boy, Obed, who became the grandfather of David. In today's lesson, we see how God continues to lead God's people through God's anointing of David as Israel's servant leader and king, as well as the worshipful celebration of the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

Story Summary:
David Becomes King

The anointing of David comes after a time of trial for the people of Israel. They have been struggling to create their own kingdom under their first king, Saul. But Saul's inability to remain faithful jeopardized the stability of the nation.

God next chooses David as king. David, a shepherd boy and the youngest of his brothers, is a rather unexpected choice. However, when God elevates the humble David to the status of king, it also marks the elevation of Israel from a loosely knit group of clans into a true national power. Bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem further cements Israel's glory.

The Point

A good leader serves God and the people. It is important to remember that God chose David to be a servant king. David was not called to make himself a great name or to gather wealth for himself, but to be a shepherd to God's people. His first great task was to bring Judah and Israel together. David's gifts were given to him so that he could make the world a better place, and he was anointed, or "set aside," for that purpose. Each of us has been given special gifts too, and a purpose that only we can fulfill.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:
The Desert to the Kingdom

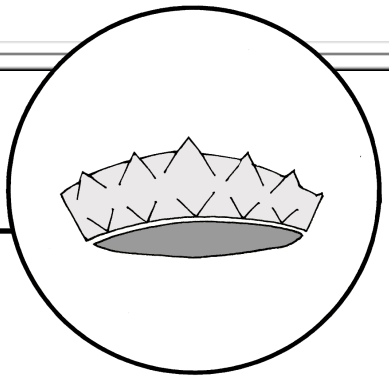
A lot happens in the time period between the exodus and today's story. After Moses led the people out of Egypt, they received the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. The Israelites then wandered for forty years in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of Israel. Joshua led the people to conquer and settle the land. After Joshua, God raised up leaders (judges) to save Israel from nations who conquered and oppressed the people. Later, the people of Israel asked for a king. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul became a corrupt king. Samuel then anointed David to be the next king.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

When the Ark of the Covenant came back to Jerusalem, David worshipped God with his whole self, dancing before the entire nation of Israel. He did not attempt to be stately or composed in his expression, but allowed himself to fully express his love and gratitude to God. God calls us to worship and celebrate and we respond.

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LESSON PLAN



INTO THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

HOW WOULD YOU CELEBRATE?

Prepare for the big day.

You will need:

- Nothing

During class:

1. **Today we are talking about celebrations. What are some things we might celebrate?** *[Be prepared to offer some suggestions, such as birthdays, holidays, last day of school, etc.]* **Okay, let's imagine you have done something really great and really fantastic. Maybe you were the best player on your soccer team and they won the championship. Or maybe you were first place in the spelling bee. Or maybe you were chosen to be the lead in the school play and you got a standing ovation. Something really special. What would you do to make that day special?** *[Go out to a special dinner, have a party, take lots of pictures.]*
2. **Today we are going to be reading about somebody who really had something to celebrate. David was just a shepherd boy when God decided to choose him to be king of Israel. In our story today, David has finally grown up and it is time for him to be anointed. We are going to talk more about anointing later on, but right now it just means that David is ready to be king. How do you think David might have celebrated this big moment?** Allow responses.

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3. **Actually, David did not celebrate at all…not at first. The first thing David did was get to work! The people of Israel were split into different groups, and David knew that God wanted them all to work together. Once the whole nation was back together, ready to worship together as one family, then he celebrated. He danced and danced and danced! He danced so much that some people thought he looked silly. But David did not care. He was just so full of joy he had to let it out. We will try to see what that might be like ourselves as we look at the story.**

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BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (10 MINUTES)

THE DESERT TO THE KINGDOM

The story from the exodus to King David.

You will need:

- Bible
- Activity Sheet #2-7.A
- Mural paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Before class:

1. Cut out the illustrations from Activity Sheet #2-7.A.

During class:

1. Show the class the Bible. **So much has happened in our Bible stories in just a few weeks, and we skipped over some stories, too! Let's put some stories in the right order, to help us remember and to catch up on what we missed.**
2. Distribute images to the students and let them color in the images before you place them on the time line.
3. **We will start with the story of Moses leading the people out of Egypt. That story is called the exodus, and is found in that book of the Bible.** Show students where Exodus is in the Bible, and tape the Moses image on the far left of the mural paper.
4. Continue listing and attaching the following drawings along the mural paper as if on a timeline:
5. **After Moses led the people out of Egypt, they received the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. The Israelites then wandered for forty years in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of Israel. Joshua led the people to conquer and settle the land. After Joshua, God raised up leaders called judges to save Israel from nations who conquered and oppressed the people. Later, the people of Israel asked for a king. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul became a corrupt king. Samuel then anointed David to be the next king**
6. **Look how much has happened! God sure has been busy saving the people of Israel. Let's hear how God works through King David in today's story.**

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LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

DAVID BECOMES KING

Share a humorous skit with music and dance.

You will need:

- ✝ Activity Sheet #2-7.B
- ✝ Optional: percussion instruments, highlighters

Before class:

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #2-7.B for each student.
2. Gather percussion instruments (drums, sticks, maracas, rain sticks, etc.). In lieu of using instruments, students can also use their hands, legs, feet, and other body parts to create percussion sounds.

During class:

1. **Today we are going to act out the story of David becoming king of Israel.** Divide into roles. You will need someone for each of the following parts:
    - Narrator
    - David
    - Elder 1
    - Elder 2
    - People of Israel
    - People of Judah
2. Hand out copies of Activity Sheet #2-7.A. Encourage students to highlight the part or parts they will be saying in the skit. Find an open area for students to act. Hand out percussion instruments to the People of Israel and People of Judah. If percussion instruments are not provided, encourage students to experiment with different sounds they can make. For example, they can clap hands, slap legs, stomp feet, rub hands together, click teeth, etc.

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3. After performing the skit, use the following questions to discuss the story:
    - **Who was your favorite character in the story? Why?**
    - **Each one had a part to play. The Elders were the ones who affirmed David's leadership as king. David had to accept his role as king and then work toward Israel's unification. And the people had to agree to set aside their differences to become one people under God's guidance.**
    - **How did you feel about using music and dancing in the story?**
    - **Dancing is one way that David worships God, but in the actual Scripture passage he really only dances when the Ark of the Covenant returns to Israel. We only read of David dancing when the Ark of the Covenant returns to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:16).** Ask a student to read 2 Samuel 6:1-5 aloud.
4. **The story of David's anointing and becoming king is made complete when the entire people of Israel bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. The Ark carried their sacred Scriptures and was the center of their worship. Not only could they work together, now they could worship together too. No wonder everyone wanted to dance!**

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LIVING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

CHOSEN BY GOD

Worship with anointing.

You will need:

- Olive oil
- Glass dish
- Paper towels
- Index cards
- Pens or pencils

During class:

1. **In our skit, we saw how the elders anointed David to show that he was chosen by God to be the king of Israel. The word "anointed" means to mark someone with oil. In the Bible, people are anointed to show that they have been chosen by God to perform a special task. David's special task was to be king, but each of us has also been chosen by God to do something special. Maybe we are not sure right now what that task is, but we can get an idea of what it might be by looking at the special gifts we have.**
2. Hand out the index cards and pens or pencils. **There are many special gifts God can give us. I am going to name some, and if you think you have that gift just write it down on the index card. Some gifts include being a good leader, being kind, being creative, being someone who does the right thing, being joyful, being a good friend, being wise, being peaceful, and being strong. Do any other gifts come to mind?** Accept all answers.
3. **Now, let's think of ways God might use our gifts in the world. Take a few minutes to think about it, and jot your ideas on the back of your index card.** Be prepared to help students brainstorm tasks God might have them do.
4. When students have finished writing, pour olive oil into the dish, and hand out paper towels. Invite each student to come up one by one to be anointed. Read out loud the gifts they have written on their card. For example, say, **"God has given John gifts of kindness and wisdom. We bless your gifts, John, and anoint you into God's great service."** As you say the final words, dip your finger in the oil and trace a cross on the student's forehead. As each student is anointed the others can gather in a circle around them, perhaps raising their hands toward the student in prayer.
5. **Just like David, God has certainly given each of us special gifts. It will be exciting to see what wonderful things God will do through us to make the world a better place**.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

WRITING OUR OWN PSALM (10 MINUTES)

Construct a communal psalm.

You will need:

- Bible
- White board or mural paper
- Markers

Before class:

1. Prepare a white board or mural paper so you can write the students' ideas on for them all to see. This will be a prayer written by the students and spoken together.
2. You may want to prepare a group response statement in advance. If your class decides to write a Psalm of Praise, you might use, "Thank you, God, for the many blessings in our lives." If they decide to write a Psalm of Lament, you can use, "God, hear us and heal our hurting hearts." If they decide to write a Psalm of Remembering, you can use, "God, you have been faithful to us in many ways."

During class:

1. **Our psalm for today is Psalm 150. Would somebody ready it for us?** Allow a student to read. **What kind of psalm would you say this is: a happy love song or a sad love song?** *[Happy, a psalm of praise.]*
2. **Today we are going to write our own psalm, but you get to decide what kind of psalm we are going to write. We can write a Psalm of Praise, where we focus on how blessed we are; a Psalm of Lament or Sorrow, where we share our struggles and ask God to help us; or a Psalm of Remembering, where we share about the things God has done for us.** Allow students to make the choice. Once the choice has been made, write the group response statement on your paper.
3. Invite the students to each offer one or more verses to the psalm. Record each one on the white board or mural paper. Encourage students to relate the psalm to their own experiences, to reflect what is actually going on in their lives.
4. **Now we are going to pray the psalm together. We are going to take turns going around the room, allowing each person to read one verse. After each verse, we will all join on the group response together.**

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5. Lead the Psalm.
6. Use the following questions to explore the students' experience with this prayer:
    - **How did it feel praying this way? Were you comfortable with the style of psalm we were using** (Praise, Lament, Remembering)**? Was there anything that you found uncomfortable about the experience?**
    - **If you were praying on your own, would you have done something differently?**
    - **The beauty of praying the Psalms is often we do it together, in a group. That means that sometimes the psalm does not match your personal experience, but it gives us a chance to support each other. You might not feel sad, but when you pray a Psalm of Lament with someone who is hurting, you are giving them your support and love. You also might not feel happy, but when you pray a Psalm of Praise in a group, you might remember that you really do have a lot to be grateful for, and it can help you feel better.**

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BRINGING THE ARK HOME (15 MINUTES)

Race to carry the ark.

You will need:

- Medium cardboard boxes
- Pool noodles
- Optional: glitter, contact paper, balloons

Before class:

1. Gather cardboard boxes so you have one for every four to six students, and twice as many pool noodles.
2. You can run this as a relay race or, if you have fewer students, you can simply have them work together to transport the Ark as one team.

During class:

1. Create groups of four to six students. Give each group a cardboard box and, if you choose, allow them to decorate it. **We talked about the Ark of the Covenant. Does anybody remember why it was so important?** *[It carried sacred texts, it was a reminder that God was with the people, it was the center of their worship.]* **When David became king, the Ark had been captured by the Philistines, who were enemies of Israel. Once David got the people of Israel and Judah to come together as one nation they were able to get the Ark back, and bring it back to Jerusalem. For our activity today you will work in teams to bring your Ark to Jerusalem.**
2. Give students five minutes to decorate their Arks, if you choose.
3. When the teams are finished give each team two pool noodles. Put two team members at one end of the room, the "Philistia" area, and identify the opposite wall as "Jerusalem." Station other team members at different spots between "Philistia" and "Jerusalem."
4. **Each team is going to do your best to get your Ark back to Jerusalem. But the Ark is so holy that nobody is supposed to touch it, so you have to carry the Ark on the pool noodles. When you get to your team members, try to hand off your pool noodles without dropping the Ark. If you drop it you have to go back to Philistia and start over!**
5. Allow students to complete a few relays, as time allows.

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PSALMS: LOVE SONGS TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

Express love to God through song.

You will need:

- ✝ Bible
- ✝ Optional: music player

Before class:

1. Collect some popular love songs to share. You might pick one happy song, going with a hit such as "Happy" by Pharrell Williams or a classic like "I Got You" by James Brown. Also choose a sad song, such as modern-day "Say Something" by A Great Big World or "You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling" by the Righteous Brothers. Alternately, you can just bring lyrics from a few songs to share.

During class:

1. Hold up a Bible. **There is a special section of the Bible called the Psalms. I am going to show you a trick. If you hold the Bible in your hand and open it right in the middle you will open to the Psalms.**
2. **The word "psalm" in the Bible really just means song, and there are 150 psalms in the Bible. People have used these songs for thousands of years to tell God how they feel. Some of these songs are happy, just like some love songs today. Do any of you know some happy love songs?** Accept all answers. At this point you can share the happy love song you have chosen, either through playing it out loud or sharing some of the lyrics.
3. **But not all love songs are happy ones, are they? Some love songs talk about feeling sad or lonely, and some are even angry because it seems that the one they love has left them behind. Do you know any songs like that?** Accept all answers. Here you can share the sad love song you have chosen.
4. **The Psalms are a lot like that. Some of them are happy, thanking God for being present and for the many blessings of life. Some of them are angry or sad, particularly when things are hard and the people wonder if God is even paying attention to their need. Some psalms tell stories about how God has helped God's people in the past, reminding us that God is faithful to us in times of struggle. That is what makes the Psalms great. Whatever we are feeling—happy, sad, angry, confused—the Psalms give us a way of reaching out and sharing our feelings with God.**

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BIBLE BOOK (10 MINUTES)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- ✝ Bible
- ✝ Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- ✝ Card stock or plain paper
- ✝ Pens
- ✝ Markers or crayons
- ✝ Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on card stock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out one piece of card stock paper and markers or crayons to each student.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?** *[Answers will vary.]*
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of your important things you have learned. Do not forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. You can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

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SENDING THE STORY (10 MINUTES)

PRAYER

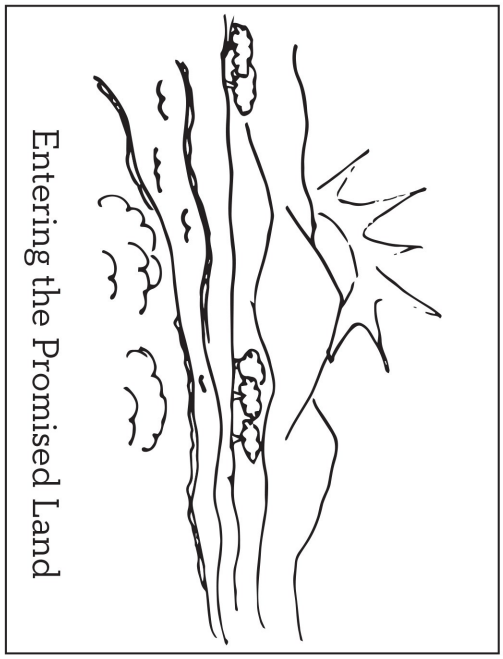
Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer. Allow any students who would like to include a petition to do so at the appropriate time.

Dear God, thank you for the story of David who you called to be a servant to the people of Israel. Help us as we grow in our own gifts, so that we too can do great works in the world. Free us to worship you with our whole lives: our bodies in movement, our voices in song, our hearts in love. In your name we pray. Amen.

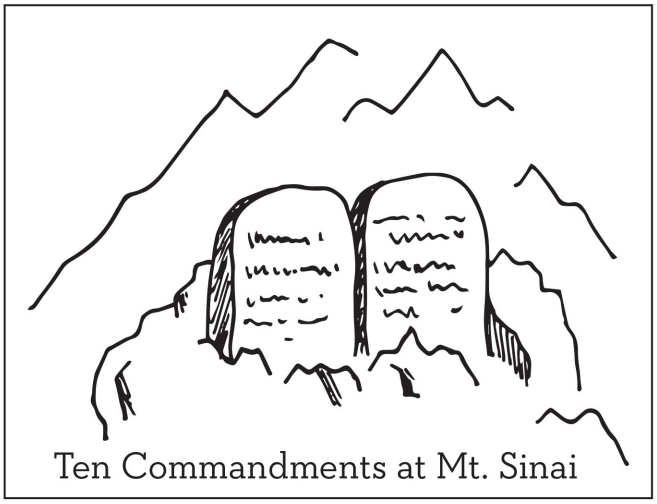
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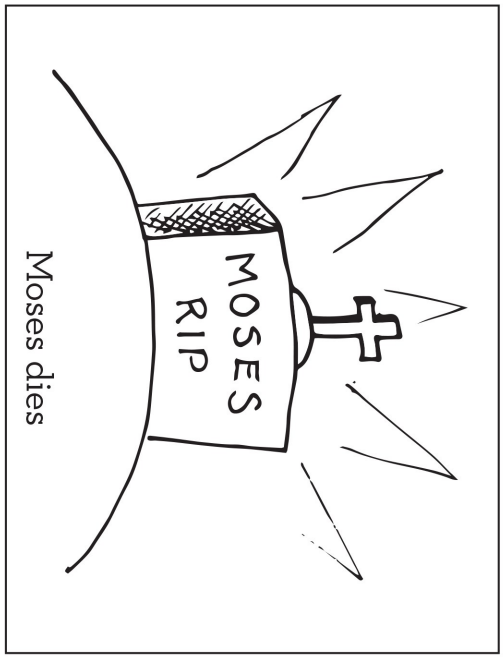
THE DESERT TO THE KINGDOM

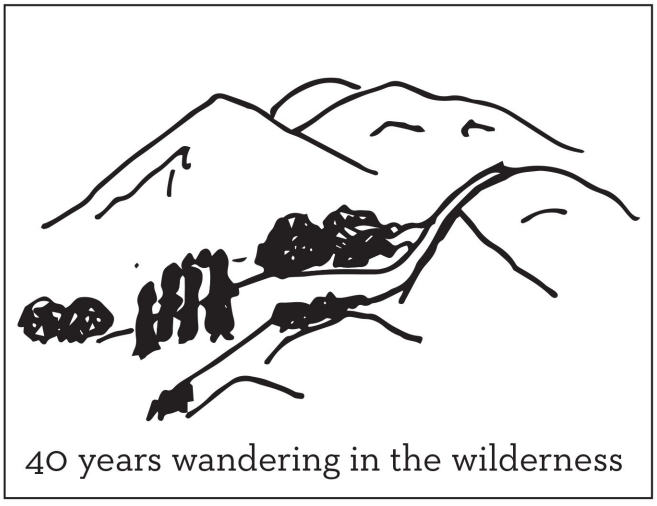
The story from the exodus to King David.




Moses leading the people out of Egypt


Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai

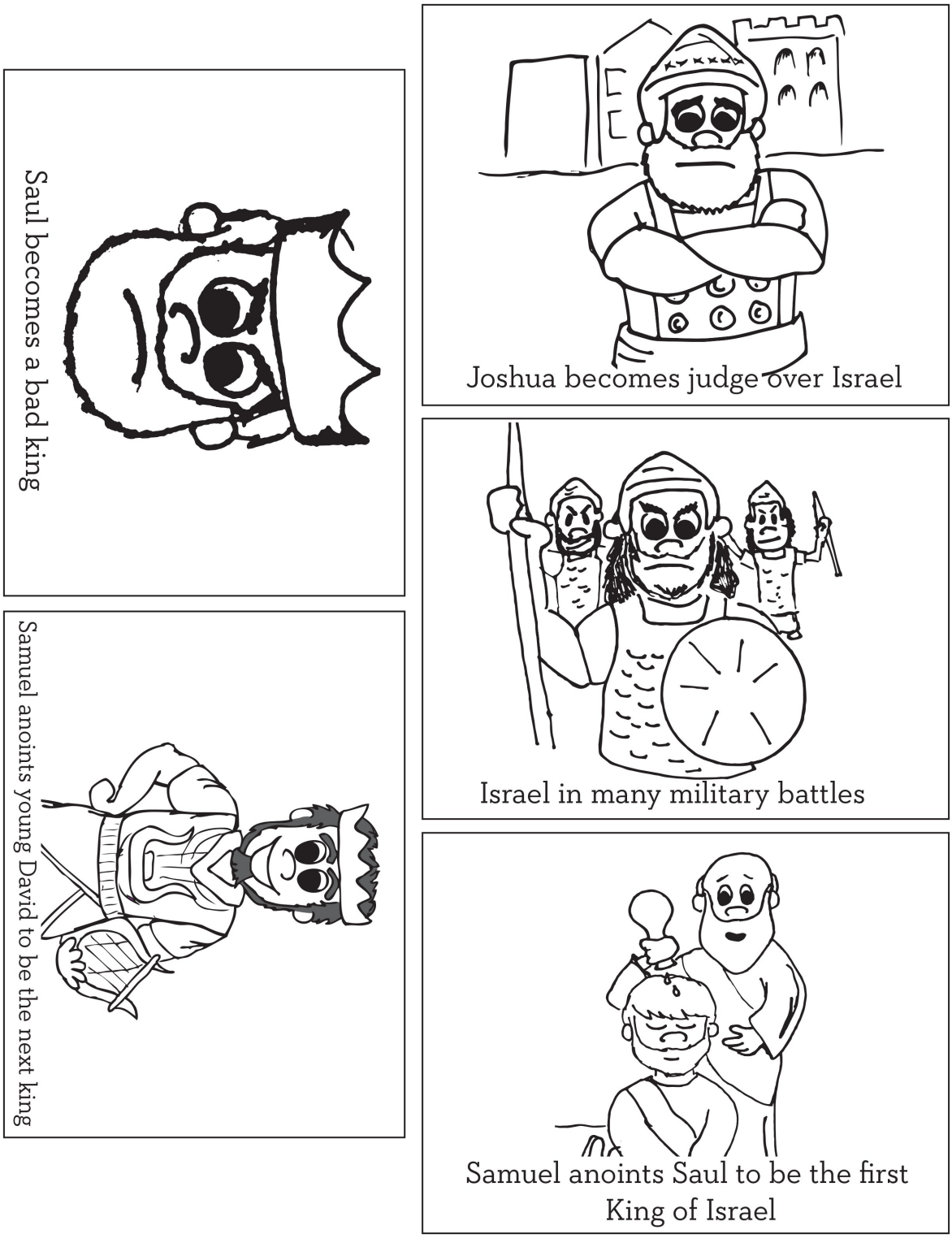



40 years wandering in the wilderness

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THE DESERT TO THE KINGDOM

The story from the exodus to King David.



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DAVID BECOMES KING

Share a humorous skit with music and dance.

Characters:

- Narrator
- David
- Elder 1
- Elder 2
- People of Israel
- People of Judah

Narrator: God was ready to begin something new in Israel. God had chosen David to be Israel's next leader when David was just a boy watching his father's sheep. Now God told the Elders it was time for David to be anointed.

Elder 1: *(Looking up, as though receiving a message from God. To Elder 2.)* Okay, I think it's time.

Elder 2: *(Pretend to be hard of hearing.)* Eh? You need a dime?

Elder 1: *(Louder)* No! I think it's time. We need to go anoint David as the next king.

Elder 2: Oh, why didn't you say so? Yeah, let's go find David.

(People of Israel and Judah play an "elder" beat, a little halting and slow. Elders dance to the beat as they make their way to David.)

Elder 1: (to David) Alright, sonny. It's time for you to be king.

Elder 2: I don't think it's a good time to sing.

Elder 1: *(Louder)* Not sing…king! David needs to be our king!

Elder 2: That's true! Are you ready, Davy my boy?

David: Sure. I'm ready.

(Elder 1 Pretends to pour oil over David's head while People of Israel and Judah play "anointing" beat, something slippery and flowing. Elder 1 and 2 and David do a little dance to the beat.)

David: *(Wiggling to the beat)* Oh, that's a little cold.

Elder 2: *(Lays hands on David's head)* May God lead you and help you to serve God's people.

David: Amen.

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DAVID BECOMES KING

Share a humorous skit with music and dance.

Elder 1: So, what are you going to do now, David?

David: I'm going to get the people of Israel and the people of Judah together.

Elder 2: Yes, it's nice weather.

Elder 1: *(Louder)* Not weather—together! David's going to get everybody together to make one nation!

Elder 2: Oh good. Sounds like a plan.

Narrator: David went to the People of Israel. *(People of Israel play a "walking" beat as David walks up to them.)* He called everybody together.

David: Hey everybody! God wants us to get together with the people of Judah, so we can be one nation. What do you say?

People of Israel: *(General assent, play percussion in agreement.)* Hey, that sounds like a great idea! Yeah, let's go to Hebron and talk to the people of Judah! *(People of Israel play a joyful "marching" beat as they cross over to the People of Judah.)*

Narrator: And so, the People of Israel left their homeland to travel to Hebron, where David talked to the People of Judah.

David: *(To People of Judah)* Hey everybody, this division between our people has gone on long enough. We'll never be strong until we all join together, work together, and worship together. If you'll join us, I'll be your king and I promise to do my best to take care of you. What do you say?

People of Judah: *(General assent, making percussion sounds.)* Okay, you can be our king, David. We'll work together with the People of Israel.

David: Wow! Finally, we're going to be one nation. It's a great day. I think it's time to celebrate. Everybody, let's dance! *(People of Judah and People of Israel play a "celebration" beat and everybody dances together.)*

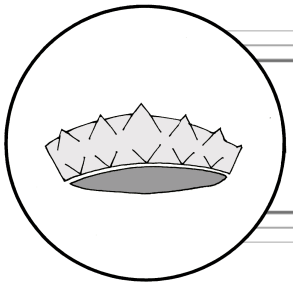
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DAVID BECOMES KING

2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150

I LEARNED:

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THE STORY @ HOME

KIDS 3RD-6TH NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Lesson #2-7
2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150

LAST WEEK

After the people of Israel have settled in the Promised Land, a non-Israelite foreigner, Ruth, shows love and loyalty to her mother-in-law, despite the great risk to herself (Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]).

THIS WEEK

Ruth's faith and loyalty are passed down to her great-grandson, the most famous, and faithful, king of Israel: David (2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150).

STORY SUMMARY

The anointing of David comes after a time of trial for the people of Israel. They have been struggling to create their own kingdom under their first king, Saul. But Saul's inability to remain faithful jeopardized the stability of the nation. God next chooses David as king. David, a shepherd boy and the youngest of his brothers, is a rather unexpected choice. However, when God elevates the humble David to the status of king, it also marks the elevation of Israel from a loosely knit group of clans into a true national power. Bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem further cements Israel's glory

PRACTICE: WORSHIP

When the Ark of the Covenant came back to Jerusalem, David worshipped God with his whole self, dancing before the entire nation of Israel. He was not embarrassed, and he allowed himself to fully express his love and gratitude to God. God calls us to worship and celebrate and we respond.

THE POINT

A good leader serves God and the people.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The Desert to the Kingdom

A lot happens in the time period between the exodus and today's story. After Moses led the people out of Egypt, they received the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. The Israelites then wandered for forty years in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of Israel. Joshua led the people to conquer and settle the land. After Joshua, God raised up leaders (judges) to save Israel from nations who conquered and oppressed the people. Later, the people of Israel asked for a king. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul became a corrupt king. Samuel then anointed David to be the next king.

NEXT WEEK

A selfish decision by King Rehoboam, David's grandson, leads the ten northern tribes of Israelites to leave the united kingdom and form their own kingdom (1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29).

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TRY IT @ HOME

Lesson #2-7
2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5;
Psalm 150

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- In what way does this text teach about the theme, Responding to God's Love?
- What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150 David becomes king. Play some upbeat music and do a celebratory dance together. Talk about the things for which you are grateful.
Monday—Read 1 Kings 2:1-4 David instructs Solomon. Make some crowns out of construction paper and tape and pretend to be rulers. What would you do if you could rule over everybody?
Tuesday—Read 1 Kings 3:3-14 The source of Solomon's wisdom. Wrap a box in giftwrap and give it to your child. Ask them what they would ask for if they could have anything they wanted. Why would they make that choice?
Wednesday—Read 1 Kings 3:16-28 Solomon solves a dispute. Act out this story. How would you have solved this situation?
Thursday—Read 1 Kings 4:29-34 Solomon's fame. Name one person that you think is wise. Why do you feel this way?
Friday—Read 1 Kings 9:1-9 The Lord speaks to Solomon again. Using blocks or paper and markers, build or draw a temple.
Saturday—Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 Solomon's fall from faithfulness. Think of a mistake that you have made. Pray together, thanking God for forgiveness.

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