



Lesson Ten

God Sets David Apart

Heart Preparation & Bible Background

Israel's elders came to Samuel, God's judge and prophet in Israel, and demanded a king. They wanted Israel to function just like other nations; they wanted someone other than God to rule over them, lead them in battle and make decisions for them.

Since the time of Moses, kingship in Israel had been promised (Deuteronomy 17:14–20), so the desire for a king was expected and acceptable. However, God made it clear to Samuel that Israel's motives for wanting a king were sinful: The people were demanding an earthly king to replace God as ruler over them; they were guilty of breaking their covenant relationship with God.

In his plan for his people, the Lord allowed them to have Saul as king. His rule began well, but Saul's growing failure to trust and obey God led to his downfall, and God replaced him with David, the young shepherd.

The Lord provided David with all that he needed for the kingship. God gave David a desire to love and serve him. God was with David, giving him a heart of faith, and strength and wisdom for the task ahead.

Even though David proved to be an able and gifted king, he certainly recognized that he was not a *perfect* king, so he put his steadfast hope in the coming Savior-King whom God had promised (Psalm 16; Acts 2:25). Jesus, the Holy One sent from God to redeem his people, was the only One to perfectly love and obey God. Jesus, now our risen Lord and King, lovingly rules over us and defends us.

Just as God knew David's heart, he knows your heart and the heart of each child in your class. Pray that he will work in your own heart so that you can faithfully reflect his character to the children you teach. Also, ask God to work in the hearts of your learners, giving them growing faith and willing obedience.

Remember that God works from the inside and what he does shows up on the outside. That was clearly the case in David's life; may it also be true of each one in your Sunday school classroom.



Bible Truth

God, who gave David a heart of faith, chose him to be the next king of Israel.

Scripture

1 Samuel 8; 16:1–13



Lesson Focus

With God's strength and presence, we are able to do what God calls us to do.

Goals for the Children

- Tell how God chose David.
- Tell who gave David strength and power.
- Know that God gives us what we need.
- Thank God every day for his help.



Memory Minute

*[God said,] I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.*

Isaiah 41:10b