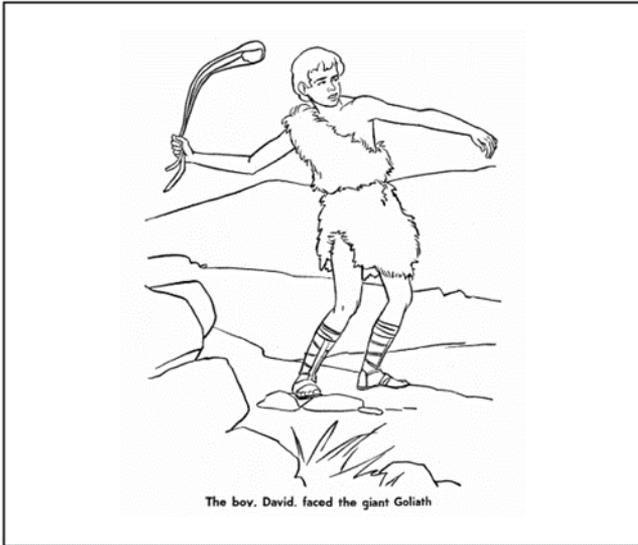


# Family Connections

October 24 - November 28, 2021



David

## **Family Connections**

Unit 2: October 24 - November 28, 2021

In this unit we are continuing our study of 1 Samuel (“first Samuel”) but we are now focusing on the life of King David.

At this point in the story, Saul has been anointed as king – but he has disobeyed God. God has told Samuel to anoint a new king. This is very dangerous, but Samuel obeys. He does as God tells him and goes to the home of Jesse where he meets seven of Jesse’s sons. Although they all possess characteristics that impress Samuel, God does not choose any of them. Instead, God tells Samuel to anoint David (the youngest son who has been out tending the sheep.) But David cannot become king while Saul is still on the throne. Instead, David serves Saul by playing the harp to sooth Saul’s temper. David also goes to the aid of Saul’s army and kills the giant Goliath. David now becomes very popular and this makes Saul jealous and angry. Saul attempts to kill David, and David has to flee. However, David never loses his respect for Saul’s authority since Saul is the Lord’s anointed leader. Eventually, Saul is severely injured in battle and he takes his own life. Three of his sons are also killed in the battle. The people appoint David as king of Judea. Once his kingdom is safely established, he brings the Holy Ark to Jerusalem. David ruled for forty years. During that time he wrote (or edited) many psalms. Some of our lessons will focus on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm (“The Lord is my shepherd...”). At the end of David’s life, Solomon (his son from Bathsheba) becomes king. Solomon asked God for wisdom. Some of the writings in the book of Proverbs are attributed to him.

Oct. 24: The anointing of David - What do you look like on the inside?

- David was chosen by God to be king based upon his heart and not his outward appearance. What does it mean to have a heart for God? (Wanting to live in a way that is pleasing to God, loving others and God as Jesus did.)
- **Watch “Beauty and the Beast.”** Compare the handsome, cold-hearted prince to the hideous beast. What did Belle love about the beast? (He was kind and generous)
- **What characteristics should you look for in choosing your friends?** What if your friends are mean to people or disrespectful to their parents or teachers?
- Do you know someone who is very different from you on the outside? (e.g. different culture, abilities). What do you have in common?

Oct 31 - Nov 7 : David and Goliath - Put your trust in God!

- Faith in God is our greatest weapon against our fears. Is it possible to trust God more than any one or any thing else?
- Who did Goliath put his trust in? (himself, his strength, his armor, etc.).
- When someone is being a bully (like Goliath) is it always best for us to fight with them? No – sometimes walking away is a better solution, or using our words to settle the problem. But in our story, that is not what God told David to do. Instead, it was important for David to stand up to the giant and protect his people.

- Sometimes we have to do things that are scary for us – we have to face our fears. **What kinds of things are really scary for you?** (maybe being in groups of children who you don't know well, doing really hard work in school, being in a thunderstorm or someplace dark, taking medicine that is going to taste really bad, or getting a shot that we need to help us get better.)
- **When we have to do something scary, what should we do?** (Talk to God and ask for courage and strength.)

Nov. 14: The Ark of the Covenant: God always keeps His promises!

- David needed to wait a long time before God's promise could be fulfilled and he could become king. Do you think David ever doubted God's promise?
- Sometimes, when we ask God for something, we are hoping that we can have it right away – like magic! (“God, I wish it was Christmas” and POOF! All of a sudden it's Christmas!) Does prayer work that way? No! It didn't work that way for David either. He had to wait to become king. He had to wait to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. **But God was with him during the wait.**

Nov. 21: King Solomon

- Solomon asked for wisdom and God granted his request because he put others (God's people) first. **What do you treasure or value most?**
- Do you need wisdom to make decisions in your life right now? Why? (Some things we've discussed in this unit would be: being fair, not judging by outward appearance, asking God for guidance, being kind to everyone – not just popular people, making safe decisions, not following people who make bad choices.)

Nov. 28: Advent Workshops: Groups will work on lessons designed to begin to prepare for the Advent season. We will meet the prophet Isaiah and hear about many names that all give us a different understanding of who the Christ Child is and what he means for our world.