



A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

God's Incredible Plan • U7#2 1st-3rd Grade • Jan. 11, 2026

Concept

God is omniscient (knows everything) and able to see man's heart.

Goal

Students will learn that God cares more about what is in our hearts- our love for him and trust in him, rather than outward appearances.

Passage

1 Samuel 16-31

Key Verse: "... God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>4 poster board face cutouts</i>• <i>Brown face paint markers, 1/room</i>• <i>Hand-held mirror, 1/room</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mighty Acts of God, Meade</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Hard-boiled egg, 1/class</i>• <i>Small dish or cup</i>• <i>1 plastic knife</i> <p>Learning Activity #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Heart Bingo cards</i>• <i>Red hots or candy hearts</i>	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Children's Guide to the Bible, Robert Willoughby</i>• <i>Pink and/or ivory cardstock printed hearts w/key verse, 1 sheet/student</i>• <i>10# fishing line, 40"/student</i>• <i>Variety of curling ribbon & yarn</i>• <i>½" rings</i>• <i>Transparent tape</i>• <i>Scissors</i>• <i>Markers</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

God's Incredible Plan • U7# 2 1st-3rd Grade

"David was Israel's most important king. David's kingdom represented the epitome of Israel's power and influence during the nation's OT history.

"The two books in the OT devoted to David's reign are 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. His earlier years are recorded in 1 Samuel, beginning at chapter 15. Almost half of the biblical psalms are ascribed to David. His importance extends into the NT, where he is identified as an ancestor of Jesus Christ and as a forerunner of the messianic king.

"David was the youngest son in Jesse's family, part of Judah's tribe... His great-grandmother was Ruth... (Ruth 4:17-22). Genealogies in both the OT and NT trace David's lineage back to Judah, son of...Jacob (1 Chr 2:3-15; Matt 1:3-6; Luke 3:31-33).

"In Jesse's family David was regarded as unimportant. When the nationally-known prophet Samuel visited Jesse's home, all the older sons were on hand to meet him; David was tending the sheep. Samuel had been instructed by God to anoint a king from Jesse's family, not knowing beforehand which son to anoint. Sensing divine restraint as seven brothers passed before him, he made further inquiry. When he learned that Jesse had one other son, David was immediately summoned. David was anointed by Samuel and endowed with the Spirit of the Lord (1 Sam 16:1-13)...

"During his youth David was willing to serve others even though he had been anointed king. It was his willingness to take supplies to three of his older brothers in the army that gave him his opportunity for national fame." 1

This lesson is a study of David's life prior to taking the throne. "David was described as 'a man after God's own heart' (see 1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). The secret to understanding the nature of David's heart is in his love for the Word of God and his living dependence on God's promises."² In contrast, we find Saul's wane as he allowed pride and self-will to control him. Throughout his life, as David acknowledged and repented of sin, his obedience grew stronger. He continued to depend on and glorify God. At the end of their lives, Saul was insane while David knew the Lord and had found great peace in doing His will.

1 PC Bible Atlas for Windows, Article: David, the Early Days.

2 McCallum & Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, Media Concepts Inc., p. 58.

Activity Station

- **Craft – 3D Heart Mobile**

- **Instructions:** Give each student a double-sided cardstock sheet with 2 hearts—one with black slit mark from top to middle and one with black slit mark from bottom to middle. Cut out the hearts and cut the slits along each black line. Slide the hearts together at the slits matching the verse words on each side to make a 3-D heart. Lay the attached hearts flat and tape the slit edge to the center of the opposite heart. Flip the hearts over and tape the slit edge of that side to the center of the opposite heart. Open the hearts and flatten to tape the other slit edges in the same manner. Open the heart and crease the tape on each side so the heart is 3-D. Fold the fishing line into 4 equal pieces. Tie an overhand loop with the closed ends to hang the heart. Holding the line with one hand, pull the four strands of line from the top to the bottom of the heart, each strand on a different side. Knot with an overhand knot. If desired, a small ring can be knotted to the fishing line. Ribbon or yarn can be used as streamers from the ring.
- While making the heart, discuss the importance of loving God with our hearts and attitudes. When we choose to love and trust God, He promises that He will empower us to do His will. Talk about every-day ways that we depend on God. Ask if students believe there is any time we don't need to depend on Him. We need to remember that we are dependent on God for each breath we take, the sun to come up each day, etc. We can only do His work if we are empowered by Him. We forget this every day because we want to believe that we are in control. God gives us everything we need and wants us to learn to trust in Him. This heart will help remind students to grow to love God with all of their heart.

- **Research – David**

- **Instructions:** Read pages 50-51 of Children's Guide to the Bible to learn about David's life, what he did as a child and before he became king.

- **Missions Prayer**

- **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

This week we are going to learn about David, who God chose to be the king of Israel when he was only 12 years old. No one, not even Samuel, thought of David as the next king. But God doesn't look at what's on the outside. God looks at what's in our heart. Our key verse is, "... God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

We're going to learn about David's life now.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Drama – story of David's life presented by teachers and/or student workers

Instructions: Present this after music. Use student workers and/or class leaders to play the roles of David while the narrator reads each part. The student with that picture will hold it up and put his/her face in the hole. The class will make the noted sound effects. Use the face paint marker to paint a mustache on David the Warrior and a beard on David the King.

Narrator:

David is an important person in God's Incredible Plan. Do you think he was important because he was always good? Do you think he was important because he was handsome and smart? No, David was important in God's Incredible Plan because he loved God with his heart and trusted in God, who gave him the power to do God's will. God says that David was a "man after God's own heart." He was chosen by God to be a great king for the nation of Israel. The story of David's life is told in the Bible in the two books of Samuel. Let's look at a few scenes from David's life.

Picture #1 – Shepherd David

Narrator: I am 12 years old, the youngest of eight brothers. My job is to take care of my father's sheep. Since my father is very rich, we have lots of sheep. So I have lots to keep track of. **(Sound effect: "baaing" like sheep.)** Each lamb is special to me. I love my work. It's so peaceful. I can be alone with God and think about His love and goodness. I love Him with my whole heart. God especially helps me with the dangers of my job. I had to kill a bear and a lion once to protect my sheep. I could not bear to lose a single one. Samuel has named me as king of Israel, but I am only 12. I will stay here and tend my father's sheep until God says its time for me to lead Israel. Here little sheep... Simonnnn, Felixxxx, Luigi... ..

Picture #2 – Musician

Narrator: I love to sing and play the harp or flute. **(Sound effect: hum "My God is so great, so strong and so mighty" or any recognizable song.)** It helps me pass the time and feel at peace. I have written many songs to praise our God who helps Israel all the time. I love God with all my heart. I miss playing outside and being with the sheep. I now play for King Saul in his house. He is sometimes so sad and my playing seems to cheer him up. That makes me glad. But sometimes he is in an evil mood and he scares me. But I know God is with me all the time.

Picture #3 – Warrior

Narrator: I am a strong warrior because God gives me strength and courage. God is so good and I love Him with my whole heart. That time I killed Goliath, the giant, I knew God would show the Philistines that He was more powerful than the biggest giant.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

When it is God's idea He always wins because He is in control. I just tossed the stones and He did the rest. Now as leader in the battle with hundreds of soldiers fighting the Philistines, God still gives me courage. He always gives me directions about battle plans when I ask and He gives us victory! If God weren't with us, I would be terrified to go into battle and we would lose.

Picture #4 – King

Narrator: God chose me to be Israel's king when I was only 12 years old. God chose me to rule the people for Him. He told Samuel, "I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart who will do my will" (Acts 13:22). He has guided my decisions. He made me the greatest king in Israel, ever. He is awesome! I'd be nothing without Him.

Now that you've learned about David's life, return to your classroom to talk more about what made David great. Everyone grab a bible.

Grab a Bible!

Instructions: Read Mighty Acts of God, pp. 78-80.
Listen while I read a short summary of David's life.

Illustration

What's Inside?

Saul had rejected God's leadership so God sent Samuel to the family of Jesse to anoint the next king. Turn in your Bibles to 1 Samuel 16 and follow verses 6-13 as I read. What did God see about David that was different from Saul? (David's heart.) God told Samuel to go to Jesse's house to choose the next king. When Samuel arrived, Jesse, the father, was there with all of his sons except David. David was out in the fields tending sheep. No one thought that David would be God's chosen king. After all, he was only 12 and just a shepherd boy. But as Samuel looked at Jesse's sons, God said, "no" with each one. God told Samuel, "...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). When Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons, Jesse told him about David, the young shepherd. Samuel went right out to find David and God said, "I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart who will do my will" (Acts 13:22). Samuel knew that David was God's chosen king.

What do you think it means to be a man after God's heart? (You want to trust God because you know that God loves you and you love Him.) David trusted God because he loved God and believed that God always knew what was best for him, therefore he chose to follow God's will for his life. God was his best friend. He knew that he was most successful and satisfied when he followed God's will for his life. God wants us to trust in Him for those same reasons.

Learning Activity#2 Continued

He gave David great courage to face the giant, Goliath. When King Saul tried to kill David after he found out that David was going to replace him as king, God not only gave David courage but also helped David love Saul rather than hate him. And God empowered David to be a great warrior. David always gave God the credit for his successes. The whole nation of Israel was blessed because David had confidence in and trusted in God.

Good News

How can we have this same help from God? (Let students answer and/or ask the student workers in advance to think about and share their testimony with the class.) The Bible says in Revelation 3:20 that Jesus is standing at the door of your heart and knocking. He wants you to believe that Jesus died for your sin, and He wants you to invite Jesus to come into your life. When He comes into your life, He will forgive you and begin a relationship with you. You can begin the kind of great relationship David had with God. Then the more you get to know Him, the more you will love Him with all your heart and be empowered to do His work.

Transition

Learning Activity#3 Sm. Groups

Today's key verse is "... God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

- How did David learn to trust God while he was growing up?
- How was David a good shepherd? How is Jesus like a good shepherd to us?
- What do you think it means to be a man after God's heart?
- What are some ways you can learn to trust God?
- What are some ways you can get to know God and learn to trust Him now?

Let's pray. Let's pray that God will help us to learn what He says in the Bible about Himself and that we will believe Him and love Him with all our hearts so He will help us do mighty things for Him.

Transition

Learning Activity#4 Lg. Group

Let's play Heart Bingo for fun.

Game

Instructions: Pass out game cards and candy. This is similar to Bingo. Teacher calls out numbers on game card, e.g., H2, E11, etc. When a student fills a space in each of the "heart" columns, he or she calls out "heart." The first one is the winner. Have students switch "heart cards" if they like and play another round.