



A Shepherd Boy Grows Up to Be King

(based on 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 7:18-29)

King Saul and his son, Jonathan, had died in battle. Now the people of Israel did not have a king.

The leaders of Israel came to David because they wanted him to become their king.

“God has called you to be our king,” the leaders said. “You will look after our people just as a shepherd looks after the sheep. You will be our king.”

David remembered the day his father, Jesse, had called him from the fields. He recalled how the prophet Samuel had poured oil over his head and told him that one day he would be king.

David knew that becoming king of Israel was the right thing to do, and so David said, “Yes.” David was crowned king of Israel before all the people at Hebron.

One day, not long after he became king, David prayed to God. He thought about his life and everything that had happened.

David remembered the day he fought the giant Goliath. He knew that God had protected him.

He thought about his friendship with Jonathan. His friend helped him escape from King Saul.

He recalled the days he had spent running from King Saul. God looked after him every step of the way.

“All those years of waiting,” David exclaimed, “God helped me every step of the way. Now I am ready to be king.”

David gave thanks to God for everything that God had done. He promised to serve God. Then he praised God’s greatness:

“I will praise you, God;

“There is no one like you.

“You have given us a land where we can live in peace.

“You love us.

“You are most powerful and I can trust you.”

David reigned over the people of God for many years. He was a strong and wise king who loved God.



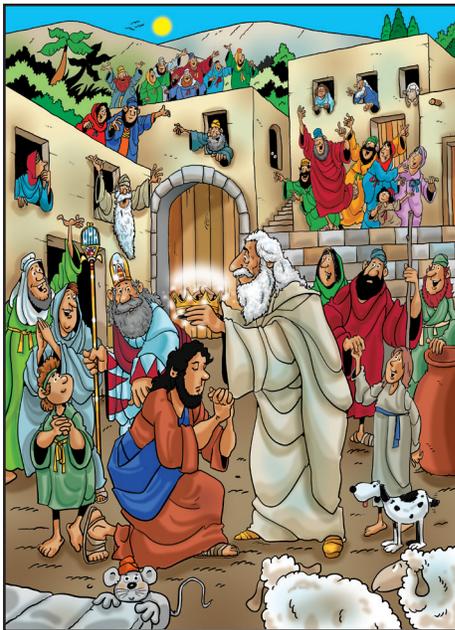
A Shepherd Boy Grows Up to Be King

(based on 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:18-29)

Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Ask your children to draw a picture that includes David as a shepherd boy, Samuel pouring oil over David, David fighting Goliath, David escaping from King Saul, and David being crowned king. Talk about how those experiences prepared David to be king.
- Choose one of the events in David's life from today's story. Act it out together. Wonder together how God was acting in David's life. Wonder together how God is acting in your lives.



Responding to God's Grace

- Read *Mudkin* by Stephen Gammell or *Arthur and the Sword* by Robert Sabuda. Imagine what it would be like to be chosen as royalty, a king or queen, and rule over a kingdom. What might David have wondered when he was made king of Israel?
- Talk about what qualities make a good leader. Discuss ways to highlight these qualities in yourself.
- Watch the news together. Pay attention to leaders mentioned. Talk about what qualities they show. What characteristics of leadership would you follow? What would you change?

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Play the card game "Kings in the Corner." See bit.ly/KingsInTheCornerGame for directions to play the game. Wonder together what it was like for David to be king.
- Make a crown. Take turns wearing it. The person wearing the crown gets to be king or queen for the day. How will you be a good king or queen?
- Pray this prayer together:

Dear God, help me to be a good leader. Help me to have faith like David's. Amen.

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.