God’s Big Story: The Shepherd King

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| scripture focus |
| 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 7 |

big picture

Moses’ successor, Joshua, led the Israelites over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. They settled down, built cities, and began asking for a king to rule them. Even though their request was a rejection of God as their king (they wanted to be like the nations around them), God still responded to them in a way that furthered God’s plan to rescue and redeem all people. God chose a young shepherd named David to become Israel’s king, because David had a heart that was open to God and to God’s love. After David became king God made an incredible, unconditional promise to him: that the line of kings that began with David would be established forever, no matter what happened. Sure enough, one of David’s great-great-great-great-great grandsons would become the king who showed us what it means to rule with an open heart of love. David’s descendent, Jesus, was the good shepherd-king who offered abundant life to all people, who laid down his life for his sheep. He inaugurated an upside-down kingdom in which the first become last, the hungry are filled, and death itself is swallowed up in life.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* p.116-121, 130-135 (“The Teeny, weenie…true king” & “The Good Shepherd”)*Psalms for Young Children:*Psalms 23, 47, 104, 108, 150 | 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 7John 10:1-18Psalms 21, 23, 45, 72, 132 |
| discuss/ ask | What do you think of when you think of a king? Who are kings that you’ve read about or seen in movies or shows?What do you think about when you think of a shepherd? What does a shepherd do? Do you think a shepherd would make a good king? Why or why not?Why do you think that God chose little David, the shepherd-boy, to be king – and not David’s big and strong brothers?What do you think it means to have a heart like God’s? Do you know anybody who has a heart like God’s? How could your heart become like God’s?How to do think a good king is like a shepherd?What promise did God make to David?Jesus, David’s great-great-great-great-great grandson, is our shepherd-king. In what ways is Jesus like a shepherd? What kind of a king is Jesus? |
| do together | Jesus became the shepherd-king who searched for and rescued lost sheep. Play a game of hide and seek (or “hide and sheep”!), where the shepherd (seeker) goes out to find and gather the lost sheep. Like King David did, try writing a psalm together as a family: tell God how you feel, what you praise God for, how God has saved you in the past, and how you need God to help you now. |