

Leaders to Learn From

Unit 3

Mega Theme: God's People

OVERVIEW

These lessons look at the first three of the Old Testament kings and draw out themes of character, leadership and relationship with God.

Saul, David and Solomon all showed praise-worthy characteristics, but that is not the reason for these lessons. God, not an earthly king, is the hero of these stories. The good that they did came from God's spirit in them. These kings were only admirable in that they trusted and obeyed God, and the Bible account makes it clear that when they failed their people, it was because they had disobeyed God.

Leaders with faith in God have extra courage and are keen to do what's right and lead their people into right ways too. For us, Jesus is the ultimate leader, the one who can give courage to do what's right.

Lessons 8 and 9 depend on each other. They are both about Saul and David as their lives were very much intertwined. Lesson 8 is about God choosing David to replace King Saul and Lesson 9 gives an example of David refusing to harm Saul even though Saul had been trying to kill him.

Lesson 10 is about Solomon and the fact that his great wisdom was given by God in response to his prayer so that he could be a great king for God's people and Lesson 11 unpacks some of the wisdom of Solomon as recorded in the Scriptures, and for the younger groups explores the building of Solomon's temple as a way of honouring God, encouraging his people to honour God too.

These lessons explain that as worthy as Saul, David and Solomon were in some respects, they all had their failings. Jesus, however, completely followed God, totally lived out God's wisdom, and was courageous in death. He came alive again and is alive forever. He is an exemplary leader who calls us to follow him and commit ourselves to building God's kingdom.

UNIT VERSE

Short God judges people by what's in their hearts
1 Samuel 16:7 (CEV)

Long God said, 'People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what's in their hearts'.
1 Samuel 16:7 (CEV)

AIM

• To see from the Scriptures the results of obeying God and following God's way.

LESSON OUTLINES

Lesson 8	David, An Unlikely Leader	1 Samuel 16:1-13, 1 Chronicles 11:1-3
Lesson 9	David Follows God's Way	1 Samuel 24:1-22
Lesson 10	Solomon - True Wisdom From God	1 Chronicles 29:22b-25; 2 Chronicles 1:1, 7-17; 9:1-12
Lesson 11	Solomon Living Wisely	Proverbs 9:10; 1 Kings 4:29-34; 2 Chronicles 2-4



UNIT SONGS

The Lord Looks at the Heart

(Explorers) Johnny Burns
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Follow the Leader

(Adventurers) Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett
© 2010 The Shed

Wisdom of Solomon

(Navigators) Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett
© 2007 The Shed

Wise in God's Eyes

(Voyagers) Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett
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Lesson 8

**underlying
VALUE**
Character

**HOT
teaching tip**
Lasting Memory

If you are in a school setting and have a lesson before a break, consider playing a song from the Power Tools as the children are going out. One SRE teacher does this, and has said, 'It's great to hear them still singing the song as they go on their way to other activities'. It's also a good reminder of this principle: 'The last thing said to a child as they are about to leave is often what they remember the most'. Always speak positively, affirming words to the children as you part company. Spend some time thinking of 4-5 positive comments to use when needed.

Teacher's Notes

David - An Unlikely Leader

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Chronicles 11:1-3

the **BIG** idea

David would be a good king because he loved God and wanted to live for God.

lesson **AIM**

To explore the concept that God sees more than the superficial things we often base our choices on; God knows what we're really like.

learning **OUTCOME**

The children will be able to:

- Explorers** say that David would make the best king because he wanted to live for God.
- Adventurers** discuss the things about us that people can't see, but God can.
- Navigators** say what it means to be strong on the inside.
- Voyagers** discuss 'image' and question the practice of judging according to image.

INSIDE the story

The focus on this lesson is David.

Saul was the first king of Israel. Soon after he was chosen, he led his people to a great victory and then gave the credit to God for rescuing them (1 Samuel 11:12-13). But Saul started to lose trust in God and Samuel the priest told him that God had rejected him as king and would choose another (1 Samuel 13:13-14).

The person God chose to replace Saul was David. He was the youngest of 8 brothers, chosen because of his 'heart', his love for God.

This lesson is about why David was a good leader. He had his ups and downs but his thoughts and intentions were for God, something God could see in him way back when he was first chosen.

David and Saul were rivals for some years, as highlighted in Lesson 9.

The Bible verse 1 Samuel 16:7, 'People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what's in their hearts' is a good one for the children to commit to memory. Every day they face a barrage of advertising on billboards, labels, TV and computers telling them what they need. It has been estimated that in one year they'll be subject to between 40,000 and 60,000 advertisements. Pop stars dictate what is 'cool' and marketers tell them how to spend their time and money (even if they don't have any yet!). It is important to counter all this and teach the children that there is far more to an individual than outward appearance. God values what's inside and so should we.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

start up

✓ What is This Person Like? (3-5min)

Show your photo of the child.

Ask: What is this person like?

Explain how you know this child.

Explain that you can tell some things from the photo, but you know much more.

Share some of the characteristics that endear the child to you that can't be seen in a photo, such as 'happy nature' or 'cares for others'.

Repeat, this time using the picture of the older person.

○ The Best King (3-5min)

Choose a boy to put the crown on (*LT L8 Crown*).

Ask: What is (*boy's name*) pretending to be? (*A king*)

Do you think a good king is clever or silly? Do you think a good king is selfish or kind? Do you think a good king knows what's happening or doesn't care? What else do you think a good king would be like?

Link: One day God told a man called Samuel to choose a king. What sort of person do you think he'd choose?

get into

✓ Choosing a King (8-10min)

Use the story telling pictures (*see required resources*) or PowerPoint L8.

Say: Samuel was a man of God, a prophet and judge. One day God spoke to Samuel. 'Go to Bethlehem to a man called Jesse. I've chosen one of his sons to be the new king.'

Samuel was surprised and a bit nervous about that. They already had a king. What if the king found out? But he did what God told him and went anyway.

Samuel thought about the king they already had. His name was Saul and he had once been strong and brave and led his people well, but lately, King Saul had been doing whatever he liked. Samuel could understand why God was going to give his people a new king.

'What would the new king be like?' Samuel wondered. Would he be as tall and good-looking as Saul? But Saul hadn't been a good king even though he looked good.

All the important people in Bethlehem came to meet Samuel when he arrived. Jesse and his grown-up sons came too, but not all of them. The youngest boy, David, couldn't go; he had to look after the sheep. Samuel looked at Jesse's oldest son. 'He looks a fine, strong leader!' Samuel thought. But God told him 'Don't think he's the right one just because he's tall and handsome. People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what's in their hearts.'

Ask: I wonder what God meant by that? (*God knows what people are really like, not just what you can see. God knows if people are cranky or cruel or kind.*)

Samuel was waiting for God to tell him which one would be king but God didn't say yes to any of them.

'Have you got any other sons?' Samuel asked Jesse.

'Only the youngest one, David. He's out looking after the sheep,' Jesse said.

'Bring him to me,' said Samuel.

A messenger went to find David.

When David arrived, God said to Samuel, 'He's the one!' Samuel had some special oil which was only used when new kings were chosen. He poured some of this oil on David's head.

David felt God's spirit deep inside him. Deep in his heart he was determined to be just the sort of king that God wanted him to be. Overtime he would grow to become the King God lead him to be.

go for

○ Why Was David Chosen? (2-3min)

Ask: Was David big and clever? Tall and good-looking? (*Not as tall as his older brothers*)

Then why did God choose him to be king? (*David loved God and wanted to do what God wanted him to do*)

○ Song (3-4min)

Sing 'The Lord Looks at the Heart'.

○ Explorers Magazine (8-10min)

Complete the activities.

LESSON 8

Explorers

Foundation – Kindergarten

Ages 4 to 6

David – An Unlikely Leader

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Photo of a child and an older person you know well (Start up)
- Crown – plastic one, or make an enlarged copy from Lesson Tools L8 Crown (Start up)
- Story telling pictures B1,3; H10-12; K1,3-4,6-7,9; T29; Background 3 (city) (Get into it)
- PowerPoint Lesson 8, outline on Power Tools (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)

LESSON 8

Adventurers

Infants – Ages 6 to 8

David – An Unlikely Leader

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- A sugar-less cake; a CD with no appeal to kids in an attractive children's CD case; a piece of fruit with a grub in it (Start up)
- Lesson Tools L8 'Class Photo' (Start up)
- Story telling pictures B1,3; H10-12; K1,3-4,6-7,9; T29; Background 3 (city) (Get into it)
- PowerPoint Lesson 8, outline on Power Tools (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)

start

- It Looks Good But... (4-6min)**
See Voyagers Lesson 8.
- What is This Person Like? (4-6min)**
Show LT L8 'Class Photo'.
Ask: Which person do you think is very good at helping people?
Which one is lazy and doesn't do what his parents tell him?
Which one doesn't give up, even when things are very hard?
Which one has a really bad temper?
Which one is good at encouraging shy people to feel welcome?
Let the children guess, then explain that we can't tell any of those things by looking at the outside of a person. People with a happy smile aren't always good. People who aren't very beautiful can be wonderful friends.
Link: Today's story is about someone who was chosen for a very important job. He wasn't chosen because he was tall, or good-looking. Why do you think he was chosen? (*Accept answers*). Let's see if you're right.
- Song: Be Strong (4-5min)**
Sing 'Be Strong'.
See words in Adventurers magazine or on Power Tools.
Link: The person in today's story was strong to do the right thing because he loved God very much.

get into

- Choosing a King (8-10min)**
Use the story telling pictures (*see required resources*) or PowerPoint L8 and outline.
See Explorers Lesson 8.
- Bible Reading (4-6min)**
Young children can get a lot from the words of Scripture as long as you introduce them well.
Holding your Bible, explain that today's story happened 3,000 years ago. In those days there were no elections to choose the leader of a country. God's messenger, the prophet, chose the leader.
Ask: How do you think God's messenger knew who to choose? (*Accept answers*)
Explain that God would tell the prophet who should be the new leader. Then the prophet poured some special oil on the new leader's head to show that he'd been chosen.
Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 from the Contemporary English Version with as much expression as possible.

go for

- God Knows (4-6min)**
Draw a stick figure, a boy, on the board (*or paper*).
Call it Sticky (*or any imaginary name*).
Say: This person doesn't have a lot of friends. He has trouble with his schoolwork, can't run very fast, doesn't have much money, is very shy and gets sick quite a lot. But God knows that he loves God very much and God has a wonderful plan for his life that they can do together.
Draw another stick figure, a girl.
Say: She often wishes that she was pretty and had some money. The girls in her group talk about the clothes they want and who is best because they do their hair right and wear what people like. However, she is the kindest person in the group and is always looking out for other people.
Ask: Do you think the one who looks the best is really the best?
What sort of things make a good person, things we can't see, but God knows about? (*Accept answers*).
If they're not raised, mention things like a caring attitude, not being selfish, loving God and other people.
- Adventurers Magazine (8-10min)**
Complete the activities.
- Song (3-4min)**
Sing 'Great? Serve!'.

start up

Strong on the Inside (4-5min)

Call for 2 volunteers to have a gentle thumb wrestle in front of everyone.

Call for three volunteers to blow up a balloon until it bursts.

Call for a volunteer to put their hand in a bag and pull out a toy spider or snake.

Link: Some people have strong muscles, but not everyone is strong in their spirit. They don't all have courage or faith or patience. Today's story is about God's choice of a king.

Ask: What sort of person do you think God would choose?

What Do I Mean? (2-3min)

Create a copy of a heart LT L8 'Heart' on red cardboard or plain cardboard coloured in red.

Show a cardboard cut-out of a heart.

Say these sentences and ask after each one, 'What do I mean?'

Tom isn't at all selfish. He really has a heart for others. (*What do I mean?*)

The old man didn't have any heart for his garden any more. (*What does that mean?*)

Susy had such a heart for those who were less fortunate than her. (*What do I mean?*)

(*Accept responses*)

Link: Look out for what God said about our hearts in this story.

What is This Person Like? (4-6min)

Show LT L8 'Class Photo'.

See Adventurers Lesson 8.

get into

Choose Your Own Adventure (8-10min)

Choose the way of telling the story that you think your group will like most.

1. **Use** the story telling pictures (*see required resources*) or PowerPoint L8 and outline, adapting the story in the Explorers Lesson 8.

2. Choose two volunteers to present the script LT L8 'An Unlikely Leader'.

3. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13, setting the scene as in Adventurers Lesson 8 (*Bible reading*).

Add a reading of 1 Chronicles 11:1-3, where the promise of David becoming king comes true.

go for

Navigators Magazine (7-8min)

Complete the activities.

A Heart for God's Word (4-5min)

Write the memory verse onto heart shapes LT L8 'Heart'.

Say: We all have a heart in our body. It's a muscle that pumps our blood, but that's not what 'heart' means in this verse.

Ask: What does it mean? (*It's what we love and want*)

Say: When we learn verses from the Bible, we talk about committing them to memory and 'hiding them in our heart'.

Ask: What does it mean to 'hide it in our heart'? (*Accept responses*)

Say: When we take God's word to us seriously and think about it, it does affect our lives and can change us to live the way that God has planned for us.

Hand out the 'hearts' to volunteers.

Instruct them to stand in the correct order and then have everyone say the verse together.

Ask: If we took this verse seriously, how do you think it would change the way we think and live our lives? (*Accept responses*) How can a person become strong on the inside as David was? (*Accept answers*)

Song (4-5min)

Listen to 'Wisdom of Solomon' while they look at the words in the magazines or from Power Tools.

Explain that Solomon is King David's son and we will look at his story soon.

LESSON 8

Navigators

Lower Primary – Ages 8 to 10

David – An Unlikely Leader

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDENT ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Toy spider or snake in a bag (Start up)
- Cardboard cut-out heart Lesson Tools L8 'Heart' (Start up)
- Lesson Tools L8 'Class Photo'
- Story telling pictures B1,3; H10-12; K1,3-4,6-7,9; T29; Background 3 (city) (Get into it)
- PowerPoint Lesson 8, outline on Power Tools (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)
- Lesson Tool L8 'An Unlikely Leader' (Get into it)
- Memory Verse on heart shapes Lesson Tools L8 'Heart' (Go for it)

LESSON 8

Voyagers

Upper Primary – Ages 10 to 12

David – An Unlikely Leader

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- 4 large (A3) sheets of paper, 4 thick markers (Start up)
- A sugar-less cake; a CD with no appeal to kids in an attractive children's CD case; a piece of fruit with a grub in it (Start up)
- 2 copies of Lesson Tools L8 'An Unlikely Leader' (Get into it)
- Story telling pictures B1,3; H10-12; K1,3-4,6-7,9; T29; Background 3 (city) (Get into it)
- PowerPoint Lesson 8, outline on Power Tools (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)
- Create a poster of the Memory Verse 1 Samuel 16:7 (Go for it)

start

Desirable Qualities for Leaders (7-10min)

Direct the children to form groups of 2-6 and distribute large sheets (A3) blank paper and textas/markers. **Ask** them to list the characteristics of a good leader.

Appoint a scribe to make a combined list that everyone can see, either on the board or on another sheet of paper.

Invite each group to share their list and have their characteristics added to the main list.

Look at the combined list and ask if anyone wants to add anything to the list. Agree on the top three attributes.

Link: There's an incident in the Bible when a prophet sent by God was trying to work out who God would choose to be the next leader of their country. The prophet was looking at tall good-looking men, thinking that it must be one of them, but God had other ideas.

Image (5-7min)

Explain that this lesson is about 'image' – what we look like to others.

Form four groups.

Give each group a large sheet of paper and a thick marker and ask them to quickly sketch and label one of the following, paying attention to what they look like and how they act.

- A typical male movie star
- A typical female pop star
- A popular football star
- A very rich businessperson

Display the results and talk about each one, describing how you would expect each to look and act.

Say: These things are all about the image, how we see a person. It doesn't let us know what they're really like.

Display 1 Samuel 16: 7.

It Looks Good But... (4-6min)

Find something that looks good on the outside but you know the class may not appreciate, for example, a sugar-less cake (*always check with the school or parents if there are any food intolerances*), a CD with no appeal to kids in an attractive children's CD case; a piece of fruit with a grub in it.

Discuss their expectations and then the disappointment to find out it was not what they expected.

get into

Script: An Unlikely Leader (4-5min)

Select two readers to present the script, LT L8 'Unlikely Leader'.

Ask: What do you think we learned from the event?

David is Chosen (5-10min)

Allow the children to form small groups to read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

Instruct them to look for what the story has to say about good leaders.

Share the results.

Choosing a King (6-8min)

Use the story telling pictures (*see required resources*) or PowerPoint L8, outline.

See Explorers Lesson 8.

Add a reading of 1 Chronicles 11:1-3, where the promise of David becoming king comes true.

go for

Judging by Appearances (2-3min)

Display your poster of 1 Samuel 16: 7.

Ask: Why do you think people are so concerned with what others look like?

What's more important than outward appearances?

How does what we love affect who we are and what we do?

How could loving God make a person a better leader?

Qualities of a Leader (2-3min)

Review the list containing the desirable qualities of a leader, done earlier in the lesson.

Ask: In the light of the lesson just given, do you want to add anything to it? (*Allow responses*)

Voyagers Magazine (7-8min)

Complete the activities.

LESSON 8

Combined/Large Group

David –
An Unlikely
LeaderREQUIRED
RESOURCES

(DEPENDENT ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Photo of a child and an older person you know well
- Story telling pictures B1,3; H10-12; K1,3-4,6-7,9; T29; Background 3 (city)
- PowerPoint Lesson 8, outline for slides on Power Tools
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board
- 2 copies of Lesson Tools L8 'An Unlikely Leader'
- Crown – plastic one, or make an enlarged copy from Lesson Tools L8 'Crown'
- Memory verse with each word written on a heart shape Lesson Tools L8 'Heart'
- Songs
 - The Lord Looks at the Heart
 - Follow the Leader
 - Wisdom of Solomon
 - Wise in God's Eyes
 - Be Strong
 - Great? Serve!

 Welcome and Prayer (1-2min)

Led by: _____

Welcome the children.**Select** one of the children (*or teacher*) to pray for our time together. **Sing (4-5min)**

Led by: _____

Begin with one of the unit songs or another favourite and project the words. **What is This Person Like? (3-5min)**

Led by: _____

Show your photo of the child.**Ask:** What is this person like? (*Accept answers*)**Say** how you know this child.**Explain** that you can tell some things from the photo, but you know much more.**Share** some of the characteristics that endear the child to you that can't be seen in a photo, such as 'happy nature' or 'cares for others'.**Repeat**, this time using the picture of the older person. **Choosing a King (6-8min)**

Led by: _____

Use the story telling pictures (*see required resources*) or PowerPoint L8, outline.**See** Explorers Lesson 8.**Add** a reading of 1 Chronicles 11:1-3, where the promise of David becoming king comes true. **Script: An Unlikely Leader (4-5min)**

Led by: _____

Select two readers to present the script, LT L8 'Unlikely Leader'.**Ask:** What do you think we learned from the event? **Why Was David Chosen? (2-3min)**

Led by: _____

Ask: Was David big and clever? (*Accept answers*)Was he tall and good-looking? (*Not as tall as his older brothers*)Then why did God choose him to be king? (*Accept answers – David loved God and wanted to do what God wanted him to do*) **A Heart for God's Word (4-5min)**

Led by: _____

Write the memory verse onto heart shapes (*LT L8 'Heart'*).**Say:** When we learn verses from the Bible, we talk about committing them to memory and 'hiding them in our heart'.**Ask:** What does it mean to 'hide it in our heart'? (*Accept responses*)**Say:** When we take God's word to us seriously and think about it, it does affect our lives and can change us to live the way that God has planned for us.**Hand** out the 'hearts' to volunteers.**Instruct** them to stand in the correct order and then have everyone say the verse together.**Ask:** If we took this verse seriously, how do you think it would change the way we think and live our lives? (*Accept responses*) **Sing (4-5min)**

Led by: _____

Sing 'Great? Serve!'.**Project** the words.

