



A Shepherd Boy Grows Up to Be King

Goal: To consider how God was with David all through his life.

RECOGNIZING GOD’S GRACE . . .

. . . In 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 7:18–29

After Saul’s death, Israel’s leaders said to David: “Even when Saul was king, you led our nation in battle. And the LORD promised that someday you would rule Israel and take care of us like a shepherd” (5:2). Then, “the leaders poured olive oil on David’s head to show that he was now the king of Israel” (v. 3). The shepherd boy had become the king of the nation.

In his prayer to God, David acknowledged that he and his family didn’t deserve what God had done for them (7:18–19). David affirmed, “I am your servant” (v. 20). He praised God’s greatness: “LORD All-Powerful, you are greater than all others. No one is like you, and you alone are God” (v. 22). He knew, “You have chosen Israel to be your people forever, and you have become their God” (v. 24). The world will acknowledge that “the LORD God All-Powerful rules Israel, and David’s descendants are his chosen kings” (v. 26).

This is how David approached his kingship. He praised God and what God had done, seeking to be God’s servant. His kingship was to be in God’s service. David knew he had received God’s grace. He responded in obedience and gratitude!

. . . In Your Children’s Experiences

David’s understanding of the kind of king he was to be for God’s people provides a good introduction to the concept of leadership and the kind of leaders God needs. Younger and older elementary-age children will be able to name qualities they have seen in leaders, both wise and foolish. Children of all ages may have experienced what it means to be a leader, sharing about a time when they were asked to do something: at school, at home, or another setting like sports, scouts, or music.

Helping them make the connection between the biblical story and their own observations or experiences with leadership will remind them that God still calls us today to be wise and faithful leaders in the world.

. . . In Your Relationships with the Children

As you prepare to teach this story about David, think about the children in your group. What qualities or gifts do you see in each one? One of the things in the story to point out to the children is David’s awareness that he knew God had blessed his life. David knew that God’s grace and presence surrounded him as he led God’s people as king. As the children leave this session, gather them in a circle and give each one a blessing, naming a particular gift of leadership you see in this child.

*O God, I pray for world leaders who seek justice and cultivate peace.
Give me and my children a vision of a world at peace. Amen.*

Supplies

Music & Melodies

bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies

Stories, Colors & More (SCM) i–iv, 9, 23

basic supplies
(see p. vii)

internet-connected
device

blanket or mats

snack

crowns from “Guided
Play” choice 1

Guided Play

choice 1: card-stock
copies of **Grace Notes**
(GN) 1

choice 2: large piece
of green felt, blocks,
toy fences and trees
(optional)

choice 3: crowns and
capas

Exploring

choice 1: card-stock
copies of **GN 2** and
GN 3, brass fasteners

choice 2: paper plates,
yellow construction
paper, cotton balls

choice 3: crowns from
“Guided Play” choice 1



choice 4: copies of **GN 4**

GATHERING IN GOD’S GRACE

Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Use **SCM i–ii**, “Your Visual Schedule,” to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii–iv** for the key to icons (for example,  ) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

Before the session, cut out a crown and crown extension from the template on **GN 1** for each child for “Guided Play” choice 1.

“Exploring God’s Grace” choice 1 and choice 2 require more prep.

Welcoming and Guided Play


     

Greet children as they arrive and say, “Grace and peace be with you.” Prompt them to respond, “And also with you.” Be sensitive to any children who might be coming for the first time. Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers you do not know personally. Tell them that today’s story is about David, a shepherd boy who became king. Invite the children to choose a guided-play activity to start:

1. Making Crowns—Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about a king today. Invite them to make a crown to wear during the story. Give them a crown to color and stickers to adorn it. Write their names on the inside of their crowns. Use the crown extension to fit each child’s head. Staple or tape the crowns together and set them aside for “Hearing the Story” and “Exploring God’s Grace” choice 3.

2. Being a Shepherd—Spread a large piece of green felt on the floor or a table. Place some blocks, toy fences, trees (if available), and cotton balls on the felt. Invite the children to be a shepherd and make a field for their sheep (the cotton balls) by using the blocks and other items. Encourage them to move their sheep around. Every so often, you could pick up some sheep and move them from one place to another and tell the children that their sheep have gotten out of their field and need rescuing.

3. Play Dress-Up—Invite the children to play dress-up. Add crowns and capes to allow the children to dress up like kings and queens.

 *Transitions can be difficult for children. Do not force reluctant children to join a group activity. Instead, allow them to observe quietly from their own play area or to listen to a story read to them by an adult helper until they are ready to join the group.*



Transitioning to Story Time

MS MS

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, play and sing “We Are Growing”—**SCM 23**. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate.

The King and Queen Speak

MS L

Call the children to the story corner by using the following directions:

- ▼ The Queen says, “Clap your hands.” (*clap hands in a rhythm*)
- ▼ The King says, “Put away what you are doing.”
- ▼ The Queen says, “Turn in a circle.”
- ▼ The King says, “Take giant steps to the story corner.”
- ▼ The Queen says, “Sit down and fold your hands in your lap.”
- ▼ The King says, “Clap your hands.” (*clap hands in a rhythm*)

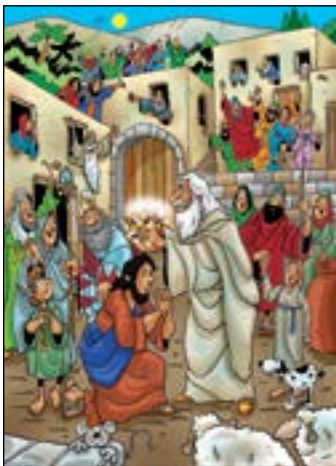
Helping God

MS

Invite the children to follow your motions as you say the poem.

One little mouth to speak, (*point to mouth*)
one little nose, two little cheeks, (*point to nose and cheeks*)
two little eyes to see, (*point to eyes*)
all my ten little toes. (*point to toes and wiggle toes*)

One, two, three, four, five, (*hold up fingers one at a time on one hand*)
six, seven, eight, nine, ten. (*hold up fingers one at a time on the other hand*)
Ten fingers and two hands. (*hold up hands and clap*)
We can help God! Yes, we can! (*raise hands in the air and wave them*)



Today's story can be found in *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), www.pcusastore.com.

Hearing the Story

MS B

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 5 so the children know the story comes from the Bible. Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about how David, the shepherd boy, became king.

Read **SCM 9**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.” Read the story again and invite the children to act out the different scenes David remembers as described in the story:

- ▼ Being a shepherd—hold a sheep in your arms
- ▼ Father called him from the fields—run in place
- ▼ Samuel put oil on his head—kneel down and bow head (*Go to each child and tap them on the head.*)

- ▼ Fought Goliath—pretend to throw a stone
- ▼ Friendship with Jonathan—hug a neighbor
- ▼ Hid in the hills—crouch down and hide face
- ▼ Crowned king—place crown from “Guided Play” choice 1 on head

EXPLORING GOD’S GRACE



1. David Story Wheel



Before the session, cut out the circles on card-stock copies of GN 2 and GN 3 for each child. Note that on GN 2 one-fifth of the circle is cut out.

Remind the children that God was with David all through his life. Give the children the prepared circles from **GN 2**, a circle with one-fifth of it cut out. Tell the children that it says, “God was with David when . . .” Invite them to decorate the circle.

After they have colored this circle, give the children circles prepared from **GN 3**, a circle with five pictures. Invite the children to describe each picture. They will probably be able to tell you about David being chosen as king (*Samuel anointing David*), David with sheep (*David as a shepherd*), and perhaps David fighting Goliath (*David and Goliath*), but you will need to tell them that David was friends with Jonathan, the king’s son (*David and Jonathan*), and when David had to hide in the hills, his wife brought him food (*Abigail visiting David with food*). Comment that God was with David throughout all his life. Tell them that God is with them every day too.

Invite the children to color this circle too. Then put this circle underneath the circle with one-fifth cut out. Push a brass paper fastener into the center of the two pictures so that you create a wheel where the children can see the pictures in the cutout space.



2. From Shepherd to King



Give each of the children a paper plate. Have cotton balls, glue, scissors, and yellow construction paper for the children to use. On one side of their plate, have the children draw David’s face. Have the children glue a large craft stick on the back side by David’s neck to use as a handle for the puppet. Ask them what David did as a shepherd.

On the stick side of the plate, have the children make a sheep by drawing a simple sheep face and four legs on the plate and then gluing on cotton balls.

Remind them that David became king and took care of God’s people. Have them cut a simple crown from the construction paper and glue it on top of David’s head. Invite the children to show you what David did as a shepherd and a king.

MS *Make sure that children with mobility issues are included in all activities. Find ways to adapt activities to ensure that all are able to fully participate. For example, instead of running and moving around the room, suggest that all children sit at arm's length from one another—either on the floor or on chairs—and do a wave of tags from one person to another as a form of movement around the space.*

3. Be a Shepherd, Be a King Relay Game TD B MS

Place the children in pairs and tell them that they are going to play a game where they first become a shepherd and then a king. Line the pairs up along one side of the room and place a crown from “Guided Play” choice 1 and a cotton ball on the other side of the room. Tap one child of each pair on the head and tell them that they will be the first runners. Explain the game with the following instructions.

1. Partner 1 runs to the other side and picks up the cotton ball (sheep) and brings it back to Partner 2, saying, “You are a shepherd!”
2. Partner 1 runs back, picks up the crown, and brings it back to Partner 2, saying, “Now you are king!”
3. Partner 2 runs with the crown and the cotton ball (sheep) back to the other side of the room, lays the crown down, and runs back to Partner 1 with the cotton ball (sheep), saying, “You are a shepherd!”
4. Partner 2 runs back, picks up the crown, and brings it back to Partner 1, saying, “Now you are king!” Play again!

4. Coloring Page C

Hand out copies of **GN 4** and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture of David being crowned as king. Engage the children in conversation as they color, using the following wondering questions:

- ▼ I wonder, “In what ways could David take care of the people?”
- ▼ I wonder, “How did David feel being king?”

T *Transitions can be difficult. This may be a good time for some quick physical activities, such as reaching up to the sky and bending down to touch toes, clapping hands, and so forth.*

Use “wonder” questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wondering questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so that you can provide them with the link to www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads, where they can download coloring pages, *Grace Sightings*, audio stories, and songs (see p. vii).

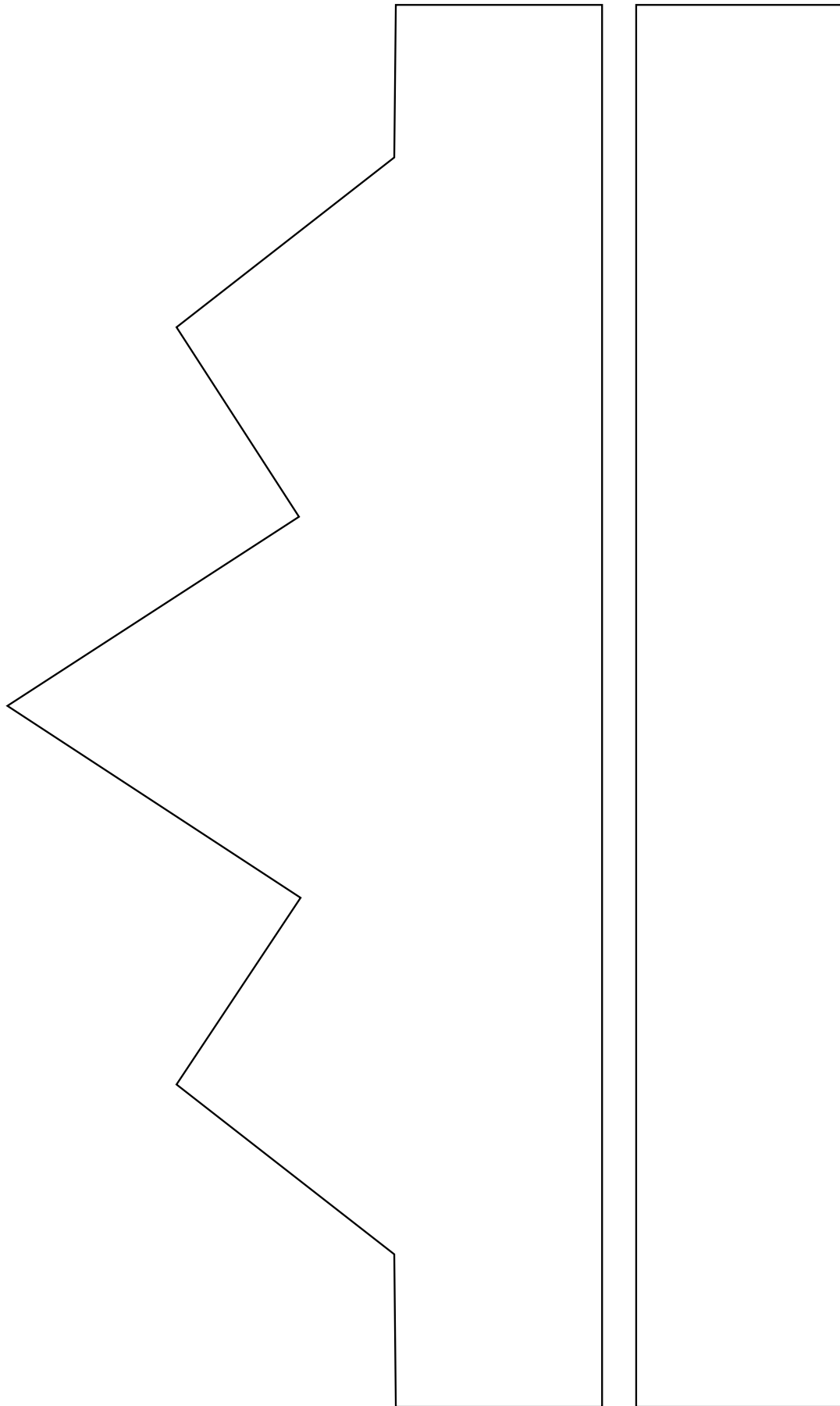
LOVING AND SERVING GOD

Call the children together, singing “We Are Growing”—SCM 23. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate. Remind the children that God was with David every step of his life. Invite them to take a step and say, “God is with you!”

Call the children to snack time. Invite the children to repeat each line of the following prayer:

Food to eat. /
Food to share. /
Thank you, God, /
for all your care. /
Amen. /

As the children leave, bless them: “(Name), listen for God this week and say, ‘Thank you!’ The grace of God is with you.”



God was with David when ...





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David was crowned king of Israel before all the people and David gave thanks to God.

