

# DAVID THE SHEPHERD BOY

1 Samuel 16

## God Story:

David | 1 Samuel 16

## Big Idea:

God wants us to know him.

## Key Verse:

"Come near to God, and he will come near to you." James 4:8

## Leader Tip:

Prepare the free-play activities and pray for the children in your group before they arrive.

## Ls Life Story

- 1. Take Care of the Sheep** **Free Play**  
Introduce the role of a shepherd in this fun fine motor skills activity.
- 2. Shepherd Boy King** **Free Play**  
Lead into the Bible story as the children look for the "missing" David.
- 3. Looking for David** **Large Group**  
Play a game of Follow the Leader that focuses on David as a shepherd.

## Gs God Story

### CIRCLE TIME!

- 4. Music** **Large Group**  
Dance, wave scarves, sing, and bust a move to *Little Praise Party's* "My Best Friend."
- 5. Bible Story** **Large Group**  
David the Shepherd Boy | *The Big Bible Storybook* (p. 62); (Optional) David's Song (p. 63)
- 6. Key Verse Activity** **Large Group**  
Learn together as you hop to the key verse.

## Ms My Story

- 7. Shepherd David and Sheep Puppets** **Large Group**  
Create a David puppet to help the children remember today's story.
- 8. Worship Like David** **Large Group**  
Lead the children in enthusiastic musical worship—just like David!
- 9. Key Verse Activity** **Free Play**  
Review the key verse as you wrap up your time together.

## Os Our Story

- 10. Dismissal**  
Connect with parents. Don't forget to give out take home cards!





# Ls Life Story

## 1. TAKE CARE OF THE SHEEP

### Supplies:

- Picture of David on hills
- Pom-pom "sheep"
- Small container for pom-poms

### Before the Activity:

- Before the children arrive, place the picture and container of pom-pom "sheep" on a table.

### Instructions:

- During free play, invite 1 or 2 children to join you at the table where you placed the picture and pom-pom "sheep."
- Demonstrate how to pick up a pom-pom using a pincer grasp with your fingers.
- Have the children pick up the pom-poms from the container and place them on the hills in the picture so that shepherd David can take care of them.
- As the children play, ask them what they think a shepherd does. Talk about ways a shepherd might take care of his sheep.
- SAY: There is a shepherd in today's story. He had 7 brothers—and 1 of the brothers was going to become the next king!
- Repeat the activity with a new group of children.

## 2. SHEPHERD BOY KING

### Supplies:

- 8 "brothers" cutouts (including David)

### Before the Activity:

- Hide the David cutout in a place where the children can find it during the activity. Place the other 7 cutouts on a table.

### Instructions:

- Gather a small group of children together during free play.
- Show them the cutouts.
- Explain that there are 8 brothers.

- Count the 7 brothers and point out that 1 is missing.
- Ask the children to help you find the missing brother.
- After they find the David cutout, hold it up and tell them that this brother's name is David.
- Explain that in today's story, David is the brother God sent Samuel to find.
- SAY: God knew David and David knew God. **God wants us to know him**, too!
- Repeat the activity with a different group of children.

## 3. LOOKING FOR DAVID

### Supplies:

- None

### Leader Tip:

- Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 to familiarize yourself with today's Bible story.

### Instructions:

- Gather all the children together in an open space on the floor.
- Explain that you're going to play a fun game of Follow the Leader. Tell the children that they will pretend to follow you up to the hills where the young shepherd David is looking after his family's sheep.
- Direct the children to:
  - Use their fingers as binoculars to look for the shepherd David and his sheep.
  - Walk, run on the spot, crawl, hop, etc. as you go up the pretend hills and back down to where Samuel is waiting.
- SAY: Today we're going to hear a Bible story about how Samuel looked for David. **God wants us to know him** just like he wanted David to know him!



## CIRCLE TIME!

**Supplies:** CD player, tidy up and/or circle time songs on class CD

### Instructions:

- Make sure the CD player is easily accessible during circle time.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the following activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

## 4. MUSIC

### Supplies:

- Song lyrics sheet
- Wall-safe tape
- CD player
- "My Best Friend" (track 4) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

### Before the Activity:

- Tape the lyrics sheet to a wall or play panel so all the leaders can see it during this activity.

### Leader Tips:

- Children will be excited if you're excited. Set the tone by being energetic and leading by example.
- Feel free to extend your music time with your class CDs.

### Instructions:

- Mix it up each week! Here are some options:
  - Sing along with the song.
  - Wave the scarves.
  - Use the musical instruments.
  - Make up fun actions that go with the song.
- If using supplies, give them to children before starting.
- After the music is finished, prompt children to return any supplies to the bin.

## 5. BIBLE STORY

### Supplies:

- "David the shepherd boy" (1 Samuel 16:1-13) in *The Big Bible Storybook* (p. 62)
- (Optional) "David's song" (Psalm 23) in *The Big Bible Storybook* (p. 63)

### Leader Tip:

- Use the Bible story to start conversations about God with the children.

### Instructions:

- Have all the children sit with you on the floor.
- Tell them that today's story about David is from the Bible.
- Read the story to the children. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- Explain that God knew David and David knew God.
- Emphasize the Big Idea: **God wants us to know him.**
- PRAY: Dear God, thank you for being so loving that you want to know us and that you want us to know you. Help us to know you better. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## 6. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Key verse divided onto 6 sheets of paper
- Masking tape

### Before the Activity:

- Tape the key verse papers onto the floor. Be sure to tape down all sides so the children do not trip on the papers.

### Leader Tip:

- Leave the key verse papers on the floor and do this activity again before Dismissal if time allows.

### Instructions:

- Gather the children where you set up the key verse papers on the floor.
- Read this month's key verse aloud: "Come near to God, and he will come near to you." (James 4:8)
- Lead the children in hopping from paper to paper.
- While hopping, encourage everyone to repeat the key verse with you.
- Prompt the children to repeat the activity with different actions (e.g., crawl, swim, walk forwards and backwards).



## 7. SHEPHERD DAVID AND SHEEP PUPPETS

### Supplies:

- Photo of sample craft
- Paper bags
- David's face cutouts
- Sheep cutouts
- Glue sticks
- Crayons
- Big Idea labels

### Leader Tip:

- Make sure the children's names are written on their crafts.

### Instructions:

- Gather the children to sit at a table.
- Show the photo of the sample craft to them.
- Hand out a paper bag, a David's face cutout, and a sheep cutout to each child.
- Place the glue sticks and crayons where everyone can reach them.
- Show the children how to glue the cutouts onto their paper bags to make puppets.
- Encourage them to colour their puppets with the crayons.
- Read the Big Idea label aloud.
- Give each child a label to stick onto their puppet.

## 8. WORSHIP LIKE DAVID

### Supplies:

- CD player
- "Give Your Heart to Jesus" (track 6) and/or "With All My Heart" (track 10) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD
- Musical instruments

### Leader Tips:

- Have a plan in place for collecting the instruments after the activity.
- Remember to lead by example and set the tone by being energetic and having fun. Choose a song that your group enjoys!

### Instructions:

- Gather the children together in an open space on the floor.
- Hand out the musical instruments.
- Remind the children that **God wants us to know him** just like David from today's story knew God.
- Explain that David liked to sing and play his harp for God.
- Hand out instruments to the children. Ask them to hold their instruments very still until the music starts.
- Start the music.
- Lead the children in marching and playing their instruments as you worship God together.
- When the music ends, ask them to hold their instruments very still until they are all collected.

## 9. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY REPRISE

### Supplies:

- Key verse divided onto 6 sheets of paper
- Masking tape

### Instructions:

- Gather the children where you taped the key verse papers onto the floor.
- Lead the children in hopping from paper to paper.
- While hopping, encourage everyone to repeat the key verse with you.
- Prompt the children to repeat the activity with different actions (e.g., crawl, swim, walk forwards and backwards).
- Continue the activity as long as the children are interested.

## 10. DISMISSAL

**Supplies:**

- Children's crafts
- Take home cards
- Key verse colouring pages

**Before Dismissal:**

- Place take home materials and crafts where everyone can access them easily.

**Leader Tip:**

- Take a moment to share with parents about their children's experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

**Instructions:**

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- b. Give parents take home cards and key verse colouring pages. Remind them to take crafts.
- c. Make sure children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave the classroom.