

Lesson 4.26: David - God's Choice

Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Leaders – Character Traits

2A- Prayer and Worship

4E- Leadership and Power

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** Students will list at least three character traits of David that would help them be a good leader. **Attitude:** Students will desire to have inward holiness and devotion to God.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book and pencil

Bibles or copies of selected Scriptures

*Optional:* various pictures of people; news articles about leaders

References: I Samuel 16:1-13 & I Samuel 17:32-37; Psalms 23, 51:7-13, Psalms 27:1-5; Psalms 26

Memory Verse: James 1:5

Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** Say, "Let's make a list of characteristics you would want to see in a king or president."

**Bible Story:** 1) Have students present the skit (see *Notes*).

2) Ask students what God was looking for in a leader.

3) Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a scripture passage about David. (The Psalms were written by David.) They are to list characteristics of David.

**Application:** Read the memory verse. Ask what kinds of things God looks for in a leader. Have students write three characteristics of David they want to demonstrate in their own life.

**Evaluation:** Do you model these leadership qualities for your students? Do the students understand that leadership characteristics have to do with the heart – not just outward appearances?

Student Activities

**Introduction:** Students list characteristics of a king as the teacher writes them on the board.

**Bible Story:** 1) Students act out the skit  
2) *Answer:* God was looking for a person with a heart that loved and obeyed God.  
3) Students search the scripture passage to learn characteristics of David and his relationship to God.

**Application:**

Write in their exercise book three characteristics of leadership that they want to develop in their own life.

**Evaluation:** Did the class name several character traits of David that God would want to see in leaders? Were students able to list three characteristics of leaders that they want to develop in their own lives?

**Extension Activities:** *Song:* Sing *Only A Boy Named David* (available in *Wee Sing Bible Songs* by Pamela Conn Beall, Susan Hagen Nipp (Penguin Putnam Inc., 2006)

*Art:* Have students draw pictures inspired by the Psalms or by the story of Goliath

*Leaders in the News:* Have news clippings about world leaders. Let students look at the articles and decide what characteristics the leaders are demonstrating.

*Memory verse:* Have students practice saying the verse from memory by saying it to a partner. They just need to learn the last sentence of the verse.

*People and Appearances.* You will pictures of people with different clothing and hairstyles. For example, someone in a business suit, someone in jeans and T-shirt, some with dirty, torn clothing. Show each picture and ask the students what they think this person is like. Discuss how we often judge people by how they look but God judges us by our heart.

### Notes for Teacher

This important lesson helps students realize that David's humble trust in God and love for God made him the perfect choice for king. His humility also made him brave because He trusted in God to help him whether he was facing a lion, a giant or angry King Saul. We will continue studying David in the next lesson with the story of David and Goliath.

Analyzing the scriptures for leadership characteristics and the newspaper activity in the Extension section both require students to use higher level thinking skills (analysis and evaluation). These activities are important in developing problem solving skills. Students may come up with excellent answers that are different than those suggested in the lesson notes.

Key Point: God is not looking for the same things that people look for in a leader. He is looking for heart characteristics like integrity, love for God, obedience and courage.

Bible Story: Tell the story of how David was chosen as king or use the skit which is at the end of this lesson. Ask the class what God looks for in a leader. (God looks at the heart. He wants someone who loves God and will obey Him; someone with integrity and courage.)

Divide your students into groups of 3-4 and assign each group one of the scripture passages (I Samuel 17:32-37; Psalms 23, 51:7-13, Psalms 27:1-5; Psalms 26). If you do not have much time, choose one passage and do it together as a class. As they study the scripture they are to find out what they can about David's character and David's relationship to God. Have the groups report their answers. List things God might see in David's heart. Possible answers are:

- Love for God
- Integrity
- Courage or Brave
- Confidence in God's help
- Wants to be holy
- Loves to Worship
- Trusts in God's protection
- Humility

Compare the first list the class made to this list. How are the things that people look at different than the things God looks for? This would be a good time to review Servant Leadership (Lesson 4.18).

Application: Have students write in their exercise book three characteristics of leadership (from those listed for David) that they want to develop in their own life. For each characteristic have the students write one thing they can do now to start developing that leadership characteristic.

### Skit: David is Chosen as King

Voice of God: Samuel, How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as King. Get some olive oil and go to Bethlehem to Jesse's house because I have chosen one of his sons to be king.

Samuel: I can't do that. If Saul finds out I anointed someone else as king in his place, he will kill me.

Voice of God: Take a calf and say you are there to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice and then I'll tell you what to do when you get there.

City Leader(s): Sir, are you coming in peace?

Samuel: Yes. I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and you can come too. I want Jesse and his sons to come, also.  
(Jesse and his sons arrive)

Samuel: Jesse, introduce me to your sons.

Jesse: This is my oldest son, Eliab.

Samuel: (looking up like he is talking to God): Hey, Eliab is a good looking young man, and tall and strong too. I bet he's the one you had in mind.

Voice of God: No, he's not the one. Don't look at how tall or strong or good looking he is. I have rejected Eliab because I don't judge by looks. I look at a man's heart.

Samuel: Let's meet your next son, Jesse.

Jesse: This is Abinadab.

Samuel: No, the Lord hasn't chosen him either.  
(Jesse brings the rest of his sons forward one by one and Samuel shakes his head at each one.)

Samuel: Aren't there any more sons?

Jesse: There is still the youngest but he is out taking care of the sheep.

Samuel: Tell him to come here. We won't offer any sacrifices until he comes.

Jesse (to one of the sons): Go get your brother and tell him to clean up before he comes in.

David: (entering) You wanted me, Father?

Voice of God: This is the one—anoint him!

Samuel (pretending to pour oil over David's head): I anoint you to be the next king over Israel.