

**LESSON AIM:**

David was once a shepherd of sheep, but God appointed him as a shepherd of His people because David was loyal to God. David talked to God and walked with God, and was known as “a man after God’s own heart”, or a man who God loved greatly!

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** I Samuel 16-24

**REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1) What was the name of the shepherd that fought the giant?
- 2) Who was the prophet that anointed David as the future King?
- 3) What does the Lord look at when He sees us?
- 4) Review last week’s verse; have students explain it in their own words.

**INTRODUCTION:**

- So what does it mean to be a “man after God’s own heart”? What does that look like?
- Two things:
  - Character – what God sees when others are not looking.**
  - Reputation – how others see us, what we are known for.**
- In order to have a relationship with someone, you’ve got to communicate.
- David had a special relationship with God because he:
  - 1) Talked to God.
  - 2) He worshipped God
  - 3) He wrote about God. (*We can read what he wrote about in the book of Psalms*)

**LESSON:**

As you remember from last week, David began his public career with a one-on-one victory over the nine foot Philistine giant named Goliath. David became instantly popular because of this, but He knew it was the Lord who gave him the victory.

After beating the Philistine, David went to live in King Saul’s palace. But King Saul became extremely jealous of David to the point where he hunted him down and tried to kill him. Saul made it his life goal to kill David, but he never succeeded and was killed on the battlefield. David spent years running and hiding from King Saul, but eventually he finally became King! David accomplished much once he was King. He made Jerusalem the capital, brought the Ark of the Covenant there to stay, created a strong army and conquered the Philistines, he wrote most of the Psalms, and he ruled for 40 years. David always walked with God and he learned from his mistakes. David didn’t suddenly become great. It was a long process. Along the way he sinned and God forgave him when David confessed his sin and asked forgiveness.

As you may recall from our last lesson about David we learned how God chose David to be the next King of Israel. What did our memory verse say that God looks at? (*The inner man, or the heart*) God had rejected Saul as king because he refused to repent; he would not confess his sin. But David had a soft heart toward God, and when he sinned, he repented and asked for God's forgiveness.

Before he was King, do you remember what David did everyday? He was a Shepherd and had a lot of spare time taking care of the sheep. He learned a lot about God and people as he cared for the sheep. The Bible says that "we like sheep go astray" and sheep need a shepherd! Sheep are really the only animal that cannot survive on their own. They have to be sheared because their wool gets so heavy that they can roll over and never get up. If they eat bad weeds, their stomach gasses up and they lie down and can't get up. If they get parasites on their head or in their eyes, they will literally bash their head against a tree until they bleed or become unconscious. They are known to wander and often the shepherd finds them isolated and in grave danger on a cliff or in a crevice in the rocks and need to be rescued. As sheep are dependent on the shepherd, God wants us to be dependant on Him.

### **Lessons from David's life:**

- **I Sam 17:43-46** David knew that size didn't matter. What matters is that you trust the Lord completely! Because he loved and trusted the Lord fully, he was able to face the giant, and defeat him!
- **I Sam 18:14** David behaved wisely in all his ways.
- **I Sam 18:11** David was pursued by a jealous King Saul. He was anointed to be King by Samuel, but he didn't actually rule as king until many years later.
- **I Sam 23:10** David sought wisdom from the Lord.
- **I Sam 24:12** Saul tried to kill David, but David refused to kill Saul, that was God's business. He was anointed to be King over Israel and in God's time he would reign.

God starts training us for our big challenges in life from day one. We too learn as we go. Pay attention to things you are learning now from church, Released Time, school, home, sports and relationships with others. You might not be a king, but you are being trained for very important work God has for you to do! When you seek the Lord, He will equip you and help you conquer all fear.

Let's take some time right now and ask God to help equip us for what He wants you to do. Ask Him to help you have good character and a good reputation among others.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

**(Every year):**

**"I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears."  
Psalm 34:4**