



JUDGES
AND
KINGS



WINTER 01

DECEMBER 07, 2025

LESSON TEXT

I Samuel 16-17

FOCUS VERSES

I Samuel 16:1, 13

'And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

.....
¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

TRUTH ABOUT COVENANT

Jesus is the Son of David, fulfilling the covenantal promises spoken to David.

David and Goliath

I AM
WHO
GOD SAYS
I AM.

COVENANT CONTEXT

At the end of last quarter, we saw how King Saul's pride and rebellion eventually cost him the throne. As we continue through the Historical Books of the Bible, we discover God was already establishing His new covenant with David. God kept His promise that David would always have a descendant on the throne through the man Christ Jesus, who was heralded in the New Testament as the Son of David.

SG *TEACHING OUTLINE*

Icebreaker: Have you ever met someone famous without knowing who he or she was?

Teacher Tip: Connect the group's answers to illustrate how God sees in us what others may not see, much like He saw in David.

Lesson Connection: Share the Lesson Connection. **I**

I. GOD'S NEW PLAN OF REDEMPTION

DISCUSS: *Why is it difficult for us to understand God sees the past, present, and future at the same time?*

- A. Samuel's Trip to Jesse's House
- B. Overlooked

DISCUSS: *What must it have felt like to be overlooked when Samuel came? What must it have felt like to be anointed king anyway?*

- C. I will keep my heart humble so God can call me to great things for His glory. **V**

II. DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

- A. David's Anointing
- B. David's Run to the Battlefield
- C. I will trust God to walk with me as I face my enemies.

DISCUSS: *How can we choose faith over fear and trust God to defeat our "Goliaths"?*

III. JESUS IS THE SON OF DAVID

- A. God's Covenant with David
- B. The Son of David
- C. As Jesus calls and empowers me, I will declare His new covenant.

DISCUSS: *What will you do today to tell others about the Son of David, Jesus Christ, who still rules and reigns in the hearts of His people?*

Internalizing the Message

PRAYER FOCUS

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- For God to give us a fresh appreciation for being in covenant relationship with Him
- For God to help us recognize open doors to introduce others to the Son of David

LESSON CONNECTION

History is replete with individuals who, despite making significant and even world-changing contributions to society, are largely forgotten or overlooked. Their names do not resonate with most. At best they are a coveted answer to a question on a trivia night. Though their brilliance, bravery, or abilities impacted people around them, time has caused their names to fade unfairly from prominence.

- ❑ Consider Percy Julian. He was an African-American chemist living under the injustices of Jim Crow laws in the United States. Yet his profound abilities led him to be a pioneer in developing synthesized pharmaceuticals from plant-based resources. Most people treated for arthritis or glaucoma have benefited from his genius but probably could not recite his name.

Have you heard of Ada Lovelace, the English mathematician from the early 1800s? Likely, hardly anyone knows her name today, but we all benefit from her ideas. She is often referred to as the first computer programmer, as she wrote about how a machine (an early “computer” called the Analytical Engine) could follow a series of simple instructions to perform complex tasks. Today the results of her work touch every aspect of our lives, but she is largely unknown to us.

What about Sybil Ludington? Have you ever heard of her? She was only sixteen years old on the night she rode, similar to Paul Revere, to alert Boston that the British were coming. In fact, she rode twice as far as her more famous counterpart. The famed poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized Revere’s courage in “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.” No similar work was created for Sybil Ludington.

The list goes on and on. Charles Drew developed the method for safely storing blood for transfusions. Pieter van den Broeck first introduced coffee to Western culture by smuggling it into Europe from Yemen. Eugène-Francois Vidocq of France was the father of multiple modern forensic investigative techniques still used by law enforcement. With profound courage, Nancy Wake led the seven-thousand-member French Resistance against the Nazis in World War II.

Names shape history. Within the framework of God’s kingdom, one such name is David. Instead of fading from prominence over time, God has ordained David’s kingdom to be an everlasting one. No, David’s natural heirs have not occupied a physical throne from his day until now, but one of his descendants still reigns with unchallenged authority. Jesus Christ, the Son of David, bears a name to which every knee will bow.

When God established the throne of David, the covenant forged with him was everlasting. The Christ child was born in Bethlehem specifically because He was of the “house and lineage of David” (Luke 2:4). By Jesus’ name having been exalted high above all other names, the name of David is also preserved throughout eternity, for this Son of his lineage reigns forever. The covenant of David remains in effect through the person of Jesus Christ. Through the gospel, we too share in these beautiful covenantal benefits.

BIBLE LESSON

I. GOD'S NEW PLAN OF REDEMPTION

God lives outside of time. He has always been, which remains one of the most difficult characteristics of God for us to comprehend. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2). Since He exists in this transcendent way, God’s knowledge of all things is unlimited. He does not see the world’s history unfolding day by day as we experience it. To Him it is one story told simultaneously. He can declare the end right as the first page is being turned. (See Isaiah 46:10.)

That is why nothing takes Him by surprise. He is never without a plan. When Saul—the man who was first crowned king in Israel’s monarchy—made shipwreck of his life and reign, God was already prepared to move forward with a new plan and a new man who would rule over Israel. Through this new king, God’s plan to redeem humanity from our sins was about to unfold.

DISCUSS: *Why is it difficult for us to understand God sees the past, present, and future at the same time?*

A. Samuel’s Trip to Jesse’s House

Had Saul kept his heart humble toward God, the Lord would have enabled him to lead Israel successfully. Regrettably, his self-will and recurring resistance to God and God’s plan resulted in Samuel’s chilling declaration against Saul: “Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king” (1 Samuel 15:23). Immediately Samuel’s heart was broken. No true spiritual leader relishes delivering words of judgment, and Samuel was no exception.

But God’s plan to redeem the nation and the world would move ahead without Saul’s involvement, so God directed Samuel accordingly: “How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons” (1 Samuel 16:1). This time, God would not choose a king who looked regal by man’s standards (like Saul), but one whose heart reflected the very nature of God. The new king would be God’s ideal servant for such a position.

B. Overlooked

When Samuel arrived at Jesse’s house with a horn of oil, we can only imagine the excited conversations that buzzed through the household. “The next king of the nation? One of our own?” Pride and ambition swirled through Jesse’s Bethlehem home as the seven sons present that day began to posture and dream. One by one, from the eldest to the youngest, they passed before Samuel, each with his own qualities that might make him the one to soon feel the weight of the crown. Yet one by one, each son was rejected by the voice of God.

Samuel was confused. He asked if there was another son somewhere. The family reluctantly mentioned the youngest. David was not even deemed worthy for this significant moment. He was left out in the pasture tending sheep while his siblings lined up for their chance at greatness. Some scholars have speculated that he may have been an illegitimate son. It is not possible to know, but we can be certain that the one people rejected was the one God chose. When David entered the room, God spoke yet again: “Arise, anoint him: for this is he” (1 Samuel 16:12). Imagine the gasps of surprise when the elderly prophet turned the horn of oil upside down over David’s head. But God could see in David’s heart what others could not. God is never surprised.

DISCUSS: *What must it have felt like to be overlooked when Samuel came? What must it have felt like to be anointed king anyway?*

C. I will keep my heart humble so God can call me to great things for His glory.

Since God is unchanging, what He looks for in people He can use does not change either. Individuals equipped and positioned for greatness in God’s kingdom are humble enough to recognize their consistent dependence on God. God chose Saul when he was “little” in his own sight. (See 1 Samuel 15:17.) But God rejected Saul when his arrogance drove him to ignore God’s commandments. David was selected because his heart was right toward God, and he was a humble shepherd, not demanding his own way.

- ✓ The lesson is clear for us and is in perfect harmony with the admonition in the New Testament Book of 1 Peter. Would you do a great work for our great God? “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6). Anyone God exalts and promotes must come to God humble and stay humble.

II. DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

A. David’s Anointing

David’s destiny was never in question. God firmly established it when He dispatched Samuel to Jesse’s home with the anointing oil. God sent Samuel there specifically to anoint the one who would follow Saul on the throne of Israel: the shepherd-who-would-one-day-be-king, David. There was no ambiguity or confusion. Samuel immediately obeyed the word of God and turned the horn of oil upon David’s head. This act was more than mere symbolism. Something spiritual occurred in that moment that confirmed this action: “And the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward” (1 Samuel 16:13).

As David walked back from his father’s house to the sheep under his care, he could feel a new and profound touch of God’s power on him that would enable him to one day lead God’s people, perhaps like he had been leading his father’s sheep. The anointing was not merely oil on his head; it had spiritually saturated his heart. But how was this going to happen? Saul still held the scepter. The army was still at his disposal. No imminent change of regency appeared to be on the horizon. Still the promises of God never fail and His timing is perfect. David could not have imagined the “giant” steps God would ask him to take to get to the throne.

B. David's Run to the Battlefield

Long-standing enemies of God's people were once again trespassing in Israel with their army. Overlooking a valley in Judah, the mighty army of the Philistines was arrayed for battle on one side, while Saul's army cowered on the other. The reason for their timidity was over nine feet tall. Goliath, a mountain of a man, marched boldly out into the valley each morning and evening challenging Israel to send out any man of their choosing to fight him one-on-one and to let that outcome decide the entire battle. For almost seven weeks, not one of God's people had come forward.

Meanwhile in Bethlehem, David's father sent David to check on his three oldest brothers in the battle—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah. Upon arriving and hearing the verbal threats of this pagan Philistine, David's actions distinguished him from the rest of the army. They ran away from the challenge; David ran toward it. Goliath was armed to the teeth: a helmet of brass, coat of armor, bronze armor on his legs, bronze javelin between his shoulders, massive spear, and a shield bearer who went in front of him.

David was armed only with a simple sling and five smooth stones, but he held within his heart an unshakable faith in his unfailing God. David ran toward the mighty man of war, trusting in the power and the name of the Lord. David slung the stone, watched the monster fall, and used Goliath's sword to take off his own head. The entire nation enjoyed the fruits of David's faith. His triumph over Goliath remains one of the most iconic moments in the life of any biblical personality. A mere stone may have embedded itself into Goliath's forehead, but a lasting touchstone of God's purpose in David's life was established at that moment.

C. I will trust God to walk with me as I face my enemies.

Facing our enemies with confidence should not be so difficult, given that God's record is perfect. We cannot point to any time in our lives when God has failed any one of us. Consequently, you would think trusting God would be easy, but it is not. Sometimes we fall prey to the trap of comparing ourselves to the giant rather than comparing the giant to our God. Since God is directing our steps, we can boldly conquer any enemy, knowing that the one we trust is mightier than the one we face. Choose to trust God rather than your fears. Even if there is not a host of witnesses for your victory like David had, the "great cloud of witnesses" will celebrate every time every one of your "Goliaths" fall.

DISCUSS: *How can we choose faith over fear and trust God to defeat our "Goliaths"?*

III. JESUS IS THE SON OF DAVID

A. God's Covenant with David

Kings rose and fell quickly in ancient Israel and Judah. Their longest-serving king was Manasseh, who reigned fifty-five years (II Kings 21:1), in sharp contrast to Zimri, who only ruled for seven days (I Kings 16:15). Given the royal turnover rate, this promise of God to David may have seemed quite peculiar: "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever" (II Samuel 7:16).

God entered a new covenant relationship with David which would never end. David's descendants would sit on the throne forever. On its face, this promise appears to have lapsed, as Jeroboam (the first king of the Northern Kingdom) was not of David's lineage at all. All the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah were, yet their reigns ended when Babylon captured the nation of Judah as prisoners of war. At a glance, the "forever" throne of David seemed to have ended.

DISCUSS: Recall a time when you thought God had not kept His promise. How did He show you His faithfulness?

B. The Son of David

However, the promise to David of an everlasting covenant did not reference an earthly kingdom. The Messiah would arise from David's descendants, and Jesus Christ's throne is indeed eternal. When Mary miraculously conceived and gave birth to Jesus Christ, a son of David received a crown that would never be displaced. He has no successor and He will never abdicate His throne. He rules a vastly different kingdom, for it is resident inside His believers. Jesus taught: "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). In this New Covenant—this new spiritual kingdom—there is but one King, and He is the offspring of David. Jesus Christ, the Savior, is the fulfillment of God's eternal covenant He faithfully made with David.

C. As Jesus calls and empowers me, I will declare His new covenant.

As citizens of this new Kingdom, our mission is to tell everyone about our King. We are commissioned to inform everyone that David's son, Jesus Christ, reigns in the hearts of those who trust in Him. He offers forgiveness of sins and redemption through His royal mercy and grace. No king is like our King, and we, His servants, are called to proclaim His message to the world.

DISCUSS: What will you do today to tell others about the Son of David, Jesus Christ, who still rules and reigns in the hearts of His people?



Teacher Option: Tell the story below or share one of your own to illustrate our responsibility to tell our world who Jesus is.

INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

George W. Bush, the forty-third president of the United States, tells a delightful story about his interaction with an elderly lady in his home state of Texas. While campaigning for re-election in 2004, he stopped by a nursing home where he chatted for a while with a sweet, white-haired lady in a wheelchair. While extremely kind, the dear lady did not seem to indicate any awareness of who President Bush was. Gently, he asked, “Ma’am, do you know who I am?” She replied, “No, honey, but just ask at the desk. They’ll know.”

I wonder how different the interaction would have been if someone had simply introduced her to “W.” No matter where she stood politically, she likely would have told all her friends and family about her interaction with someone so significant in American history. She might have even had a request or two to make of the most powerful man in the free world. Instead, she simply considered him another polite stranger who stopped by to chat for a bit.

So many around us do not know who Jesus is. They may be aware of Him from a historical perspective, they may even be able to recite select facts regarding His birth, and they may know what Easter truly celebrates. They may go to church regularly, but many do not understand the full significance of who He is and all He can do. They need someone to introduce them.

That is our responsibility. We are to let people know that Jesus is more than simply a good example or a wise teacher. He was the incarnation of the only God, and as such He was both David’s father and David’s son. He declared: “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star” (Revelation 22:16).

If people understood that Jesus Christ is the embodiment and fulfillment of an everlasting covenant with David, they just might exercise faith to ask something of Him. What a shame for someone not to understand that Jesus can forgive sins. He can heal our bodies and minds. He still binds up broken hearts. He is the one who provides for every need. And though they may not understand it fully, He loves each one of us unconditionally.

In keeping with His covenant He made with David, God Himself reigns on the throne forever as Jesus Christ. John recorded the wonder and splendor of all he saw while he was exiled on the Isle Patmos: “And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne” (Revelation 4:2). That one must be made known to all. Each believer should purpose to introduce someone in his or her world to the Son of David: Jesus Christ.