

# KING DAVID

1 Samuel 16-2 Samuel 12

Author: Eleanor Delport

People look

at the outside

of a person,

but God looks

at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7b



# SESSION 1: A KING AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Big idea: God looks at the heart

God cares about our attitudes, desires and character. People often look at a person's appearance, but God looks at the heart.

5-9 years

# SESSION 1: DAVID A KING AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

WELCOME

INTRO - BIBLE TIMELINE

GAME - LINE UP

BIBLE STORY - 1 SAMUEL 16V1-13 David is chosen. Read or act out the story and ask these questions:

*Why do you think Samuel was worried about choosing a new king? Why did Samuel think Eliab would make a good king? How did God choose the new King? God was looking for a man who had a heart like God's heart and loved the things that God loved. He was looking for someone who would trust Him.*

GAME - shepherd

SNACK AND PRAYER - God looks at our hearts. He does not need us to be superheroes. He simply wants us to love and trust Him. Pray that we would have a heart like God's heart, that loves what God loves and trusts in Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

We are going to learn this Bible verse.

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

EXPLORE THE STORY

CRAFT - colouring sheet



# INTRODUCTION

Use the Bible timeline to help the children see where they are in the overall story of the Bible.

The Bible is a collection of books that together tell the story of how God created the world and made human beings to be His children and know His love. Very early in the story, however, people turned away from God's good plan and chose to run from God. God is like a loving father, who keeps searching for His children and rescuing them so they can come home to Him. The whole Bible points to God sending His Son Jesus to come and rescue us.

God chose Abraham's family, the Israelites, to bring about His rescue plan. God rescued them from slavery in Egypt with Moses and brought them into the promised land of Canaan with Joshua. After Joshua came the time of the Judges, when everyone did just as they pleased, because there was no king. Despite the chaos, God had a plan. He was preparing to raise up a King who would unite the 12 tribes of Israel and lead them back to worshipping Yahweh, the God of Israel and Creator of the world.

## GAME - LINE UP

The last judge was a man called Samuel and when Samuel grew old, the people asked for a King like the other nations around them. God gave them what they asked for - a man called Saul who was a giant of a man. He looked like a King - tall, strong and impressive. How would you choose a King? The strongest? Oldest? Tallest? Wisest?

Line up in height order, then age order, then birthday order from January to December.

Do you think that is how God wanted to choose a King?

No God, was looking at people's hearts.

5-9 years

# GAME: SHEPHERD

## *Equipment:*

*4 or 5 blindfolds (e.g. scarves), 4 cones, stopwatch*

Shepherds have to guide their sheep to safety and look after them. In Biblical times, the shepherds would have directed the sheep with their voices. The sheep would listen for the voice of their shepherd and follow them to safety, food or water.

1. Set four cones out in a large rectangle to be a sheep fold. Then blindfold about 5 children and ask them to move on their hands and knees like sheep moving about in a field.
2. Select one child or a pair of children as shepherds who have to use their voices to direct the sheep safely into the sheepfold.
3. Time how long it takes to get the sheep into the fold. Then ask another pair of children to have a go and see who is quicker.

Note: check the space is safe to crawl around blindfolded in before starting the game!

5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a sheep fold, a meal, an anointing horn, a shepherds staff, Jesse's house, the town of Bethlehem.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why did Samuel think Eliab would be a good king?
2. Why did God choose David?



“People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16v7



“The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart” 1 Samuel 13v14

# SESSION 2 LORD OF HOSTS

Big idea: If God is with us, who can stand  
against us?

When David fought Goliath, he knew it was not  
just David v Goliath, the Lord of Hosts was on  
his side and God wins His battles!

5-9 years

# SESSION 2: LORD OF HOSTS

## INTRO

Recap the story of David's anointing. Why did God choose him? He had a heart like God's heart. Remind each other of the memory verse

## MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

## BIBLE STORY – 1 Samuel 17

## GAME – Goliath knockdown

**SNACK AND PRAYER** – Are there any situations you find scary? Pray that you will know that God is with you. Is there anything you think could separate you from God's love/stop God loving you? Read Romans 8:31-37 (Can use the craft worksheet to read it) and assure one another that Jesus has won the battle to save us at the cross, so when we put our trust in Him, nothing can separate us from His love. If anyone is worried that they have not yet put their trust in Jesus, offer to lead them in a simple prayer of repentance and putting our trust in Jesus. If anyone does that for the first time, talk them through a choosing to trust in Jesus tract to help them understand.

## CRAFT – Colouring, the Lord of Heaven's armies + David! v Goliath

## EXPLORE THE STORY





# 1 SAMUEL 17 THE LORD OF HOSTS (AND DAVID!) V GOLIATH

Saul is on the throne as King of Israel, but David has been anointed King by Samuel in secret. The Spirit of the Lord is on David and today we will tell the story of David's most famous victory.

(You can find this story in every children's Bible so feel free to tell it from a children's Bible, act it out or read it from 1 Samuel 17. When it comes to David's speech to Goliath, read 1 Samuel 17 v 45-47)

Why was Saul afraid of fighting Goliath?

Why was David not afraid?

Who did he know was with him?

The Lord of Hosts, means the Lord of Angel Armies! It wasn't so much David v Goliath as The Lord of Angel Armies v Goliath and the Philistine gods Goliath worshipped. God was pleased to win through David, who trusted Him with his whole heart.

The Bible teaches that when we put our trust in Jesus, the Lord of Hosts, God in Heaven, is with us too! Paul, who took the good news of Jesus around the world planting churches said that "if God is for us, then who can stand against us?" Romans 8v31. God is with us like He was with David. Jesus has won the greatest battle against Satan, sin and death and we are in Jesus, on the winning team!

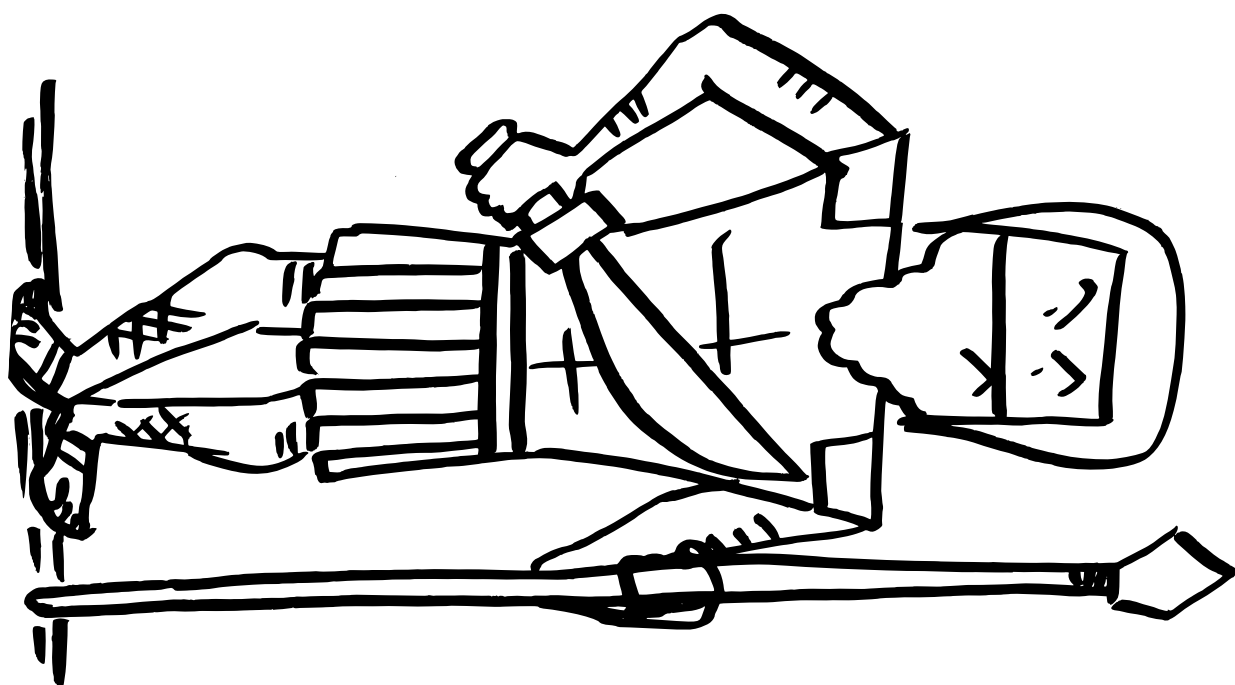
5-9 years

# GAME: GOLIATH KNOCK DOWN

## *Equipment:*

*2 goliath targets made out of the Goliath picture printed on A4, rolled and taped along the short edge, also balls or beanbags*

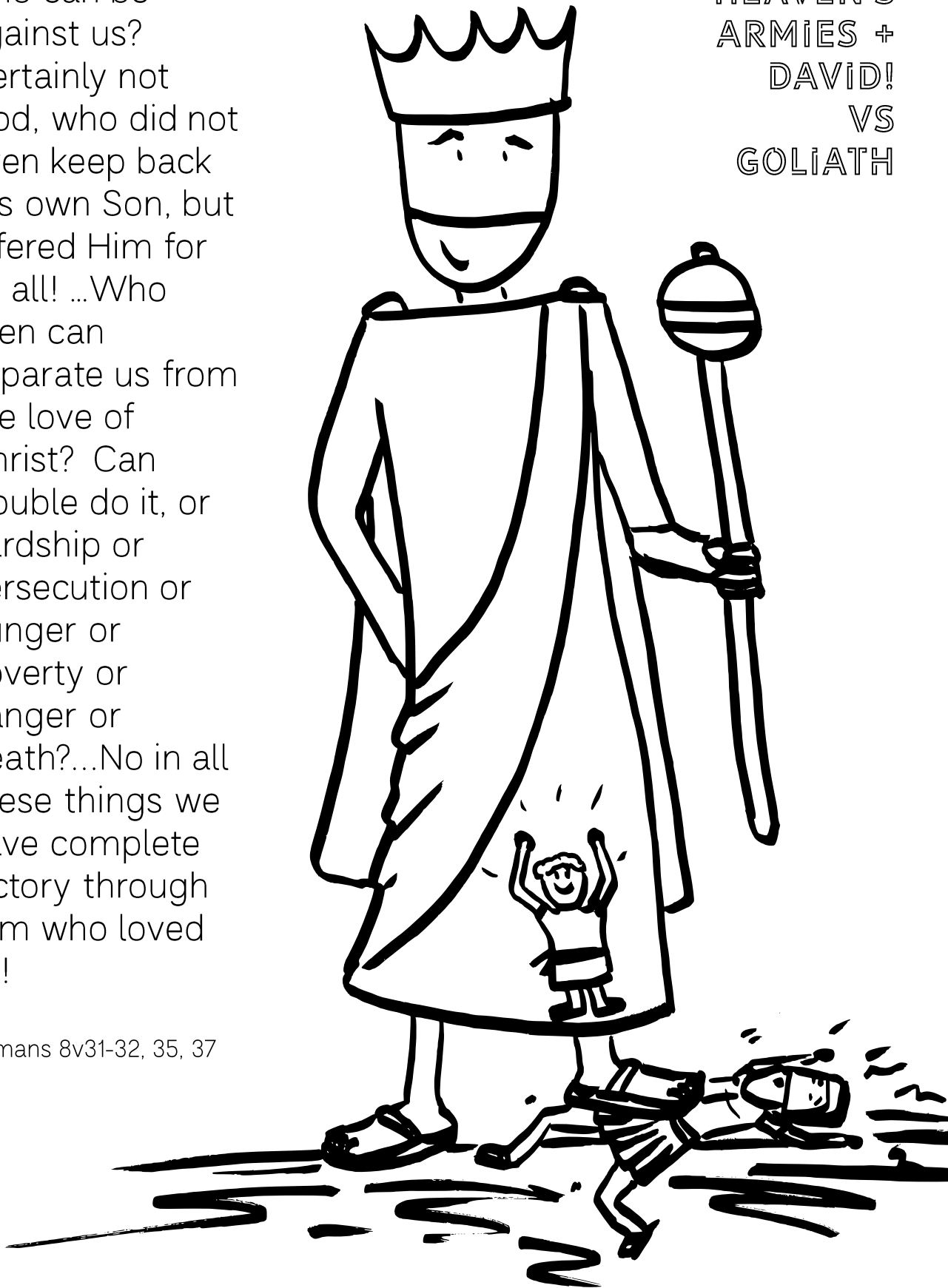
1. Divide into two teams
2. Set an appropriate distance marker according to the age of the children away from the targets. E.g. 4/5 year olds might be 2m away, 6/7 year olds 3m, 8+ 4m away
3. Line the teams up and give them beanbags
4. They must take turns trying to knock Goliath down
5. The team with the most successful hits wins



If God is for us,  
who can be  
against us?  
Certainly not  
God, who did not  
even keep back  
His own Son, but  
offered Him for  
us all! ...Who  
then can  
separate us from  
the love of  
Christ? Can  
trouble do it, or  
hardship or  
persecution or  
hunger or  
poverty or  
danger or  
death?...No in all  
these things we  
have complete  
victory through  
Him who loved  
us!

Romans 8v31-32, 35, 37

THE LORD OF  
HEAVEN'S  
ARMIES +  
DAVID!  
VS  
GOLIATH





# Choosing to TRUST IN JESUS

## Creation

God made us and loves us. When He created us, He hoped that we would experience His love and love Him back.

01



02



## Rebellion

We all have done bad things and gone against God. When we do bad things, which the Bible calls sin, it separates us from knowing God and leads to death.

## Rescue

But God loves His children so much, that He sent His only Son Jesus to die on a cross and pay the price for our sin. After 3 days Jesus rose from the dead, defeating the power of death. Now whoever puts their trust in Jesus can come back into God's family and have life forever with Him. We can know God on the earth now and, after we die, we will be with Him in Heaven.

03



04



## New Life

Then all our sin is washed away, God gives us a new heart and we become children of God!



## Baptism

We are baptised in water to show that we have chosen to follow Jesus. Our old life has been washed away and God has given us new life with Jesus.



05

06



## Holy Spirit

Father God promises to give us His Holy Spirit to help us understand God's love and to have power to follow Jesus. We ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with His power.

## Growth

The Holy Spirit teaches us to understand God's truth in the Bible. As we experience God's love, our attitudes and behaviours begin to change to become more like Jesus. He also gives us gifts which strengthen Jesus' family, the church, and help us to live lives that show others how to come into God's family too.



07

08



## New Creation

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was given a new body. He went up to Heaven to take up His throne as the conquering King of Kings. God promised that one day, Jesus will come back and we will receive a new body too! All the bad things will be washed away. God will make everything new.

Father God,

I'm sorry for the bad things I have done. Thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to rescue me. Please forgive me and give me a new heart.

**AMEN.**

5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a valley, hill, David, Goliath, sword, armour*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why was Saul afraid?
2. What did David understand about who God was and who he was?

# SESSION 3 SAUL'S ANGER

Big idea: Anger usually leads to sin.

Saul became angry with David, because the people liked David better. This anger led to Saul wanting to kill David. Saul needed to overcome his anger, but instead he gave into it.



5-9 years

# SESSION 3: SAUL'S ANGER

## INTRO

Recap the stories of David's anointing as king as a boy and his defeating Goliath

BIBLE STORY = Saul's anger

GAME = Blind dodge

PRAYER = Thank God that He looks after us, like He looked after David. Ask God to help us when we are feeling angry to talk to Him about it and to love other people like God loves them. Ask for self-control.

## MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

CRAFT = Harp

## EXPLORE THE STORY



# DAVID'S PROMOTION (1 SAMUEL 16V14-23 AND 18V1-5)

When Saul had been anointed as King (years before David was on the scene), the Spirit of the Lord had rushed upon him and given Saul the power to prophesy, telling people what God was saying, and to defeat his enemies in battle. However, over time King Saul began to disobey God. He cared more about what other people thought about him than about what God thought. Eventually the Spirit of God left Saul and God allowed an evil spirit, that stirred up anger and jealousy, to come to Saul.

The king's servants realised that he needed help and they suggested that they look for someone who was skilled in playing the harp to come and bring peace to Saul. They said that David, a man brave in battle and skilled with music should come. Saul agreed and called David to come and live in the palace.

Whenever Saul was disturbed by the evil spirit, David would play and the sound of the beautiful worship music would send the anger and hatred away. Saul thought David was wonderful. He made David the leader of his best warriors. God gave David victory wherever he went.

Saul's son Jonathan also loved David. He loved him so much that Jonathan gave David his special princely robe, his prince armour and his prince weapons. The people of Israel and Judah loved David too, because he kept defeating the Philistines for them in battle.

Everything seemed to be going wonderfully for David until...

One day when David was coming in with the soldiers from battle, the women all danced about with their tambourines celebrating and singing

"Saul has slain his thousands and David has slain his tens of thousands!"

"What?!" thought Saul. "They are honouring David more than me! They like him better! Next they will make him King!"

Saul was in a terrible mood. He was angrier than he had ever been with David. David had not done anything wrong, but Saul knew God was with David. He was jealous of him and hatred started to rise up in his heart.

# DAVID'S PROMOTION (1 SAMUEL 16V14-23 AND 18V1-5)

"Oh no!" said his servants, "The king is in a bad mood again. Get David to play his harp."

David was tired after the battle, but he obeyed the King. He came in and sat down like he always did and his fingers strummed a beautiful tune. This time, however, the evil spirit did not leave Saul.

Saul suddenly grabbed his spear and threw it at David with all his might. David ducked and ran for the door. Saul snatched up his spear and threw it again, but David was gone out the room in a flash, running away from the palace.

"What's going on?!" His servants cried. They were shocked. Eventually Saul calmed down. "David must never play for me again." He said and he brooded on a plan to kill David.

Saul realised that all the people loved David. He could not kill David and expect the people to like him still, so he would have to be cunning, sneaky like a snake. "Aha!" He thought to himself. "I don't have to kill him, I just need to send him into dangerous battles until the Philistines kill him for me."

But every time David went into battle, God protected him and helped him defeat the Philistines over and over again.

Questions:

Why was Saul angry with David?

What could Saul have done instead of tried to hurt David?

What can we do when we are angry with someone or envious of someone?

The Bible says that one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is self-control. Self-control helps us not to be controlled by our anger or jealousy, but to choose to do what is right even when it is difficult.

5-9 years

# GAME: BLIND DODGE

## *Equipment:*

*1 blindfold, 1 foam noodle, cones*

Saul was blinded by bitterness and David had to dodge his spear. In this game, one person (this could be a leader if that will be better for health and safety!) will wear a blindfold and hold a foam noodle. They will turn (not too quickly!) around in the centre of a circle marked by cones holding out the noodle.

All other children have to stay in the circle, but dodge the noodle. If they are hit, they are out (or count the hits and the person at the end with the least hits is the winner). As the game progresses, move the cones closer to the centre to make it more difficult.

5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a palace, army, harp, spear, etc.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why did so many people love David?
2. Why did Saul want to kill David?
3. What should we do if we are angry or jealous of someone?

# CRAFT HARP

You will need:  
tubs/cardboard boxes,  
elastic bands, lollipop  
sticks, tape, glue, stickers  
and pens

Using elastic bands as  
the strings of your harps  
and tubs/boxes/lollipop  
sticks to make the frame,  
create and decorate your  
own harp or guitar

See these pictures for  
inspiration



# SESSION 4

## HIDDEN IN GOD

Big idea: God can keep us safe in His presence

David took refuge with Samuel and the prophets and the presence of God was so strong that no one could come near him to harm him.

# SESSION 4: HIDDEN IN GOD

## INTRO AND MEMORY VERSE

Recap the story of David so far (anointed by Samuel, fought Goliath, played for Saul, success in battle, Saul hates him and want to kill him)

## MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

## BIBLE STORY – from 1 Samuel 19

## DISCUSSION – Hidden in God

## GAME – under wing

PRAYER – Thank God for looking after you. Thank God for the people he gives you to help look after you (e.g. mums and dads). Pray that He will always protect you and you will trust in Him like David did.

## CRAFT – swan picture, hidden under God's wings

## EXPLORE THE STORY





# DAVID TAKES REFUGE WITH SAMUEL AND THE PROPHETS (1 SAMUEL 19)

David was a brave soldier in Saul's army. He led a group of 1000 soldiers into the most dangerous battles against the Philistines and every time he fought, he won, because God was with him. Saul had been hoping that David would die in battle. He was afraid that the people liked David so much they would make him their king. David never tried to make himself king, but that did not stop Saul from hating him.

One day, after David had come back from another fierce battle, Saul's servants called him to come and play the harp for the king. David obeyed. David always obeyed. He sat down on a chair and played while the king's face grew angrier and angrier. Suddenly, Saul picked up his spear and hurled it at David...again! David ducked and ran as the spear wedged itself violently in the wall.

David darted home. Michal, his wife, told him he would never be safe there. He must flee from the city! She lowered him quickly out of a window. He escaped to the hills and went in search of Samuel.

Samuel was at Ramah with a group of prophets. Everyone was listening to God, worshipping him and praying. God's Spirit was with Samuel and the prophets and David hid in Ramah with them.

Eventually word got back to Saul to say that David was at Ramah with Samuel and Saul sent a group of messengers in search of him. When the messengers came closer, the Spirit of God came upon them and instead of arresting David, they began to prophesy and praise God. The news got back to Saul, who then sent a second group of messengers. As they came close, they too began to prophesy! So, Saul sent a third group of messengers. As they came closer, the Spirit of God came upon them as well! And they also began to prophesy.

Saul, ignoring the fact that God was clearly against him in this matter, thought the only way to get the job done was to go himself. He came closer to Samuel, David and the prophets and as he stepped forward to arrest David, he was overcome by the Holy Spirit. Just as God had knocked Goliath clean off his feet, Saul, overpowered by God, lay on the ground, took off his robe and prophesied all day and all night. When people saw it, they asked, "is Saul also among the prophets?"

Then David fled again and found Jonathan, Saul's son.

# DISCUSSION – HIDDEN IN GOD

Where did David go to hide from danger?

How did God protect David?

What does this story show you about God?

The Spirit of God was with David. Saul was being tormented by an evil spirit, which tried to make him kill David. God's Holy Spirit is greater than any evil spirit or person that comes against Him. God is able to protect and help His children.

In the Psalms, the songbook of the Bible, Psalm 91 reads:

Those who go to God Most High for safety  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety and protection.

You are my God, and I trust you."

God will save you from hidden traps  
and from deadly diseases.

He will protect you like a bird  
spreading its wings over its young.

His truth will be like your armour and shield.

Have you ever seen a bird protecting their chicks by spreading their wings over them? (Share the pictures) That is a picture of how God looks after His children. David was in danger and God spread His protective wings over him, so that no one could come near him to harm him.

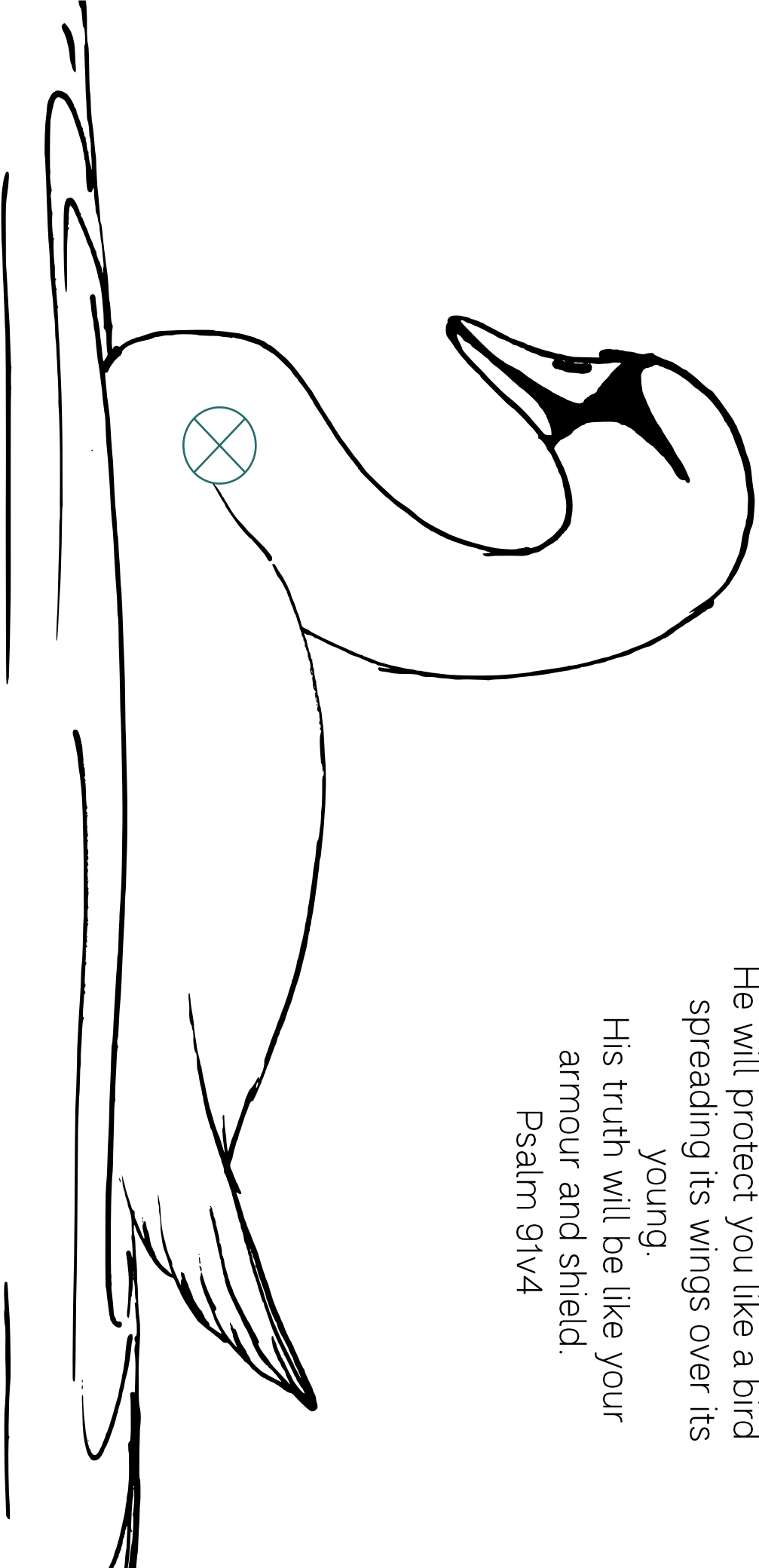


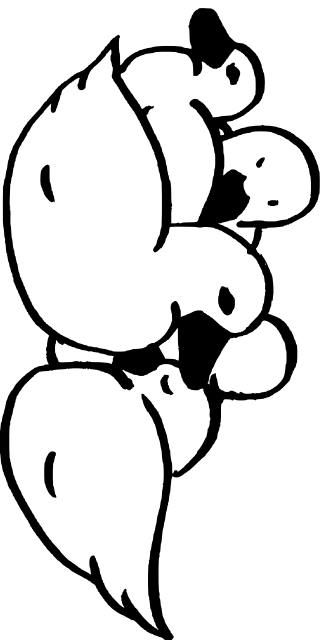




He will protect you like a bird  
spreading its wings over its  
young.  
His truth will be like your  
armour and shield.

Psalms 91:4

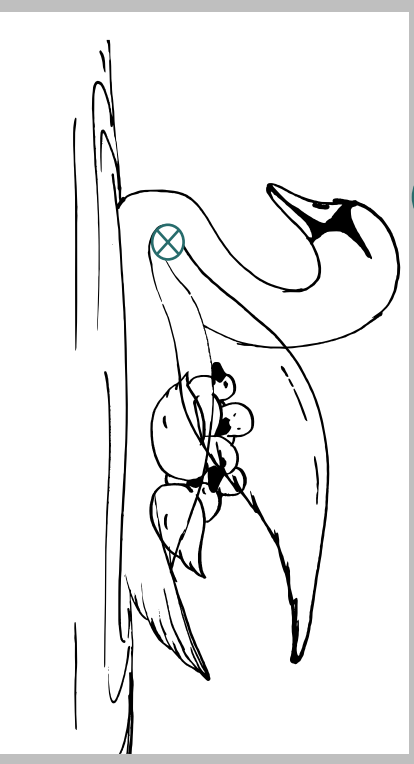




**CRAFT - UNDER WING**  
You will need scissors, a split pin, colouring pens or pencils

Colour and cut out the swan babies (cygnets) and stick them on the swan's back.

Cut out the swan wing and, using a split pin, attached it to the swan body at the place marked 



# GAME: UNDER WING

## *Equipment:*

*A towel/sheet*

1. Have two leaders or tall children as the birds holding the sheet/towel between them to make a wing that other children can hide under
2. Choose two catchers
3. Everyone pretends to fly happily around the room until a leader calls "Quick! Hide!"
4. Then the catchers try to tag children, but they cannot tag anyone who has made it back to hide under the bird wing
5. The catchers switch with whoever they tag and they become the new catchers and you all go again

5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a palace, a hill, harp, spear, etc.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why did Saul want to kill David?
2. How did God protect David?



# SESSION 5 POWER OF MERCY

Big idea: Mercy is powerful to overcome evil

David chose to show Saul mercy instead of taking revenge. This was so powerful that Saul stopped chasing him and blessed him instead.

# SESSION 5: POWER OF MERCY

## INTRO AND MEMORY VERSE

Recap the story of David so far (anointed by Samuel, fought Goliath, played for Saul, success in battle, Saul hates him and wants to kill him)

## MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

**BIBLE STORY** – Act out or retell 1 Samuel 24, David spares Saul's life in the cave.

**DISCUSSION** – Mercy or Revenge

**GAME** – Kings keys

**PRAYER** – Thank God that He shows us mercy. Ask Him to help us to be merciful towards others.

**CRAFT** – Saul's robe

**COLOURING** – David shows mercy

**EXPLORE THE STORY**



# DISCUSSION – MERCY OR REVENGE

Mercy: Not giving someone the punishment they deserve.

Revenge: paying someone back for what they have done. I.e. if they are mean to you, you are mean to them.

What was the effect of David showing Saul mercy? (Saul stopped trying to kill him).

David chose to show Saul mercy instead of taking revenge. This was so powerful that Saul stopped chasing him and blessed him instead.

When people are unkind to us, we have a choice either to take revenge or show mercy and wait for God to judge them.

Mercy is powerful and can stop arguments and bring peace and healing.

How can you show people mercy? Can you think of examples?

# GAME: KING'S KEYS

David snuck up to Saul in the cave completely unheard and unseen. This is a game of stealth and skill.

*Equipment: a set of keys, optional: you could tie a piece of fabric to the keys to be like the corner of Saul's robe*

Everyone sits in the circle and one child is chosen to sit in the middle with a blind fold on and a set of keys in front of them.

Another child is quietly chosen to stand up, walk around the circle, sneak into the middle, take the keys and sit down in their place.

Once the thief has sat down, the child in the middle opens their eyes/removes their blindfold and guesses which child has the keys. They have three guesses.

Then choose another person to go in the middle.

# CRAFT: SAUL'S ROBE

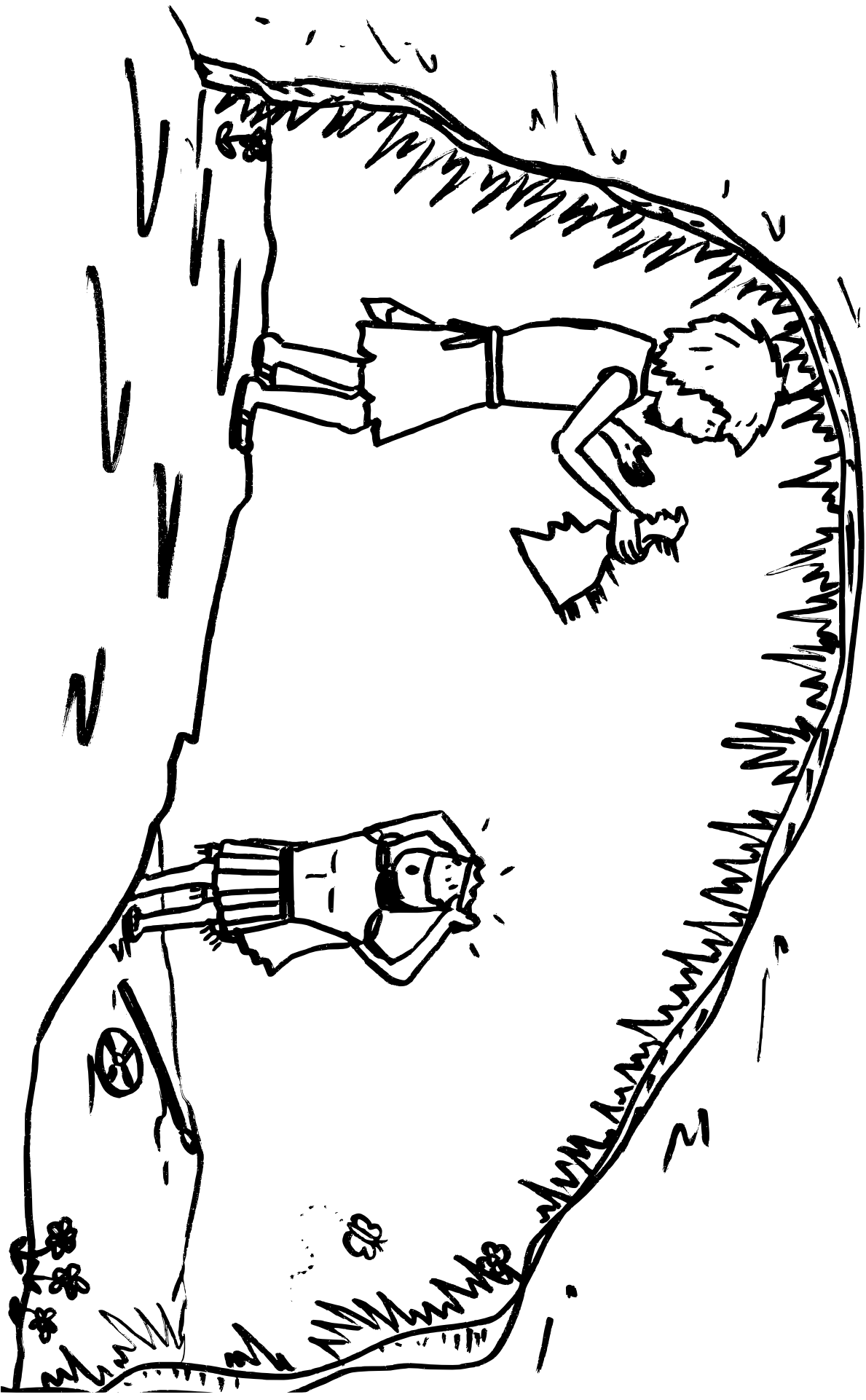
*You will need: cardboard men, fabric, gold card, glue, pens, scissors, jewel stickers to decorate*

Using a cardboard cut out of a person, decorate the man as king Saul and then stick fabric onto the cardboard to create a robe with a torn corner. You could use gold card to make a crown for the collage.





# 1 SAMUEL 24 DAVID SHOWS SAUL MERCY



5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego and colouring sheets*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another, colouring on another, spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a cave, a hill, a robe, David and Saul, etc.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. What did Saul want to do to David?
2. What did David do to Saul?
3. What was the effect of David showing Saul mercy? (Saul stopped trying to kill him)

# SESSION 6 GOD MAKES DAVID KING

Big idea: David waited for God to give him  
the kingdom

David trusted God to hurl away his enemies like  
a stone being thrown from a sling and God did  
just that. David waited and God destroyed  
David's enemies until David was made King of  
Israel.



# SESSION 6: GOD MAKES DAVID KING

## INTRO AND MEMORY VERSE

Recap the story of David so far: David was anointed as a boy by the prophet Samuel saying that one day he would be king of Israel. David defeated Goliath and had many victories while serving King Saul, but Saul became jealous of him and chased him around the hills trying to kill him. David waited a long time for the kingdom to be given to him as God had promised and today we will find out how God made him king.

## MEMORY VERSE

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

BIBLE STORY – See “5 stones from a sling”

DISCUSSION AND PRAYER – Waiting and self-control

GAME – Saul's footsteps

CRAFT – Paper sling

COLOURING – God gives David the Kingdom of Israel

EXPLORE THE STORY



# 5 STONES FROM A SLING FROM 1 SAMUEL 25 TO 2 SAMUEL 5

You will need: something to be used as a catapult/sling. Either 5 beanbags (or appropriately sized soft missile for the sling) or 5 playmobil/duplo people to be Goliath, Nabal, King Saul, Abner, Ish-Bosheth.

## Stone 1 Goliath

When David as a shepherd boy, stood up to battle the giant Goliath who was terrorising God's people, do you remember how many stones he took with him for his sling? 5. When David went towards Goliath to battle him, he said that when Goliath died, "the whole world would know that Israel has a God and everyone will see that God does not need swords or spears to save His people. He is victorious in battle and will put you in my power!" 1 Samuel 17v46b-47

How many stones from his sling did David use to defeat Goliath? 1.

There were 4 more stones and today we will find out why.

## Stone 2 Nabal

When everyone started praising David more than Saul, Saul was jealous and chased David around the hills of Judah. David showed Saul mercy and Saul left David for a time. Meanwhile, David and his men went to a place where shepherds belong to a man named Nabal were working. David's men were kind to the shepherds and at the time of a feast, David asked Nabal to give food and drink to his men. Nabal answered him cruelly and would not help David. David was angry and was going to destroy Nabal, but Nabal's wife, Abigail, when she heard what had happened, went quickly to David with food and drink and begged him not to take revenge. She blessed him and prophesied that, because he did not destroy Nabal, but waited for God to bring justice, God would surely throw his enemies away from him like stones from a sling and would give him the kingdom of Israel.

God had already thrown Goliath away (catapult Goliath from the sling). Just as Abigail had said, a few months later Nabal got sick and died. He was the next stone to be thrown from God's sling. (Catapult Nabal away).

# 5 STONES FROM A SLING CONTINUED

## Stone 3: Saul

A short while after that, Saul and his army commander, Abner, were chasing David again. God put Saul and everyone with him into a deep sleep and David had an opportunity to do whatever he wanted to Saul. David's servant wanted David to kill Saul, but David said "no. God will do it." Instead, David snuck up to Saul and took the spear and water jug from next to Saul's head and crept away. From a good distance, David called to wake up Abner and Saul and showed them that he had taken the spear and water jug, could have killed Saul, but had spared his life. Saul blessed David like he did before and turned away from chasing him again.

A while later, the Philistines killed Saul in battle. Saul was the third stone thrown from the sling. (Catapult Saul away).

## Stone 4: Abner

When Saul died, the people of Judah made David their King, but Abner, Saul's commander, made Ish-Bosheth, one of Saul's sons the king of Benjamin, Ephraim and many other tribes of Israel.

Abner fought against David's armies, but he kept losing. Eventually, he thought it was better to make David king and he snuck off to David to make a deal with him. David agreed to spare Abner's life, because Abner was going to make David king of Israel, but David's army commander Joab did not trust Abner and wanted to take revenge on him. David did not kill Abner, he showed him mercy and respect, but Joab killed Abner secretly. And so, Abner was the fourth stone hurled from God's sling. (Catapult Abner away)

## Stone 5: Ish-Bosheth

Shortly after Abner was killed, Ish-Bosheth, King of Israel was murdered by his own servants. Ish-Bosheth was the 5<sup>th</sup> enemy thrown from the sling. (Catapult Ish-Bosheth)

After this, all the people of Israel came to Hebron and made David King of all the tribes of Israel. God had thrown David's enemies away from him, like a stone hurled from a sling and given David the Kingdom of Israel, just as He had promised.

# DISCUSSION AND PRAYER - WAITING AND SELF- CONTROL

Do you think it would have been easy for David to wait for God to make him king?

What is self-control and in what ways did David need self-control?

Patience (ability to wait for things) and self-control are fruits of the Spirit that God grows in us.

When do you need patience and self-control?

Pray for each other to receive and grow in patience and self-control

# GAME: SAUL'S FOOTSTEPS

This game is based on Grandma's footsteps

Choose one child to be Saul and have them stand at one end of the room facing the wall.

Have the other children start at the other end. They are David and his men sneaking up on Saul. They call out "What's the time King Saul?"

Saul calls out a number and the children step forward that number of paces.

They call again "What's the time King Saul?"

He calls a number again.

And so on until King Saul shouts "dinner time!" and tries to catch a child before they get back to the start.

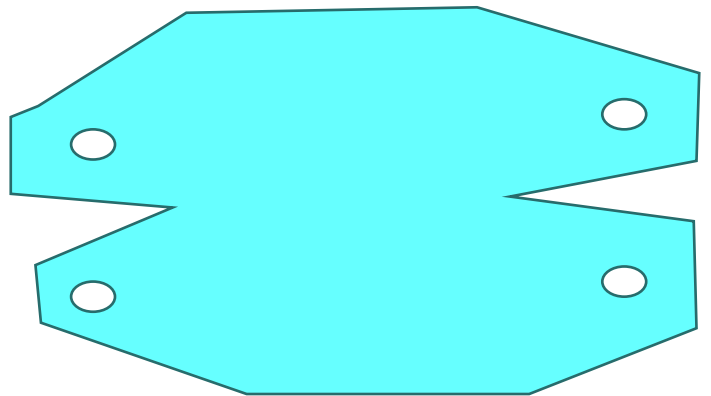
If the children manage to tag Saul before he shouts dinner time, then they win the game.

Switch over to have a different person as King Saul.

# CRAFT: PAPER SLING

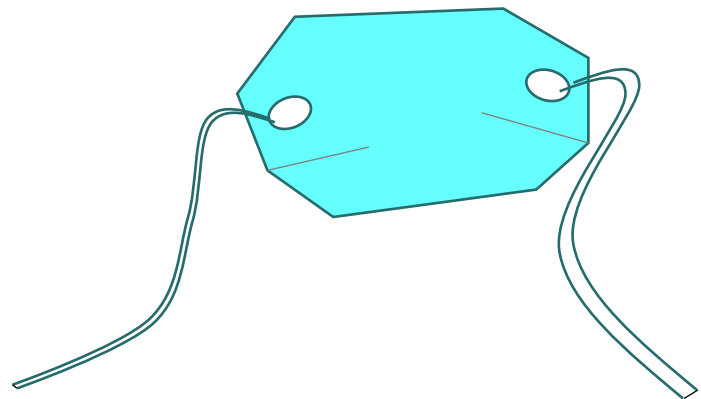
*You will need: strips of material or string or wool. Paper, scissors, pencil for poking holes in the paper, tape*

Fold a piece of paper in half and cut out the sling pocket shape as shown so that it is double thickness.

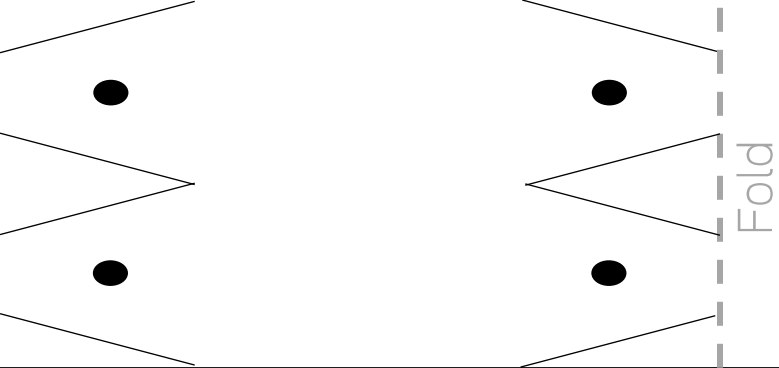


Use a hole punch or pencil to poke 4 holes in the pocket as shown.

Thread the string/material strip/wool through the pocket, drawing two of the holes on either end together so that it makes a cup shape.



Scrunch up the rest of the paper and wrap in a piece of tape to become a paper stone.



Cut off bottom of  
page and scrunch  
up to form sling  
shot ball

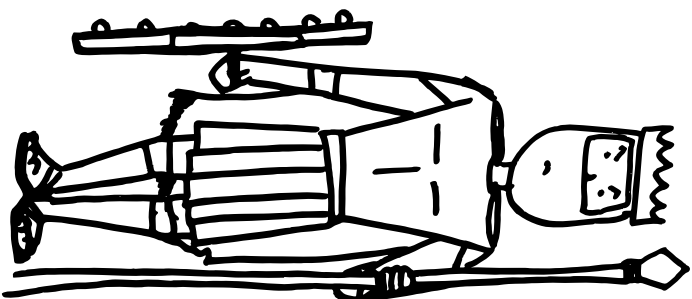
**GOD GIVES DAVID THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL**  
“God shall throw away your enemies as from the pocket  
of a sling” <sup>1</sup> Samuel 25:29



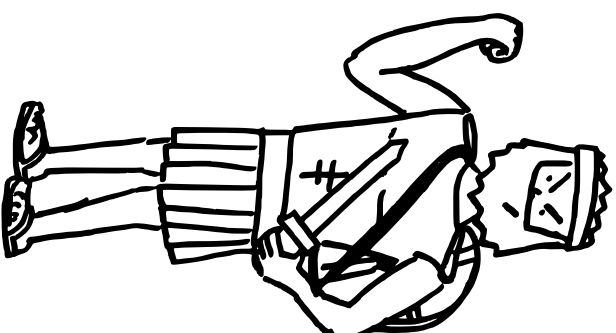
Goliath



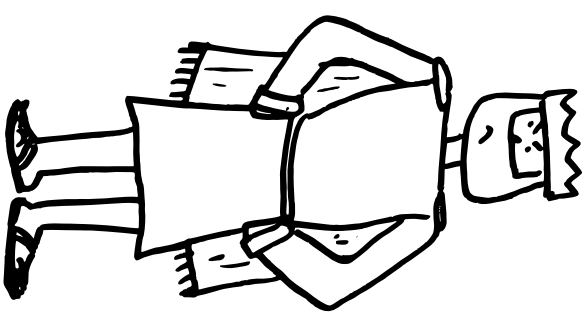
Nabal



King Saul



Abner



Ish-Bosheth





5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego and colouring sheets*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another, colouring on another, spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a sling, a crown, a hilltop, sheep, etc.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. How long did David have to wait to be given the kingdom? About 15-20 years!
2. When do we need to wait for things?
3. Do you ever struggle to wait for things? God can help you! Pray for patience

# SESSION 7 DAVID CONQUERS JERUSALEM

Big idea: God blesses those who bless God's people and is against those who are unkind to them

David carries the blessing of Abraham, so when people mock and curse him, God is against them and when people bless David, God blesses them. The Jebusites were proud and mocked David, so God gave David victory over them. King Hiram was kind to David, so Hiram became a friend of David and Solomon.

# SESSION 7: DAVID CONQUERS JERUSALEM

## INTRO

Recap the story of David so far: David was anointed as a boy by the prophet Samuel saying that one day he would be king of Israel. David waited patiently for about 20 years before he was finally crowned King of all the tribes of Israel aged 30 years old. Now he is going to choose a place to set up his throne.

## WARM UP MEMORY VERSE GAME

Put the two sets of memory verse cards in two piles at one end of the room. Have the children in two teams lined at the other end of the room. In a relay race, they must hop from one end of the room to the other, pick up a card and return it to their team, who will unscramble the memory verse. Practice the memory verse together as a group.

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

BIBLE STORY – 2 Samuel 5:6-12 Act out the story

DISCUSSION – Blind/Seeing

PRAYER – Who of God's people could you choose to bless/be kind to? Pray that God would help us to see clearly how to love God and to bless God's people.

GAME – BLIND AND LAME

CRAFT – David captures Jerusalem

EXPLORE THE STORY



# DISCUSSION: BLIND/SEEING = JEBUSITES/HIRAM

The Jebusites were mocking David saying even people who couldn't see or walk would be able to defeat him, but David defeated them and conquered Jerusalem.

In what way were the Jebusites really blind? They could not see what God was doing or that David's God was the true God!

God had promised to David's great-great-great-great-grandfather Abraham that Abraham would have a huge family and those who blessed Abraham's family (were kind to them), God would bless (God would be kind to them) and those who cursed Abraham's family (were mean to them) God would curse (God would be against them). Do you think the Jebusites were blessing or cursing David? They were against David, so God was against them.

King Hiram on the other hand, could see that God was with David and he chose to bless him. In what way did King Hiram help David? King Hiram gave building materials to David and later to David's son Solomon. He became a friend of David and Solomon and even helped them build the temple to worship God in Jerusalem. Solomon and David helped King Hiram in return.

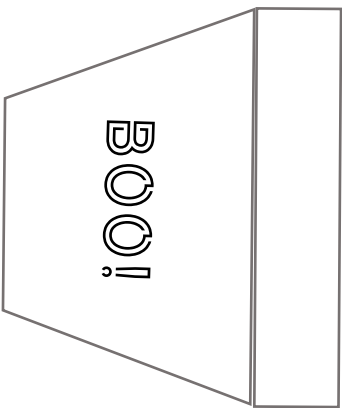
# GAME: BLIND AND LAME

The Jebusites thought that blind and lame people could fend off David and his men, but they did not realise that they were blind and lame, not being able to see that God was with David.

In this game, half the group will be blind and lame Jebusites and half David and his warriors.

You will need: blind folds for half the group

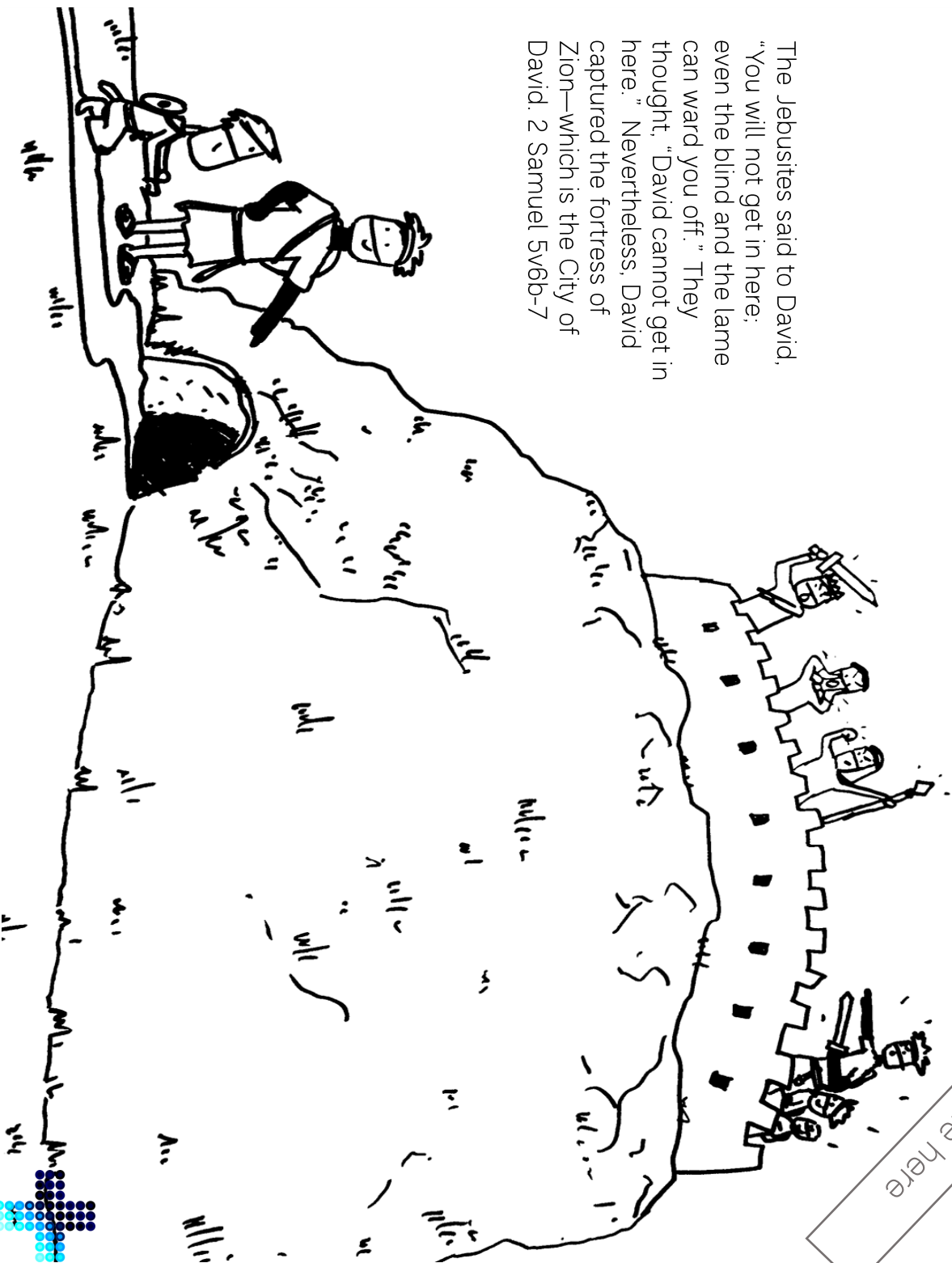
1. The Jebusites put on blind folds, spread out in the room and kneel or sit down. They are not allowed to walk or run
2. David and his warriors start at one end of the room and have to stealthily sneak over to the other side of the room without being caught by the waving arms of the Jebusites
3. If someone is caught, they must return to the start and try again
4. If you want to make it a time trial, time the first team, then have them switch places (Jebusites become David and his men and vice versa) and time the next group. The winner is the group who get their whole team from one end to the other, thereby conquering Jerusalem, in the shortest time.



Cut out the “Boo!”  
Flap and glue it onto  
the picture

## DAVID CAPTURES JERUSALEM

The Jebusites said to David,  
“You will not get in here;  
even the blind and the lame  
can ward you off.” They  
thought, “David cannot get in  
here.” Nevertheless, David  
captured the fortress of  
Zion—which is the City of  
David. 2 Samuel 5v6b-7



Glue here



5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego and colouring sheets*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another, colouring on another, spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a water shaft, a city, a throne.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Were the Jebusites kind to God's people or mean to them?
2. Was King Hiram kind to God's people?
3. Who of God's people can we choose to be kind to?

# SESSION 8

## DAVID'S HOUSE

Big idea: God promised David that one of His sons would rule forever on a throne over the people of God

David wanted to build God a house, but God did not want him to build a house. He was quite happy in a tent! Instead, God wanted to build David a house – a family line that would go on forever and always have someone ruling from David's line over the people of Israel. Ultimately this was fulfilled in Jesus.



# SESSION 8: DAVID'S HOUSE

## INTRO

Recap the story of David so far: David was anointed as a boy by the prophet Samuel saying that one day he would be king of Israel. David waited patiently for about 20 years before he was finally crowned King of all the tribes of Israel aged 30 years old. God helped him to conquer Jerusalem and his friend King Hiram of Tyre gave him building materials to build a palace. Now David is wondering whether he should build God a house too.

## WARM UP MEMORY VERSE GAME

Put the two sets of memory verse cards in two piles at one end of the room. Have the children in two teams lined at the other end of the room. In a relay race, they must two-footed jump from one end of the room to the other, pick up a card and return it to their team, who will unscramble the memory verse. Practice the memory verse together as a group.

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7

BIBLE STORY = 2 Samuel 7:1-14 Act out/retell the story (See suggested story script)

DISCUSSION = A house that won't fall

PRAYER = God fulfilled His promise to David in Jesus. Thank God that He always keeps His promises and pray that Jesus will be King in our hearts too. Praise Jesus the King.

GAME = A house that won't fall

CRAFT = David's throne

EXPLORE THE STORY



# DAVID'S HOUSE SCENE 1

*David and Nathan the prophet are walking around happily viewing David's kingdom and palace, touching and admiring the objects as they talk about them.*

**David:** Well would you look at this Nathan! King Hiram gave me so much material to build a palace, that I have the most beautiful home I have ever seen! Look at these fluffy pillows! Oh, and this soft rug! And this luxurious couch! I could lounge here all day!

**Nathan:** They are very nice David. And to think that you were once a shepherd boy, the least in your family and God has given you all this!

**David:** I know it's amazing isn't it? God has given me gift after gift after gift! Did you see the shiny silver plates we ate dinner from? They were hammered silver from the best craftsmen of the middle east. This certainly beats those slimy shepherd caves we were living in in the wilderness when we were being chased by Saul.

**Nathan:** And this house of beautiful stones and wood could last hundreds, if not thousands of years! They might outlast the pyramids of Egypt or the towers of Babylon!

**David:** Well, our God is a far greater God than the gods of those nations... Hmm... that has got me thinking. It doesn't seem right that God's beautiful holy Covenant Box, the Ark of the Covenant, which represents His throne in Heaven, is sat outside in a tent, when my throne is in a palace. God gave all this to me after all. I would love to build God a house, like He has done for me.

**Nathan:** That sounds like a great idea! Go and do what is in your heart. The Lord is with you.

**David:** Great! You are a prophet Nathan, so if you think it is a good idea, I'll start preparing right away. See you in the morning.

# DAVID'S HOUSE SCENE 2

*Nathan comes back to see David with a message from God.*

**Nathan:** Your majesty, I have a message from the Lord about the house you wanted to build him.

**David:** Yes? What did He say?

**Nathan:** He said that He has travelled in a tent all these years since bringing our ancestors out of Egypt and He has never asked anyone to build Him a house. He says that instead, He is going to build you a house.

**David:** Me? But I already have a house! We're standing in it.

**Nathan:** It's not that kind of house. This is what the Lord says, "I took you from the sheepfolds and made you ruler over my people, Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone and defeated your enemies for you. I will make you as famous as the greatest leaders in the world. I have chosen a place for my people and I will give them peace. When you die, one of your sons will sit on your throne and he will build me a house. After him, you will always have someone from your family sitting on your throne and your kingdom will never end."

**David: (*Turning to Heaven*)** Wow! Who am I that You have shown this to me God? Your blessing will rest on my family forever and one of them will always rule on my throne over the people of Israel. God be praised!

**Nathan:** You wanted to build God a house, but He has promised to build you one – a family and a kingdom that will never end.

**David:** Even if my beautiful palace here in Jerusalem crumbles, my kingdom will never end. It will outlast the pyramids of Egypt and the towers of Babylon. Truly the Lord our God is the ruler of the Heavens and Earth! Let all the earth praise Him!

# DISCUSSION: A HOUSE THAT WON'T FALL

What did God mean by promising David a house that will last forever?

He promised that there would always be a king on David's throne.

David spent the rest of his life collecting materials for the temple, God's house, in Jerusalem and his son Solomon built it after David died.

Solomon, however, did not live forever. **Who sits on David's throne now, whose kingdom will never end?**

# GAME: HOUSES THAT DON'T FALL

Equipment: Use a building material of your choice. It could be a construction toy like Megablox/Duplo or plastic plant pots/paper cups or dried spaghetti and jellybabies/marshmallows (check allergies as the kids will probably nibble a few!)

Also, you will need beanbags or ball-pit balls to be hailstones, a tray to be wind and any other object you want to use to stress test the houses.

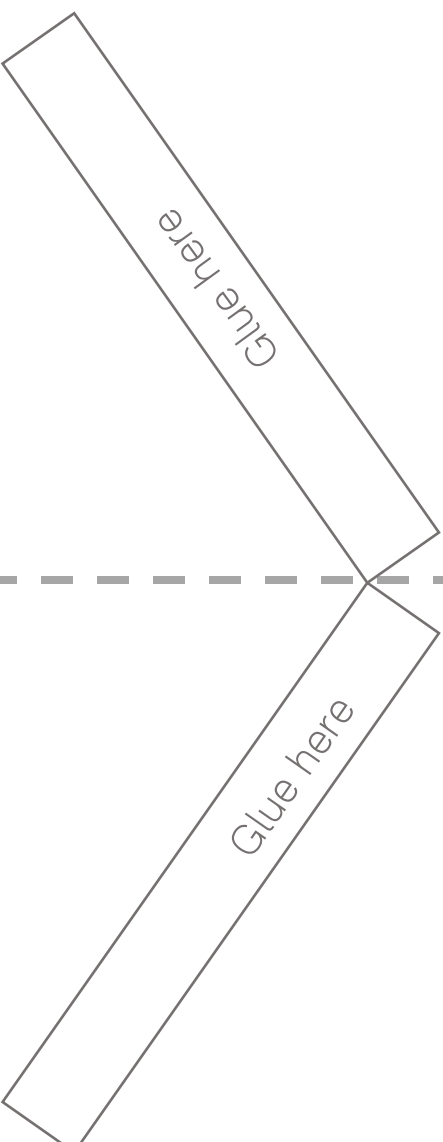
Divide the children into teams and give them 5-10 minutes to build a house. Then put the houses on a table or in the middle of a circle and stress test them to see which house is the strongest.

For example, throw ball pit balls at the houses as hailstones, flap a tray to create wind, put the houses on trays or a tablecloth and shake the tray/tablecloth to create an earthquake.

The winners are the builders of the house that stayed standing. If that is a tie, then the most creative and beautiful win. (Or everybody wins!)

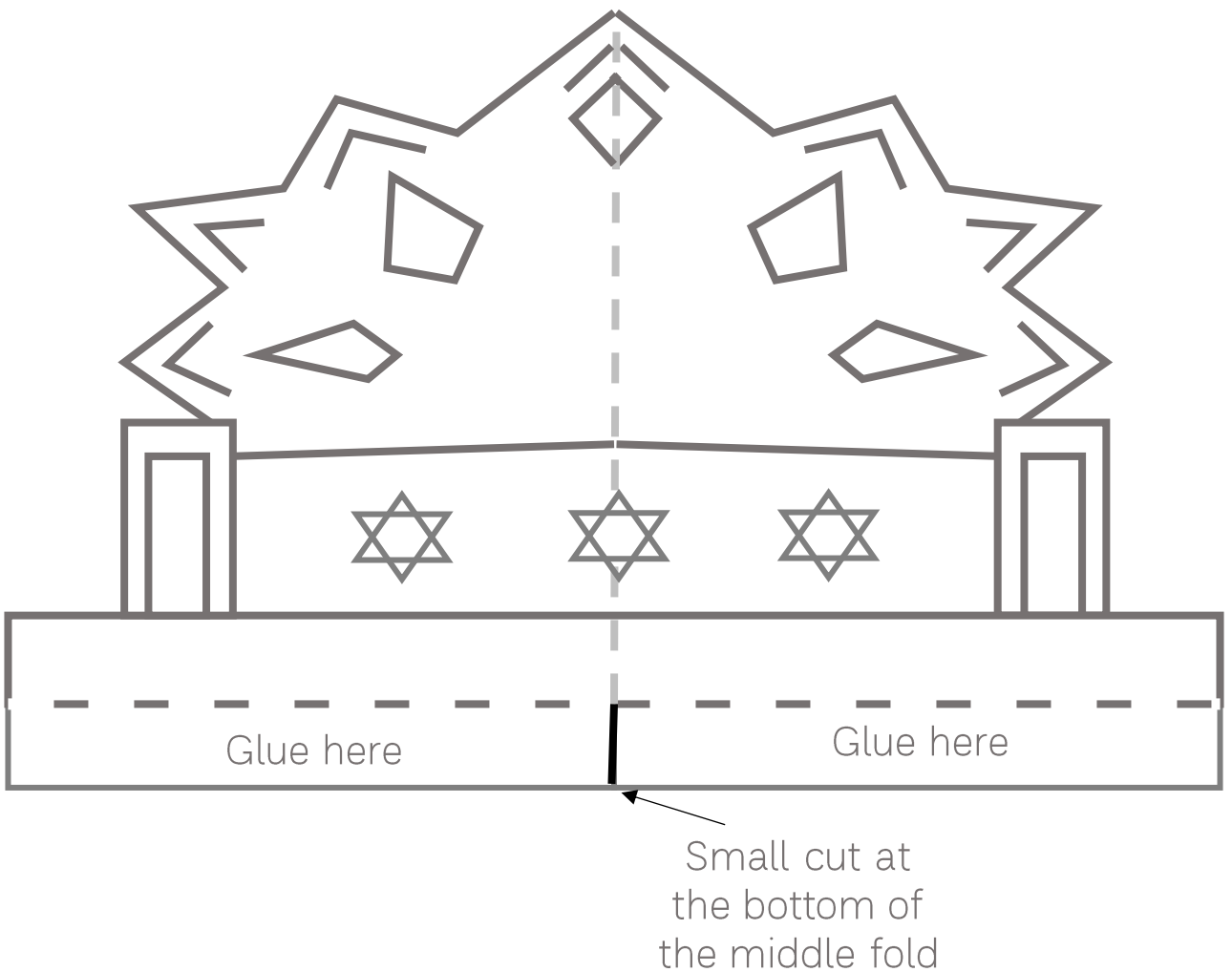
# DAVID'S KINGDOM WILL NEVER END

But the angel  
said to her, "Do  
not be afraid,  
Mary; you have  
found favour  
with God. You  
will conceive and  
give birth to a  
son, and you are  
to call him Jesus.  
He will be great  
and will be  
called the Son of  
the Most High.  
The Lord God  
will give him the  
throne of his  
father David, and  
he will reign over  
Jacob's  
descendants  
forever; his  
kingdom will  
never end."  
Luke 1v30-33



# DAVID'S THRONE

1. Colour in and cut out the throne
2. Fold in half
3. Make a small cut at the bottom of the middle fold
4. Fold up the two glue tabs
5. Fold the "David's kingdom will never end" sheet in half and glue the throne to the sheet where indicated. This creates a pop-up throne



5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego and colouring sheets*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another, colouring on another, spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a house, a palace, a tent, a throne.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. What house did David want to build God?
2. What house did God want to build David?
3. Who sits on David's throne now?



# SESSION 9

## REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Big idea: David sinned, he repented and God forgave him

David sinned, but when God showed David his sin, David repented and asked for forgiveness. God could forgive him, because one day one greater than David would come to pay for all the sins of God's people.

# SESSION 9: REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

## INTRO

Recap David's journey and how God hurled David's enemies away from him like a stone being thrown from a sling and gave David the kingdom of Israel. David conquered Jerusalem and brought the Ark of God into Jerusalem. God has promised that David's family will have someone who reigns on David's throne forever and ever. David trusted God when he was weak and knew he needed God's help, but will he trust Him when his kingdom becomes powerful?

**BIBLE STORY** – 2 Samuel 11 and 12. Use the paraphrase of the story. This could work well with small world characters (like playmobil or happyland). You could use the small world characters to act out the main story and Nathan's parable.

**DISCUSSION AND PRAYER** – Repentance and forgiveness

**GAME – MUSICAL STATUES**

**CRAFT** – Make a flag or Write a song/prayer

**EXPLORE THE STORY**

**MEMORY VERSE GAME**

People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 17v7



# DAVID IS FORGIVEN

## PARAPHRASE OF 2 SAMUEL 11 AND 12

In the spring, when kings usually went out to war, David sat at home. He had become powerful and secure in his palace in Jerusalem and this spring he decided to leave the grizzly fighting to his commander Joab and his valiant soldiers.

One day he was looking out over his city, thinking how grand and beautiful it was and what a marvellous king he was to be able to produce such a city, when he noticed a woman bathing. She was beautiful and he wanted her for himself.

David asked who she was. It was Uriah's wife. Uriah was one of his brave soldiers, fighting for him. "Well, I am the king, aren't I?" Thought David to himself. "All of this city is mine, even the people. I will have her for myself."

David came up with a plan. It was a terrible plan. God hated his plan. David had Bathsheba brought to the palace and David treated her like his own wife. She became pregnant and David became scared. What if Uriah finds out? What if the soldiers turn against him?

David came up with a plan. It was a terrible plan. God hated his plan. He had Uriah killed in battle. When the news came to Jerusalem that Uriah was dead, David played the hero. He hoped people would think "What a kind king David is to take in Uriah's widow as his wife and look after her!" But he wasn't being kind. He was doing evil. People might be fooled by it, but God was not.

God sent his prophet Nathan, the same prophet who had told David that his kingdom would last forever, to tell David that he had broken God's law.

Nathan told David a story.

One day there was a poor man who had one little sheep that he loved like his own child. His neighbour was rich and had hundreds of sheep. The rich neighbour had some friends who came to visit him and he wanted to cook them a lamb. He didn't fancy using his own lamb this time. He liked the look of his poor neighbour's lamb. When his neighbour was not looking, he stole the poor man's lamb and served it to his guests.

David was furious! "How could anyone do something so wicked?! The rich man must die! Who is he?" David fumed.

"It's you, David." Replied Nathan sternly. "You are the rich man. This is what God says to you. "I gave you the kingdom from Saul. I gave you wives. I made you king over Israel and Judah. If this was not enough for you, I would have given you more. Why have you acted so wickedly as to take Uriah's wife and have Uriah killed? Since you have done this, trouble will come on your family and your own son will rise up against you.""

David realised that he had sinned. He repented and confessed, "I have sinned against the Lord!"

Nathan replied, "The Lord forgives you, you will not die." But there were still consequences for his sin. His family started to spiral into wickedness and his sons fought against one another. God never turned away from David or his descendants, but even David himself needed a saviour to free him from his sin... a beloved lamb to wash him white as snow...

# DISCUSSION AND PRAYER: REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Who do you think David needed?

When David did something bad, he repented. What does that mean?

How long did it take God to forgive David when he repented? He forgave him immediately!

Is repentance something we can do when we do something bad? How long do you think it will take for God to forgive us? He will forgive us immediately!

Why can God forgive us? Who has paid for our sins?

Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

This is good news!

Let's say sorry to God for our sins and do an "I'm forgiven dance".

(Lead the kids in a repeat after me prayer "Sorry God for our sins. Please forgive me." and then "Woohoo I'm forgiven!" and dance around on the spot)

# GAME: MUSICAL STATUES

David knew that his sin was so bad and God's forgiveness was so amazing that he sang and danced about it all his life! He loads and loads of songs about God's love and we still sing them today. Play musical statues to celebrate God's forgiveness.

Choose an upbeat kids worship song like "Free!" by David Ryan Cook.

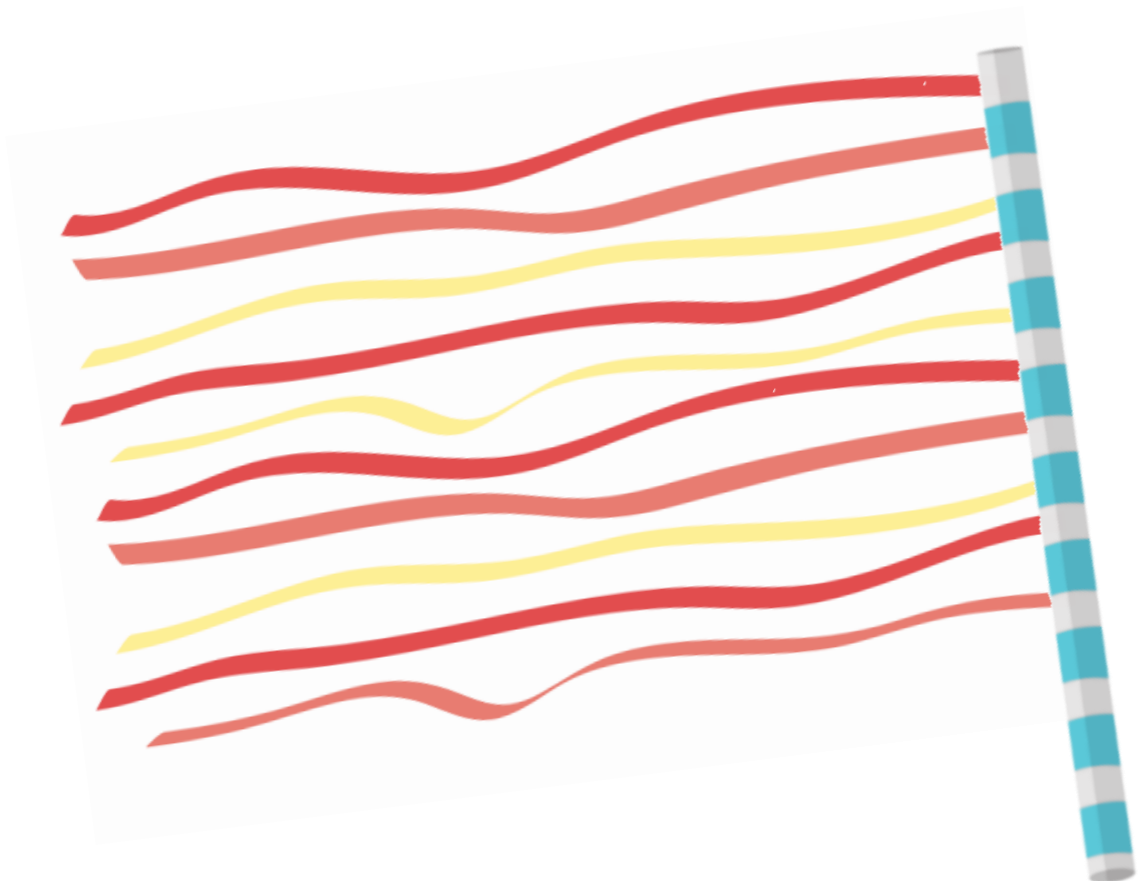
When the music stops, everybody freeze. Lose a life or sit out if you move when the music has stopped. Play the music again and everybody dance. The winners are the people who have the most lives left at the end. Or don't worry about losing lives and just have fun.

# FLAGS

*David worshipped God with singing, instruments and dancing. We can make flags and streamers to help us celebrate God's goodness, love and forgiveness.*

*You will need: coloured tissue paper/streamers and straws or sticks*

Using sticks or straws and tissue paper, create a streamer or flag to celebrate what God has done for us in forgiving our sin and washing us clean.



David wrote many songs, poems and prayers to God called Psalms. There are 150 Psalms in the Bible. Have a go at writing your own song, poem or prayer to God.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

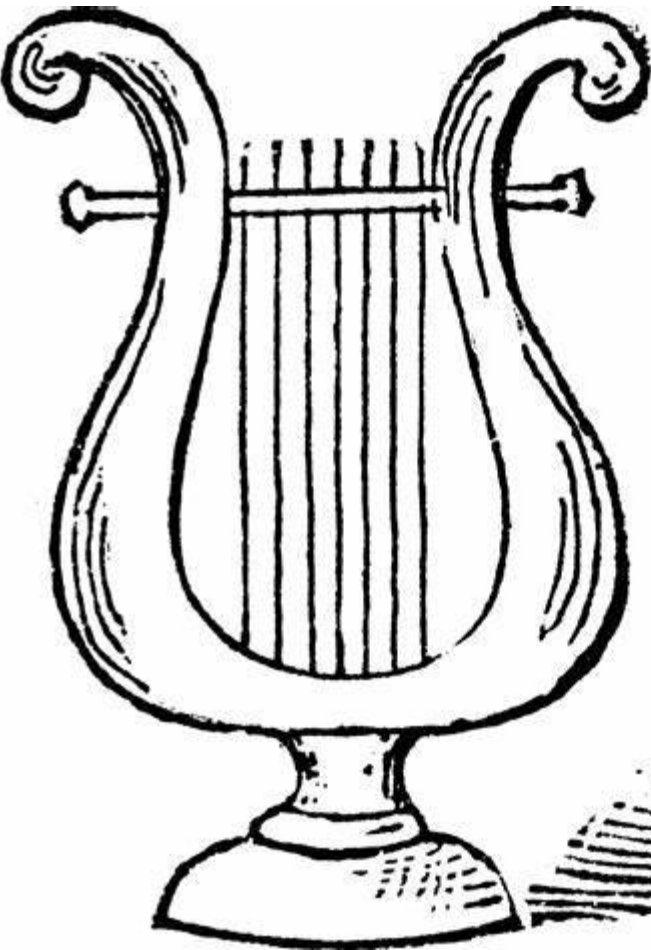
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\_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

5-9 years

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego and colouring sheets*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another, colouring on another, spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a city, a throne, a sheep field, a poor house and a rich palace.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. When David realised he had done wrong and he could not hide it from God, what did he do?
2. What did God do in response?
3. How can we say sorry and repent? When can we do it?