

Ancient Christmas Promises (Part 3)

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16-17, 1 Chronicles 17:11-12

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7b *“The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

Lesson Focus: As we continue in this progressive study of God’s ancient promises that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, we will take the kids to ancient Bethlehem to meet David. While there is so much we could teach about David, we will only cover certain highlights of his life, especially the promise that God made that points ahead to Christmas. Perhaps no other character in the Old Testament points us to Jesus Christ more than David, the Shepherd-King. We will emphasize how David was characterized as a man after God’s own heart and challenge the kids to examine their own hearts.

Activities and Crafts: David & Goliath Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson.

Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Slingshot Craft

Starter Activity: We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room after worship for another quick video (4 minutes) that we will use to introduce the lesson. Before the video we will briefly review the lessons from the last two weeks and remind the kids of the ancient Christmas promises God had already made to bring about His promised Rescuer.

Q: Do you like stories? What are some of your favorite stories? *

Believe it or not, the Bible is one grand story! While the Bible contains many little stories about various people, all of them are telling God’s one big TRUE story about our world: How it began, how it ends, and His salvation plan that happens in between.

Two weeks ago we looked at how it all began. God created all things good, but Adam and Eve ruined it by their sin. But even despite their sin, God promised a future rescuer that would destroy the devil and sin (**Genesis 3:15**).

Last week we looked at another character in God’s story, Abraham. God promised him that one of his descendants would bless the whole world, even you and me! (**Genesis 12:3**). * He also promised to make a great nation out of him. God kept that promise, because he became the father of the nation of Israel *, the Jewish people. *

Today we are going to fast-forward some more and look at the nation of Israel’s first kings. And to one of these kings, God makes another ancient Christmas promise!

START VIDEO HERE!

Q: Who did God make these new promises to? A: David! Let’s open our Bibles now and take a deeper look at David and how God used him to get people ready for the future promised King and Rescuer!

Bible Study:

1 Samuel 16:1: Samuel was a prophet, a spiritual leader of God's people. He was sad because Saul, the current king, had failed as king.

Q: Do you remember what Saul's problem was from the video? A: He was proud! (See **1 Samuel 15:17** that describes Saul before he failed) * He didn't love God or trust in God anymore.

1 Samuel 16:2-6: Samuel now travels to Bethlehem * to find this new king and Jesse brings out to Samuel is oldest, strongest, most handsome son. (**Teachers:** I recommend summarizing these verses rather than reading them all) Samuel thinks God wants the biggest, strongest, most handsome son.

Q: How many of you have been part of a game in P.E. where team captains have to choose players on their team? Who do the captains usually pick first?

A: The strongest players! *

1 Samuel 16:7: But God actually chooses His people differently. He doesn't look at people like we do, on the outside.

Q: Where did it say God looks? A: At the heart! Who we are on the inside. The REAL you! **Teachers:** Consider bringing in a box or bag of treats, but actually fill it with something unpleasant or boring. * Make sure the kids can't see what is on the inside and invite one or two to come and take one blindly. Then point out how easy it is for us to fool others (or be fooled!) by merely putting on our "best outside". But God isn't fooled!

1 Samuel 16:8-10: Just like in P.E. class, Jesse brings out the older, stronger sons before Samuel thinking they were the one's God wanted. But did God choose any of them? NO!

1 Samuel 16:11-12: And then the very last one, David, comes before Samuel, almost as an afterthought. In P.E. class, this is like the kid who is always chosen last and usually feels just awful. But God saw his heart and chose him to be the next king of Israel.

Why? Because unlike proud Saul, he had a heart that loved God and trusted God. In fact, the Bible describes David as someone "*who was after God's own heart*" (**Acts 13:22**). He wanted what God wanted!

1 Samuel 16:13: Samuel then anoints David with oil symbolizing God's choice of him as king. It also says the Holy Spirit came upon David and next we are going to see how God empowers him to do something great. (**Teachers:** Please skip to **1 Samuel 17**)

1 Samuel 17:1-4: Welcome to the battlefield! Some time has passed and Saul is still the king of Israel. The Philistines were Israel's enemies. They hated God and God's people. Goliath was a giant man, over nine feet tall, and the champion of God's enemies.

Teachers: At this point consider calling up a few kids to perform the David & Goliath skit on the last page of lesson. Bring in costumes and props as you see fit! * See [here](#) for a way to make a slingshot out of pencils and rubber bands! Conclude the skit by reading what David actually said below.

1 Samuel 17:45: Goliath was bragging about himself and his own strength.

Q: But who was David bragging about? A: God and how God was his strength.

1 Samuel 17:46-47: Whoa! Did you ever think you'd hear such "trash-talk" in the Bible? But, this is "holy trash-talk" because David is not bragging about himself, but about God.

David actually did cut off Goliath's head with Goliath's own sword! Now while that is a little gross, this reminds us of one of the ancient Christmas promises that we studied two weeks ago! Read **Genesis 3:15**.

God declared that there will be battle between mankind and the devil, but that a future person will bruise or strike the head of the devil. David, fighting on God's side struck the head of Goliath, fighting on the devil's side. While this was a mini-victory for God and His people, it reminds us that God will keep His promise to crush Satan's head too!

In fact, many years later after David had become the king of Israel and won many more battles for God's people, God made a special promise to him. (**Teachers:** Please skip to **1 Chronicles 17**)

1 Chronicles 17:11-12: God tells David that one of his kids will be a special king.

Q: Have you ever done something nice for someone only to have them do something even nicer for you in return? * That's what happened here as David wanted to build a temple for God where people could worship him, but God had something better in mind. God told him his son would build the temple for him instead (which happens later in the Bible through Solomon).

But notice God also said that this king would be established FOREVER. What a promise!

* David and Solomon both died. Therefore, who do you think actually fulfills this promise? Yep! Jesus! Jesus is the great-great-great grandson of David who will not only rule FOREVER, but will crush the head of the devil (just like David did to Goliath).

All of the time between David and the very first Christmas (hundreds of years), God's people were looking and waiting for this Son of David to reign as King! And like the video said, many years later, in the same town of Bethlehem, He finally arrived!

Key Point: David was a hero! He was a man after God's own heart. He loved God and devoted his life to God. But he wasn't perfect. In fact, he made a lot of mistakes. That should encourage us, because we make mistakes too. When God looks at your heart, what does He see? Does he see a boy or girl who is faking or a boy or a girl who actually loves Him? * Like David, BE REAL with God. Talk to Him and tell Him what is on your heart! *

David & Goliath Skit (Simplified)

1 Samuel 17: Have two camps of kids facing each other with Saul the leader of one camp and Goliath the leader of the other. David approaches later.

Goliath *(to the Israelites)*: YOU ARE ALL WIMPS! Wanna fight? Then send out a man who can fight me. If he wins, we will surrender. But if I win, you become our slaves! MWAHAHA!

Saul *(to his army)*: We ARE wimps! How can we beat this giant? I want my Mommy!

Have David now approach Saul and the Israelite camp.

David *(to Saul)*: Your majesty, I will fight him.

Saul *(to David)*: Are you joking? You are too teeny-weeny, while this guy is a warrior! You will get smoked!

David *(to Saul)*: I have killed lions and bears when I took care of my father's sheep. God saved me from them and God can save me from Goliath too.

Saul *(to David)*: Very well. Go, and may the Lord be with you!

David then picks up some stones and a slingshot and approaches Goliath. And Goliath approaches David for battle.

Goliath: Are you kidding me? This is your best fighter? HAHAHA! Prepare to die little boy!

David: You come with a sword. But I come with the one true and living God on my side. He will defeat you and all will know that the Lord is God!

David then shoots a stone at Goliath and he falls dead! The Philistines then run away screaming with the Israelites chasing after them.