

David's goodness



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 16:1-23
Samuel goes to Bethlehem



Aim:

To learn that God sees within a person



Today's fruit:

Goodness



In today's musical session we will discover how a young shepherd boy was chosen to become a mighty king.

God saw past the outer appearance and saw that David's heart was filled with goodness. We'll see David using his musical talent to bring peace to an angry King Saul and get the opportunity to make our own music.

Each child will need:

- Materials to make a harp – a box (ideally on the small size like a tissue box, cardboard magazine file or a shoebox) or file folder, elastic bands (ideally different sizes) – the children may need to bring a box to the session
- Resources to decorate their harp on the theme of goodness, eg pens/pencils/paint, covering with paper, stickers ...
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To watch *Make your own: shoebox harp* by Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- Today's fruit sign: *Goodness*



Start it

Say:

Music plays a big part in our Bible story for today, so we're going to start by testing your musical knowledge. Listen to each musical instrument and see if you can guess what it is. They start off easy and get trickier as the quiz goes along.

Video

Guess the musical instrument! sound quiz for kids - easy to hard by AlphabetValley (2:09)



Sing it

Say:

In our story today Samuel, the prophet, needed to trust in God and do what he asked. Let's share our memory verse together as it reminds us that God can be trusted.

Memory verse:

'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised.'

(Hebrews 10:23 *ICB*)

Say:

Our song for today is all about trusting God.

Song

'I will trust you, God' sing-along Christian kids song by Allstars Kids Club (2:32)



Tell it

Say:

Last month we met Saul, chosen by God to be the first king of the Israelites. At first, he was reluctant to be the king, hiding in the luggage and struggling with his new role. In our story today we find a very different King Saul.

Say:

King Saul repeatedly disobeyed God; so God, seeing Saul's poor behaviour, rejected him. Although Saul was still officially the king, God started the search for his successor – the person to take over from him. We join the story with God's faithful servant Samuel, waiting for his instruction.

Read:

'The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you continue to feel sorry for Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. Fill your container with olive oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse who lives in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

'But Samuel said, "If I go, Saul will hear the news. And he will try to kill me."

‘The Lord said, “Take a young calf with you. Say, ‘I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must appoint the one I show you.”

‘Samuel did what the Lord told him to do. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of Bethlehem shook with fear. They met him and asked, “Are you coming in peace?”

‘Samuel answered, “Yes, I come in peace. I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Make yourselves holy for the Lord and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he made Jesse and his sons holy for the Lord. And he invited them to come to the sacrifice.’

(1 Samuel 16:1-5 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What kind of ruler was King Saul?
- What clues from the Bible did you use to work out your answer?

Say:

Both Samuel and the elders of Bethlehem were afraid of what might happen to them if Saul found out what they were up to. Saul was no longer running the kingdom in God’s way and was behaving exactly as Samuel had warned the Israelites that a king would. God had had enough. It was time to find a new king.

Video

David was anointed by I Share

Watch: 0:00 to 1:25 ‘The Spirit of the Lord was with David and Samuel went back home’

Ask:

- Which brother did Samuel think would be chosen by God?
- Why did he think that?

Say:

God doesn’t see things the way we see them. Eliab may have been the tallest and most handsome brother, but he wasn’t the best person to be king. God took the opportunity to teach Samuel to look past a person’s outer appearance and focus on their heart.

Read:

‘But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t look at how handsome Eliab is. Don’t look at how tall he is. I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.”’

(1 Samuel 16:7 *ICB*)

Ask:

In what ways do we focus on the outside of a person, rather than their heart?

Say:

God looked into David's heart and knew that he would be the best person to be king. David was only a young boy and would have to wait a long time, but Samuel anointed him with oil as a sign that he was chosen by God. Let's find out what happened next.

Read:

'But the Lord's Spirit had gone out of Saul. And an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.'

'Saul's servants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is troubling you. Give us the command. We will look for someone who can play the harp. When the evil spirit from the Lord enters you, he will play. Then the evil spirit will leave you alone. And you will feel better."

'So Saul said to his servants, "Find someone. If he plays well, bring him to me."

'One of the servants said, "Jesse of Bethlehem has a son who plays the harp. I have seen him play it. He is a brave man and fights well. He is a good speaker and handsome. And the Lord is with him."

'Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse. The message said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." So Jesse loaded a donkey with bread and a leather bag full of wine. He also took a young goat. He sent them all with his son David to Saul.'

'When David came to Saul, he began to serve him. Saul loved David very much. And David became the officer who carried Saul's armour. Saul sent a message to Jesse. He said, "Let David stay and serve me. I like him."

'When the evil spirit from God entered Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then the evil spirit would go out of him, and Saul would feel relief. He would feel better again.'

(1 Samuel 16:14-23 ICB)

Say:

David became a member of King Saul's royal court. Whenever Saul became angry, David would play the harp to calm him down.

Display the *Goodness* sign.

Say:

Our fruit for today is goodness.

Ask:

Think about today's Bible story. What examples of goodness can you find in the story?

Say:

Samuel listened to God's commands and looked for the goodness in David's heart rather than focusing on his big brother's good looks. David took the time to show his goodness by playing the harp for Saul to calm him down.

Action it

Explain to the children that they are going to make a harp, with decorations inspired by the theme of 'goodness'. You can adjust this activity depending on the materials you have.

Video

Make your own: shoebox harp by Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (3:10)

Watch the following clip to help the children think about how they could decorate their harp, eg with the word 'goodness', and add illustrations that fit with the theme.

Video

God's story: fruit of the Spirit: Goodness by Crossroads Kids' Club (2:39)

After the children have decorated their harps, support them with attaching the elastic bands – be careful of any that may snap. When the children have finished their harps, they can play them together.

Pray it

Say:

David used music to keep King Saul calm. To bring our session to a close, we are going to have a time of peace and quiet. The music of the harp is going to help us relax.

Encourage the children to find a comfortable place to rest and relax. Then encourage them to spend time with God as the music plays. Fade out the music when you feel your group is becoming restless and bring the session to a close in prayer.

Listen

'10,000 reasons' (on two Harps) by Matt Redman
performed by Harp for the Lord (3:34)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

David's goodness

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 16:1-23
Samuel goes to Bethlehem



Aim:

To learn that God sees within a person



Today's fruit:

Goodness



Discover

David played an ancient Hebrew harp known as a kinnor. The harps that musicians play today are very different, but still create the beautiful, dreamy sound that helped Saul to fall asleep. Watch the clip to discover more about this amazing instrument.

Meet the harp by ASO Education



Create

Create a calming musical playlist with the people at home. Share the list with friends and family so that they can listen to the calm music and feel peaceful.



Memory verse

'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised.'

(Hebrews 10:23 /CB)



Song for the week

'I will trust you, God' sing-along
Christian kids song by Allstars Kids Club

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

David's goodness



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 16:14-22



Aim:

To know that David was a shepherd boy who played a harp



Today's fruit:

Goodness



Memory verse

'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised.'

(Hebrews 10:23 *ICB*)



Start it

Mime playing some instruments (including a harp) and see if the children can guess what they are. You may wish to have images of the instruments to hand.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Samuel 16:14-22.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

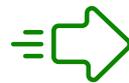
- I wonder if you know what a shepherd does? David looked after sheep.
- Does anyone play any instruments? David played a harp.
- David's harp relaxed an angry king called Saul. What music do you like?
- How do you like to relax?
- What would it be like to spend all day outside looking after animals?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Make noises and pretend to be sheep - choose one person to be David, who calms everyone down.
- Make basic instruments from boxes or tins, perhaps a basic shoebox harp using elastic bands (see Action it section of 7-11s material).
- Mime being King Saul and David (changing when the leader says either name).