

## David

**Theme:** God equips us with the things we need.

**On arrival:** You may like to get the children to decorate stones (see Prayer activity later).

**Games:** I went on a journey; The children sit in a circle and one starts by saying "I went on journey and I took with me ..... ". The next child then says "I went on a journey and I took with me (whatever the first child said)", then adds an item of their own, and so on around the circle each child adding a new item each time.

**Games:** Object Race; Divide the children into teams. The leader then calls out an object. From each team, one child at a time goes to find the object and bring it to the leader i.e. a shoe, a pen, a watch etc. The first child with the object gets a point for their team.

**Introduction/Games:** Ball and sock target game; Divide the children into teams. Each team will need an old sock, a small soft ball and a giant. A picture of the giant is in the resources and can be stuck onto a large plastic bottle. With the ball in the sock, the children take it in turns to aim at the giant to see if they can knock him down.

**Story:** This story comes from 1 Samuel chapter 17. **Please use the story in the resources section as it is to be read from the perspective of the child.** You may like to ask a child to read it in character.

**Song:** I'm gonna jump up and down (Be Happy). (Lovely Jubby, Doug Horley)

**Memory Verse:** "In his grace God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." (NLT) Romans 12 verse 6. Use the code in the resources.

**Application:** David said he thought he was only good at two things. What were they? He also didn't think he could use his skills to do anything great when he got older. But in fact, he did something quite amazing. What did he do? It's the same for us, we don't always think the things we can do are very important. But as we grow up, we often find that when we need to do something that may look hard we find that God has already equipped us with the skills or provided us with what we need to complete the task.

**Prayer:** Pre-make a target with five rings. Each ring has a different kind of prayer in it i.e. praise, thank you, sorry, others and please. Sit the children around the target and give out some small stones or use the stones they decorated on arrival. The children then take it in turns to roll their stone onto the target, where it stops is the prayer they pray. (Be flexible the child may already have a prayer in mind.)

**Resources:** Story, memory verse, and funsheet.

*Adapted from 1 Samuel Chapter 17*

## David

Hi, I'm David. The youngest son of an important man named Jesse and I have six brothers. Their names are, Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Nethanel, Raddai, Ozem and wasn't that a mouthful - even I struggle sometimes.

Well anyway, we all live in a beautiful little town called Bethlehem, you may have heard of it. My Dad, Jesse is an elder there; that means he gets to make important decisions about the city and the people living there. But I don't get to go into the town much these days because I'm too busy working hard for my Dad, looking after his sheep. I don't mind though, because it feels really good to be outside amongst all the wonderful things that God has made, like the trees, the flowers and the animals.

It's also a great opportunity, when there's not much going on to practise playing my harp. I'm getting quite good at it now, I've even started making up my own songs so that I can praise God for all He does and the things He has made. In fact, I'm working on one now, it tells of green pastures and still waters but it's not quite finished yet. It would be great if one day other people could sing just one of the songs that I've written. My brothers think I'm a bit of a dreamer, but you never know.

Some of them thought I wouldn't be a very good shepherd because they said I was too small to use the slingshot correctly. To prove them wrong, I would get up early every morning to practise.

At first the stone would go everywhere, but I soon got the hang of it and began hitting large rocks and trees. After a few more weeks of practising I was able to hit almost anything.

It was not long before I was able to show off my new skill. Dad and two of my brothers were bringing me some lunch. They arrived just in time to see me frightening off a wild dog with my sling. Dad said he was proud of how well I was looking after his sheep.

So that's me. I'm David and I'm a shepherd. I'm good with a sling and I love to praise God. Not much really. Someone said to me once that all the things we learn when we are young help us to do important things for God later. I can't see myself using a sling for anything other than being a shepherd, but I guess I'll have to wait and see.

David Memory Verse.

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