

# GOD CHOOSES DAVID

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14



**Key Verse:**

“For the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”  
1 Samuel 16:7

**The Point:**

God sees beyond the exterior to what is within our hearts.

**Making Connections:**

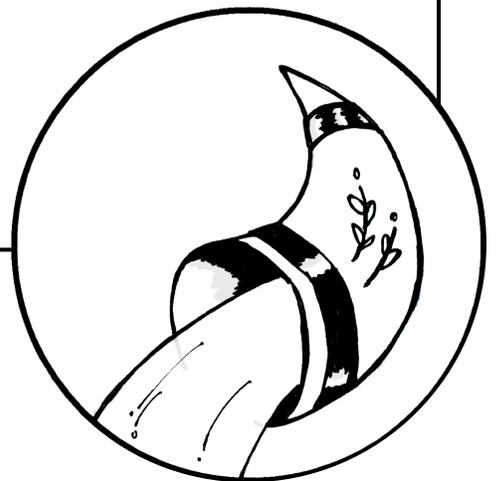
Called by God

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Old Testament Divisions

**Spiritual Practice:**

Service



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# BACKGROUND

## **Making Connections**

We continue this week with another “call” story—a story about God inviting someone to become a leader. Last week we learned about Israel’s great prophet, Samuel. Today we move on to David, and, in the weeks to come, we will hear the stories of Solomon and Elijah.

## **Story Summary:**

### ***God Chooses David***

Our world teaches us to look on outward signs of worth, such as a person’s appearance or wealth or power. But God sees things differently. God could see David would be a good king, even if he looked just like a kid to the rest of the world.

Even Samuel has difficulty figuring out which man should be king when he sees the men lined up. But as we learned last week, Samuel has cultivated a listening heart from a very young age, and can hear and recognize God’s voice. Samuel’s intention is to follow God’s will, even if he does not understand it at first. Therefore, when he understands David is the chosen one, he trusts God’s wisdom and makes the choice public.

The Bible calls David a “man after God’s own heart.” This means that David had an understanding of what God wanted, and David wanted to serve God. As God can see our hearts and who we really are, God can also see what our hearts need. God provides us the love and support we need to heal from our mistakes and hurts, and to grow stronger in our journey with God.

## **The Point**

**God sees beyond the exterior to what is within our hearts.** In this story, we are reminded that God sees things differently than we do. God does not pick the oldest and strongest of Jesse’s sons, but waits until young David is called in from the fields. While we may feel buried in our past and our mistakes, God is able to see the gifts and dreams often hidden to the rest of the world.

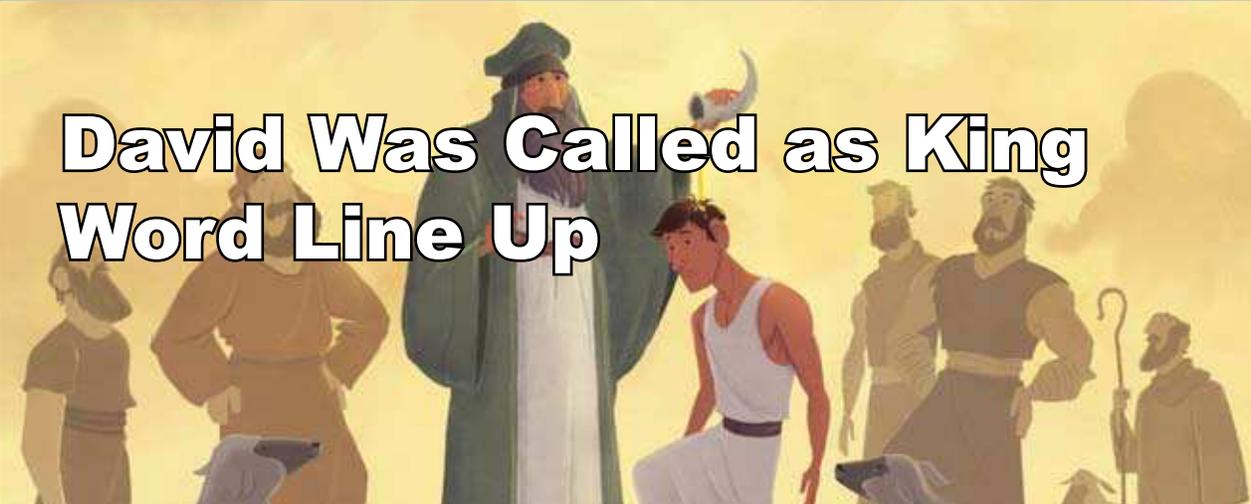
## **Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

### ***Old Testament Divisions***

The Old Testament is divided into four sections: the Pentateuch (or Torah), Historical Books, Writings or Wisdom Literature, and Prophets. These divisions help to identify the themes and types of literature of the books. The Pentateuch includes books from Genesis through Deuteronomy. Historical Books include Joshua through Esther and tell the history of Israel. The Writings, or Wisdom Literature, are found from Job through the Song of Solomon, and includes poetic books such as the Psalms. Finally, the Prophets report the word of the Lord, and continue from Isaiah through Malachi.

## **Spiritual Practice: Service**

We continue our spiritual practice of service this week. We may not feel that we have much to offer to others, but each of us can give in some way. Because God can see the hidden truths in our lives, God also knows what we are capable of and calls us to service that matches our special giftedness. What gifts do you have that you can use to serve others and serve God.

An illustration of King David and his men. King David is in the center, wearing a blue robe and a crown, holding a sword. He is surrounded by several men in various outfits, some holding spears and shields. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color.

# David Was Called as King Word Line Up

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circled spaces and unscramble them for the final question.

NORH

○ \_ \_ \_

SEJES

\_ ○ \_ \_

UESMAL

\_ ○ \_ \_ \_

HEPDHESR

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_

HEMLEBEHT

\_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Man looks at the outside, but God looks at the**

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

# 1st SAMUEL 16

G H H W W K P W M W I M E O J B B J V W Z U S Q  
P S R Z K E O N R G Y J L M L E W P D W I M Q A  
P A Y A Y J R U O A T H T U T V P F O W I Q E B  
F M G L L S K V S B Z Y T H R C K K L A V C H N  
B H P A P E A Q V A D H A F Z I X J R T T E G E  
O S L B Q F F U S R M V B N E V B H H R I H Q R  
S I N M F Q Q M L W E U V W Q C P T Q O Y G P J  
B M Q O Z I C I J N Q T E B G E I R R O K H S Z  
G C Y C Y D Q S O A R C G L X N S F O E I T E V  
H U C Y F W F R A Z T K N H J E M B I L L J B Y  
D R B E M R R A N K O M D N D V Y O I R I A R L  
M S O N C P E E K T F O V W E G J S U D C N E S  
Q E V O R R R L E F L A H C I M T V W R H A V T  
H C D H P I A I N F R B I T K I V L H O R K S R  
B X O C Y E E T R K A I P D N S E W Q W B R O U  
D V O V N S B E Q K M T D E J P W Z H S R D M W  
H D L S I T R S S U A E S Y O D Z S P A X O K U  
M O B R F D U R Y U L S H L N C R V W J I M A D  
A O K G U Q O E R M E L A T A T P J L E S H A Z  
W H S Y V I M D R N K U E V T U F M N W R W A Y  
M W X E R G R W T Q I T B J H V Y Y J U M B T D  
T H R R J C A H K T T Y I L A H B W J L X W E X  
M B A Q K X O O F F E Z G N N V Z R A G N O G H  
P W V A V H Y A Q J S K I X N V R S H F L W Q O

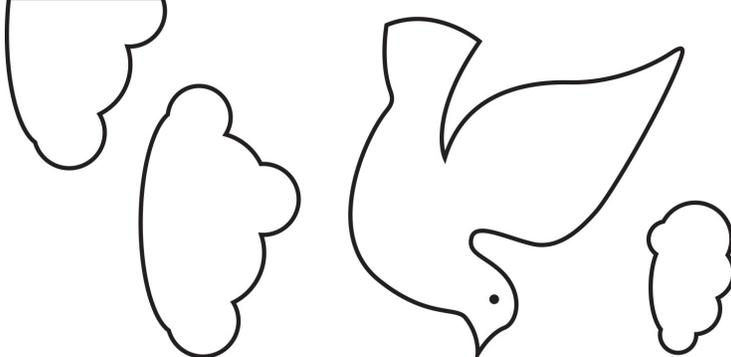
<b>ARMOURBEARER</b>	<b>PHILISTINES</b>	<b>AMALEKITES</b>	<b>ISRAELITES</b>
<b>HONEYCOMB</b>	<b>SACRIFICE</b>	<b>BETHAVEN</b>	<b>JONATHAN</b>
<b>MISHMASH</b>	<b>MOABITES</b>	<b>WARRIORS</b>	<b>EPHRAIM</b>
<b>HEBREWS</b>	<b>BATTLE</b>	<b>GIBEAH</b>	<b>MICHAL</b>
<b>PRIEST</b>	<b>SAMUEL</b>	<b>ABNER</b>	<b>AHIAH</b>
<b>BLOOD</b>	<b>CURSE</b>	<b>SWORD</b>	<b>OATH</b>
<b>SAUL</b>	<b>ROD</b>		



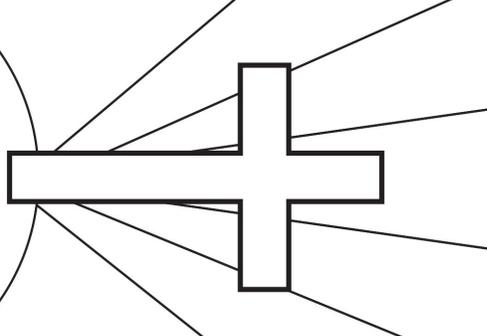
# OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS

*Discover the different sections of the Old Testament.*

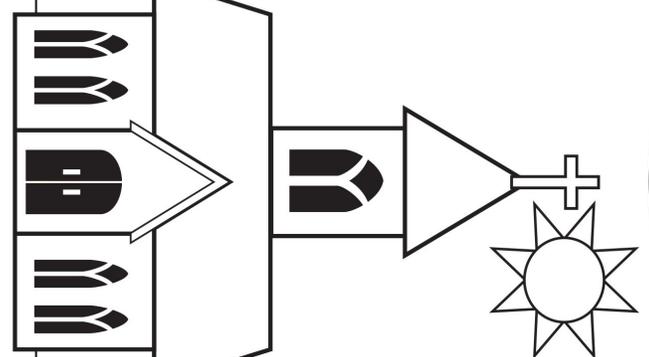
**Prophets:**  
Isaiah  
through  
Malachi

An illustration featuring a dove in flight, several stylized clouds, and a sun with rays.

**Writings or  
Wisdom  
Literature:**  
Job through  
the Song of  
Solomon

An illustration of a large cross with several lines radiating from its center, set against a circular background.

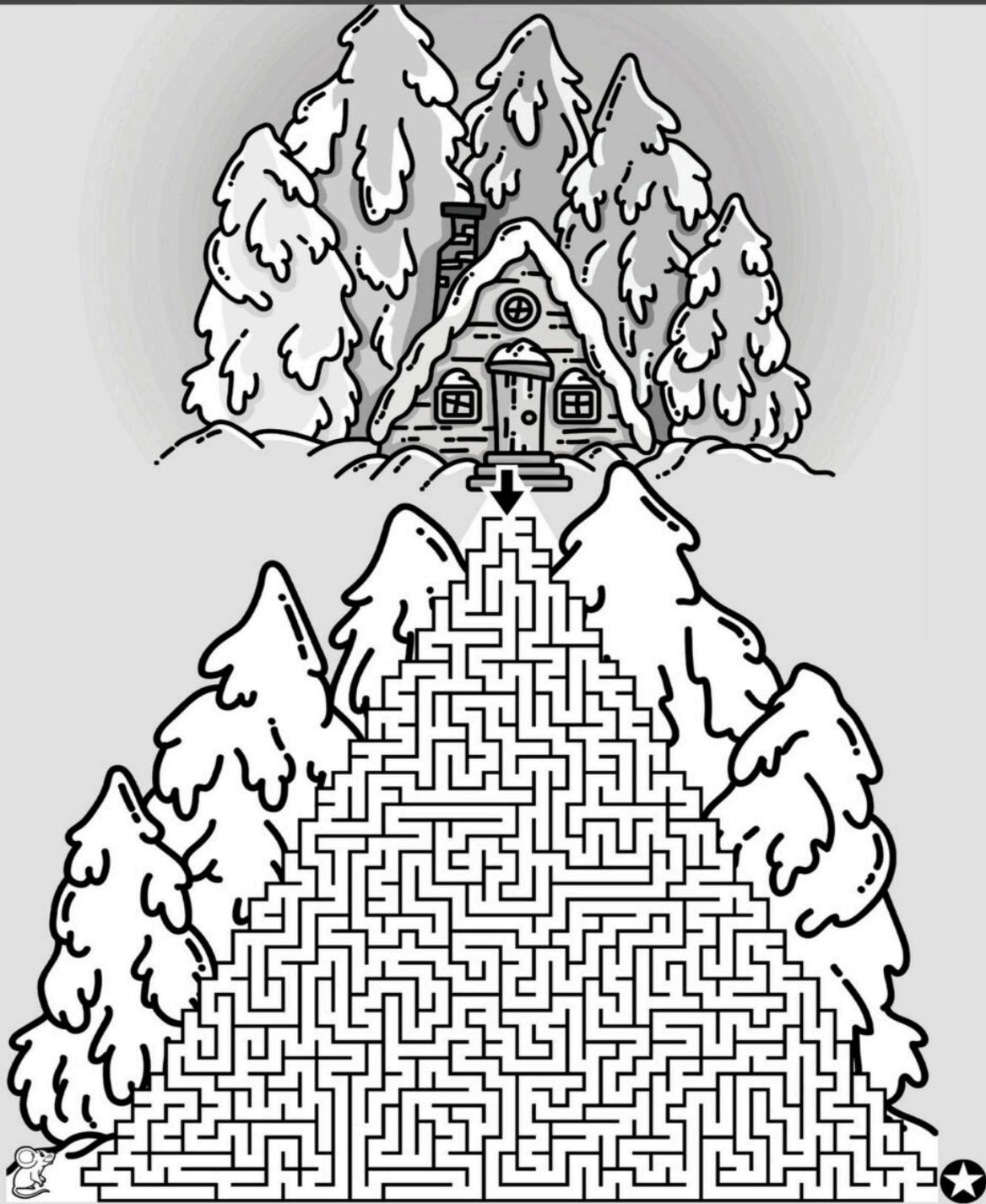
**Historical  
Books:**  
Joshua  
through  
Esther

An illustration showing a church building with a steeple, a cross on top of the steeple, and a sun with rays.

**Pentateuch  
(Torah):**  
Genesis  
through  
Deuteronomy

**PEACE**  
**JOY**  
**LOVE**  
**PRAY**  
**HOPPE**  
**FAITHH**

SEE THE SNOW FROM THIS WINTER CABIN





# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

**Lesson #4-7**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14

## LAST WEEK

In the middle of the night, a boy named Samuel heard a voice calling his name. It was God calling Samuel to be a great leader for Israel (1 Samuel 3:1-21).

## THIS WEEK

The Israelites demand a king, so God directs Samuel to anoint Saul as king over Israel. Saul fails, and so God sends Samuel to anoint a new king, a young man named David (1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14).

## STORY SUMMARY

### God Chooses David

Our world teaches us to look on outward signs of worth, such as a person's appearance or wealth or power. But God sees things differently. God could see David would be a good king, even if he looked just like a kid to the rest of the world. Even Samuel has difficulty figuring out which man should be king when he sees them lined up. But, as we learned last week, Samuel has cultivated a listening heart from a young age and can hear and recognize God's voice.

## PRACTICE SERVICE

We may not feel that we have much to offer to others, but each of us can give in some way. God knows what we are capable of and calls us to service that matches our giftedness. Talk about what gifts you have that you can use to serve God and others.

## NEXT WEEK

Solomon oversees the building of the temple, creating a permanent place for the Israelites to worship their God (1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13).

## THE POINT

God sees beyond the exterior to what is within our hearts.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *Old Testament Divisions*

The Old Testament is divided into four sections: the Pentateuch (or Torah), Historical Books, Writings or Wisdom Literature, and Prophets. These divisions help to identify the themes and types of literature of the books. The Pentateuch includes books from Genesis through Deuteronomy. Historical Books include Joshua through Esther and tell the history of Israel. The Writings, or Wisdom Literature, are found from Job through the Song of Solomon, and includes poetic books such as the Psalms. Finally, the Prophets report the word of the Lord, and continue from Isaiah through Malachi.

### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14**

God calls David because God can see beyond David’s outward appearance to who he truly is. Describe one thing about each other that you can see by looking at them. Then describe one thing you know about who they are as a person—something that lives in their heart.

#### **Monday—Read 2 Samuel 1:1-27**

David mourns Saul. When is the last time you were sad? How did God help you through that time?

#### **Tuesday—Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5**

David becomes king and the ark comes to Jerusalem. Take a few drops of olive oil and take turns drawing crosses on each other’s forehead, sharing what it is about that person that especially blesses you.

#### **Wednesday—Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29**

God makes a covenant, or promise, with David. What do you promise each other during this next week?

#### **Thursday—Read 2 Samuel 12:1-24**

Even King David makes bad choices. How hard is it to admit when we have made a mistake? Thank God for forgiving us when we mess up, and for loving us forever.

#### **Friday—Read 1 Kings 1:28-40**

Solomon is appointed king. Take turns being royalty. Crown a family member, play pretend trumpets, and have a parade, proclaiming, “Long live the Ruler (Queen, King)!”

#### **Saturday—Read 1 Kings 3:3-28**

Solomon prays for wisdom. Discuss the things that are most important to us to have full, healthy lives. Wisdom? Compassion? Friendship?