




Christian
Concepts
for Kids

Monthly Bible Study & Character-Building
Lesson Plans
for Families & Christian Educators
of Elementary-Aged Children

December 2017

Theme:
2 Samuel



“Let your light shine!”
- Philip Palmer

Message from Karen



Photo by: Grace:
my "bundle of sunshine"
granddaughter

If we look at King David's life, we see a man whose major sins were adultery and murder. Yet he was still called "a man after God's own heart."

Throughout his life, he often sought God's guidance. Before he went to war, he asked God if it was okay. He prayed to and relied on God when he was a shepherd and large animals threatened the sheep. He did the same when he faced the giant that threatened Israel's people.

David's relationship with God was one of trust. He trusted God when he was in fear for his life as King Saul and his army were seeking to kill him. David trusted God's guidance when he became king of God's chosen people.

David's heart focused on God's plans and desires. He truly wanted to be within God's will.

David was still a human and a sinner, like all of us. But David was different from most people, because his guidance came from God. His desire was to please God and be within God's will for his life and the nation of Israel.

When we focus on our relationship with God, trust Him, and put His plans and desires first, we become people after God's own heart.

Great Quotes!

"Beloved, it's not enough that you know that God loves everyone. You need to know and believe that He loves you, and let that revelation burn in your heart, especially when you fail." - Paul Silway

"Imagine how much a man's life would change if he trusted that he was loved by God." - Donald Miller

"No matter what storm you face, you need to know that God loves you. He has not abandoned you." - Franklin Graham

"God loves us too much to indulge our every whim." - Max Lucado

"If you know that God loves you, you should never question a directive from Him. It will always be right and best. When He gives you a directive, you are not just to observe it, discuss it, or debate it. You are to obey it." - Henry Blackaby

Theme for
Next Month:

1 Kings

Credits

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Just A Thought

Paulette Gobel

Great Quotes

Paul Silway

Donald Miller

Max Lucado

Henry Blackaby

Thank you! This issue would not be possible without you.

Submissions

If you have a lesson, activity, craft, or other item that you would like to submit for consideration for publishing in a future issue, please download the submission form on our website and send it with your submission.

There is no monetary compensation for submissions; but if your submission is selected for a publication, you will be listed as a contributor for the issue in which your submission is published.

We are also accepting submissions for Parent's Corner - A column for parents to send in their funny stories, parenting ideas, or other helpful ideas they want to share.

For consideration for publication in a future issue for Parent's Corner, please download the submission form on our web site and send it with your submission.

You can find the form on our web site: www.ChristianConceptsForKids.com

Family Fun Activity: Family Frames

Being part of a family is a special gift. Being a Christian enjoins us to God's family, a really special family to be part of!

Our earthly family is pretty special as well. Families are made up of different people God chooses to put in our lives. He has purposes for relationships, just like He has purposes for our individual lives.

When we are thankful for our relationships, we are showing respect for God's choices. We learn from each other, pray for each other, and point each other to Jesus in times of blessing and times of trials.

This activity helps us remember to be thankful for the relationships in our lives.



Making the Family Frames!

Items Needed:

General: Old Magazines and/or Front Covers for Cards (birthday, Christmas, get well, etc.), Bowl, Water, and School Glue

Per Family Member: 1 Large Paper Grocery Bag, Paintbrush, Scissors, and 1 Wooden Frame (Frames can be created with large craft sticks.)

Instructions:

- Each family member will use the paper bag to protect the table. This can get messy!
- Each family member will cut out pictures from cards and/or magazines; they will each need more than enough to cover the frame.
- Dilute some glue with water.
- Paint the diluted glue on the frame and attach the pictures to the frame.
- To create a decoupage frame, overlap the pictures on the frame.
- Completely cover the frame with the pictures.
- When all of the pictures have been painted onto the frame, paint the diluted glue mixture over all of the pictures to create a coating that will seal the pictures.
- Allow the frame to dry completely.

Family Frame Ideas

Mealtime Reminders

- Plan a special meal for your family.
- Prior to the meal, choose a great picture of each family member.
- Put each picture in a frame.
- Place the frames in different areas where the meal will be served: counters, tables, serving boards, kitchen islands, etc.
- During the meal, discuss the pictures, the events surrounding the pictures, and the great memories.
- Anyone who wants to say a prayer of Thanksgiving should be encouraged to do so.

Grateful Gatherings

- Plan a family gathering.
- Prior to the gathering, choose memorable pictures from different fun family activities.
- Put each picture in a frame.
- Place the frames in the area designated for the gathering.
- During special family gathering, bring attention to the pictures and open a discussion about the activities and the great memories.
- Anyone who wants to say a prayer of Thanksgiving should be encouraged to do so.

Devotional Doodles

God's View

Draw a picture of your God-plans.



The Challenge!

Can YOU memorize these verses?

1 Samuel 15:22

“But Samuel replied: ‘Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.’”

Acts 13:22

“After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’”

2 Samuel 5:12

“12 And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.”

2 Samuel 7:8

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel.’”

How Many

words can you find in

GOD'S PLANS AND DESIRES

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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Verses taken from The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan

Just a Thought

The Story of the Lamp

Written by: Paulette Gobel



A lady has a lamp that has been in her family since her parents were married. Her parents died many years ago. Not only is this lamp beautiful, but it also holds great sentimental value for her and she uses the lamp every evening. Let's call her Mary.

Mary does not know that a wire inside the lamp has become frayed and could possibly cause a shock or start a fire. One day the lamp falls from its place and the beautiful base is broken. Mary is distraught. Why couldn't something else have been broken?

She begins to seek the very best lamp mender and takes it to be repaired. He tells her he will be able to repair it but it may take a little time and to check with him in a few weeks. When Mary returns to the shop she sees her lamp sitting on a shelf, but it is still broken. She is angry with the man and asks why her lamp has not been repaired. He tells her that he found a very frayed wire and he has repaired that but she will have to wait a little longer for him to fix the base. He even tells her she is lucky to have had the wire repaired before it caused a fire or a bad shock.

Sometimes when we ask God for things, we are like Mary. We see only one thing that is wrong and we ask for that to be mended. We don't understand when it seems our prayers are not answered. Our Lord sees what is most important for us even when we can't. I am sure He fixes many things for us and we never know. We just see that things are a little better. Sometimes we need our cord fixed before our base! Let us trust that Jesus knows what we need most and always wants the best for us.

December's Theme: "2 Samuel"

In This Issue . . .

2 Samuel Overview

Lesson: "2 Samuel Overview" gives highlights of David's life.

Craft: "2 Samuel" Poster

Indoor Activity: Only One Chance

Outdoor Activity: Plan Your Steps

David's Faith

Lesson: "David's Faith" discusses how David's faith was a part of who he was and how he lived.

Craft: Fluffy Sheep

Indoor Activity: All Mixed Up

Outdoor Activity: Find My Sheep Relay

David's God-Plans

Lesson: "David's God-Plans" describes how he stayed faithful even when it seemed the plans would never come about.

Craft: Decorative Wreaths

Indoor Activity: Feathers Above

Outdoor Activity: Knock It Out

David's Devotion

Lesson: "David's Devotion" helps children learn what God values and how David's devotion to God helped him value the things God does.

Craft: Making Music

Indoor Activity: Bible Drill

Outdoor Activity: Pass the Bag

God's Heart

Lesson: "God's Heart" discusses why David was called a man after God's own heart and how we can seek God's heart as well.

Craft: King David Theater

Indoor Activity: Obey the Commands

Outdoor Activity: Touch Tag

Lesson: 2 Samuel Overview

Prior to Lesson

Have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.

Lesson

Say:

- First and Second Samuel were originally one book, so Second Samuel picks up where First Samuel ends.
- We read in the first chapter that Saul died.
- We also see in this first chapter David's response to Saul's death.
- Keep in mind that, for close to 15 years, Saul caused David a lot of grief.
- In First Samuel we see that on several occasions Saul tried to kill David.
- David ran and hid from the king and his army.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- How do you think David responded to Saul's death?

Read: **2 Samuel 1:11-12, 17-27** (*for younger children read only 11-12*)

Say:

- David was upset, he mourned for Saul, and he wrote a lament.
- He praised the good things that Saul had done.
- He showed respect for him because Saul was anointed by God to be the king of Israel.
- In the second chapter, David moved along in his God-plans as he sought God's plans and desires.
- God's plans included David becoming king of Israel.
- God told David to go to the town of Hebron in Judah.
- David settled there, and the men of Judah came to him and anointed him their king.
- Abner, who was the commander of Saul's army, had other plans.
- He wanted Saul's family to remain on the throne.

Read: **2 Samuel 2:8-10**

Say:

- Abner made Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, the new king of Israel.

- This divided leadership divided the nation of Israel!
- The Philistines still controlled parts of northern Israel, Ish-bosheth controlled some of the northern area, and David controlled Judah in the south.
- David ruled Judah for seven and a half years.
- In chapter five, David finally became the king over all of Israel.

Read: **2 Samuel 5:1-5**

Say:

- The first ten chapters of this book tell of David's triumphs as king.
- In chapter eleven, we see David's turn-away and terrible sin.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What was David's terrible sin?

Say:

- His terrible sin was adultery and murder.
- When the prophet Nathan confronted David about his sin, David repented.
- Because David repented, God did forgive him and spared his life.

Read: **2 Samuel 12:13-14**

Say:

- Even though he was forgiven, there was still punishment for his terrible sin.
- Nathan told David about the punishment.

Read: **2 Samuel 12:9-12**

Say:

- Just as the prophet had said, David's young son died and his other son took over the kingdom.
- This turn-away and sin was a turning point in David's life and his rule as king.
- The rest of this book describes David's struggles within his family and in the kingdom.

Final Thought:

When sin enters a person's life, God's plans for that person can still go forward. David was still king, his son ruled after him, and the promise of his throne was established forever with his descendant, Jesus.

Activities: 2 Samuel Overview

Craft: 2 Samuel Poster

Items Needed:

- General: Poster Boards, Tape, Crayons or Markers, Miscellaneous Decorations, Old Magazines, Glue, Construction Paper, Pencils, Erasers, and Scissors
- Per Child: 1 Sheet of White Paper and 1 Poster Board

Instructions:

- Give each child the supplies.
- They will each use the supplies to decorate their posters with a story from 2 Samuel.
- Tell them to use the white paper to draw what they want, make changes, and get it as close to perfect as they can.
- When they each know how they are going to decorate their poster, they will use their white paper drawings as a guide to put their creations on the poster boards.
- Each child should write the title “2 Samuel” on his or her poster.
- When they have finished their posters, each child will tell everyone about his or her poster.
- Each child will find a special spot on the wall to decorate the room with his or her poster.



Indoor Activity: Only One Chance

Items Needed:

- Several Small Objects (2 of each one)

Instructions:

- Prior to class, hide the objects around the room.
- Give each child a chance to find two objects.
- If they match, the child gets to try again.
- If they do not match, the child will place the items back in the hiding places and another child will take a turn.
- The child with the most items, when all of the items have been found, wins the game.
- While they are searching, talk to them about how God doesn't only give us one chance to get things right and how thankful we should be that He gives us second chances.

Outdoor Activity: Plan Your Steps

Items Needed: Blindfold

Instructions:

- Choose one child to be the “lion” and place the blindfold on him or her.
- Tell the other children to find a spot in which to stand.
- The “lion” will move around to catch the other children.
- If the “lion” comes close to a child, that child may move one, two, or three steps in any direction.
- Once a child has moved a total of three steps, he or she may crouch down or sway to one side or another but must not move his or her feet.
- By planning their steps carefully and not stepping until necessary, they may be able to avoid the “lion.”
- The last child to avoid the “lion” wins the game and becomes the next “lion.”

Variation:

- When the “lion” catches a child, he or she becomes the new “lion” and a new game begins.

Lesson: David's Faith

Prior to Lesson

Have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.

Lesson

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What is faith?

Say:

- The book of Hebrews answers this question.

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- Who wrote Hebrews?

Say:

- We don't know who wrote it.
- It is the only book in the New Testament that was written by an unknown author.

Read: Hebrews 11:1-2

Say:

- This chapter of Hebrews is sometimes called the Hall of Faith, because it mentions many people who had great faith.
- The writer mentions David as one of these "great faith" people.
- David was loyal to God, a man after God's own heart.

Read: Acts 13:21-22

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- Did David need faith in God to be loyal to God?
- Is faith needed to be a person seeking God's heart?
- Why or why not?

Say:

- David had to have faith in God to talk to Him.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- Would you talk to God if you thought He wasn't real?
- Does faith help you trust God?
- Would you ask for God's advice or care about His plans and desires if you didn't trust Him?

Say:

- Faith is confidence that God is listening to us, cares for us, and has wonderful plans for us.

Read: Jeremiah 29:11

Say:

- David had faith in God.
- Because of his faith, he relied on God when he needed help as a shepherd.

Read: 1 Samuel 17:34-37

Say:

- David shared his faith with those around him when he and his friends were in fear for their lives because the king of their country wanted them dead.

Read: Psalm 57 (for younger children read verses 1-3)

Say:

- David relied on his faith when he needed wisdom, guidance, grace, peace, and forgiveness.
- Our faith is measured by our confidence in God.

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- Do you have faith that God is real?
- Does that faith give you confidence that God has plans for you?
- Does your faith allow you to trust His plans?
- Are you confident that God loves you?
- Does your faith allow you to believe that God sent His Son, Jesus, as part of His plans for you?

Say:

- David's faith gave him confidence in God.
- David knew that God heard his prayers, cared about him, had plans for him, and loved him.
- David knew that God keeps His promises.
- David loved God and wanted to please Him.
- Our faith gives us the same thing.

Read: 1 John 5:14-15

Read: John 16:12-15

Final Thought:

Faith in Jesus begins a new life, a life of hope. Have you taken the step into this new life? If you would like to talk about this more, let me know.

For Further Study:

Read Chapter 11 of Hebrews and open a discussion about why each person was included in the Hall of Faith.

Activities: David's Faith

Craft: Fluffy Sheep

Items Needed:

- General: Large and Small Marshmallows (about 1 bag of each for every 4 to 5 children), Decorator Icing, and 1 Bag of Small Round Candy (use for eyes and nose)
- Per Child: 1 Apron (an old adult t-shirt works well as an apron), 1 Small Cup, and 1 Craft Stick

Instructions:

- Have the children put on the aprons.
- Give each child a small cup of icing and a craft stick.
- They will use the icing as glue, spreading it with the craft stick.
- Joining the marshmallows together with the icing, they will each create a sheep.
- The large marshmallows will be the sheep's body and the small marshmallows will be the sheep's legs.
- They will use the candy for the sheep's facial features.
- Open a discussion about why Jesus is called our shepherd.
- Continue the discussion about things we would need to do for sheep if we were shepherds.
 - What if a bear or wolf came near the sheep?
 - What if the sheep's pond began to run dry?
 - What if the sheep ran away?



Indoor Activity: All Mixed Up

Items Needed:

- 1 Pack of Index Cards and Pens or Pencils

Instructions:

- Divide the children into two teams.
- Have the children decide on a verse to play the game. (Both teams should use the same verse, so each team has the same number of cards to arrange.)
- On one index card, have each team write the book, chapter, and verse.
- On the other index cards, each team will write one word of the verse on each index card.
- They will mix up the cards and swap cards with the other team.
- The first team to arrange the cards in the correct order wins the game.
- Open a discussion about how reading the Bible helps us seek God's heart and know His will.

Variation:

- They could write one verse on one side of the cards and another verse on the opposite side to make the game harder.

Outdoor Activity: Find My Sheep Relay

Instructions:

- This is a relay race.
- Split the children into two groups.
- For each group, have a designated area to be the sheep's house and another area to be the lost sheep area.
- Choose one child from each team to be the shepherd, and have this child go to the sheep's house.
- The rest of the children will go to the lost sheep area.
- The shepherds will run to the lost sheep area and will each take the hand of one of the children and bring that "lost sheep" home.
- When they return home, the child who was just brought back home will run back to the lost sheep area and take the hand of another child and bring that "lost sheep" home.
- This will continue until all sheep are home with the shepherd.
- The team with all the sheep home first wins.

Lesson: David's God-Plans

Prior to Lesson

Have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.

Lesson

Say:

- Before David was anointed as king of Israel, God said He had chosen a man after His own heart.
- Some versions of the Bible say a loyal man.

Read: 1 Samuel 13:13-14

Say:

- He was a shepherd, working for his dad when God chose him to be the king of this nation!

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What do you think David thought about this future as the king?

Say:

- David's life changed, but he didn't become the king right away.
- He began playing music for the king.
- He also became an important part of the king's army.

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- Do you think he thought this would be his life? After all, he was anointed as king!

Say:

- David's life took another turn when King Saul became jealous of David's success.
- This jealousy drove the king to try to kill David.
- King Saul worked toward his own plans and desires.
- He wanted his family to carry on as rulers of the kingdom.

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- When anything conflicts with what God wants, what happens?
- Who gets what he wants in the end? *God's plans will always be fulfilled.*
- Do you think David may have been discouraged by the king's desires and plans to kill him?

Say:

- David turned to and relied on God during this time.
- God's plans for David to become king finally happened!

Read: 2 Samuel 5:3

Say:

- David relied on God to direct his life.
- He prayed often, seeking God's plans and desires.
- David's life as king was triumphant!
- The nation of Israel grew and its enemies were subdued!
- As long as David focused on God's plans and desires, life was good for the king and his kingdom.
- Sometimes people turn away from God.
- Sometimes we change our focus toward ourselves, our plans, and our desires.
- King David changed his focus.
- This turn-away began with a glance and ended in adultery and murder.
- When David repented of his sin, God forgave him, but his sin brought trouble to his family and his kingship.
- Even though David was a sinner like all of us, God's plans for David's kingship and the nation of Israel won.
- God's plans always win.
- David's descendent, Jesus, became our eternal King, just as God promised.
- God said that He chose Jeremiah and formed him before his mom was even pregnant with him.

Read: Jeremiah 29:11

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- Does God have plans for you?
- If you ask in faith, will He help you?

Read: James 1:5-7

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- Can you count on Jesus and the Holy Spirit today?

Read: John 14:12-18

Final Thought:

God knows us, loves us, and has special plans for us. He wants us to know what our God-plans are and wants us to be triumphant. Our God-plans may not always be easy or comfortable, but God will always be with us and help us through each step.

Activities: David's God-Plans

Craft: Decorative Wreaths

Items Needed:

- General: Green and Red Construction Paper and Glue
- Per Child: Scissors and 1 Pencil

Instructions:

- Each child will trace his or her hand on the green construction paper.
- Each child will trace and cut out ten to twelve hands.
- The hands will be glued together in a circle to create a wreath.
- Using the red construction paper, each child will draw and cut out a bow and circles for holly berries.
- The berries and bow will be glued to the wreath.
- Tell the children to find a great place to put the wreath as a beautiful decoration.



Indoor Activity: Feathers Above

Items Needed:

- Per Team: 1 Feather
- For Variation: 1 Feather Per Child

Instructions:

- Divide the children into teams of two or three and give each team a feather.
- Each team will keep the feather in the air using only their breath.
- The children should not allow the feather to touch their body or the floor.
- If a team allows the feather to touch the floor, they are out of the game.
- The last team with the feather in the air wins the game.

Variation:

- Instead of teams, give each child a feather to keep in the air with only their breath.

Outdoor Activity: Knock It Out

Items Needed:

- General: 1 Stick (to draw a circle on the ground) and 1 Bag of Marbles (to place in circle to begin game)
- Per Child: Several Marbles

Instructions:

- Split the children into groups of two to five.
- For each group, draw a circle on the ground and place several marbles in the center.
- Choose one child in each group to be the roller.
- From the outside of the circle, the roller will roll a marble and try to knock another marble to the outside of the circle.
- If the marble stops inside of the circle, the roller loses the marble and the next child will take a turn as the roller.
- If the rolled marble knocks any marbles out of the circle, the roller wins the marbles and the next child becomes the roller.
- When all of the marbles have been won, the child with the most marbles wins the game.
- After the game, divide the marbles among the children so they can play again, or you can allow them to keep the marbles to play with their friends and family.

Lesson: David's Devotion

Prior to Lesson

Have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.

Have a pen available that you have purchased and remember the cost of the pen.

Lesson

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What does value mean?

Say:

- It means the worth or importance we have for something.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What makes something valuable?

Say:

- We determine value for things by deciding how important they are or what they are worth to us.

Action:

- Hold up the pen.

Ask: *Allow time for comments and discussions.*

- What is the value of this pen?
- What would you give me in exchange for the pen?
- Would it be worth more if you needed the pen to sign a document claiming a large sum of money?
- What do you think God sees as valuable?

Say:

- God values all of His creations: animals, the planets and stars, mountains, bugs, us, and many other things.
- He said it was good when He created everything.

Read: Genesis 1:31

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What do you think God values the most?

Say:

- Jesus answered this with the two greatest commands.

Read: Matthew 22:37-38

Say:

- Loving God, His plans, and His desires are the most important things.
- Loving other people is second.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- Are God's most important things valuable to you?

- Why or why not?
- Do you think God values ALL people?

Read: 2 Peter 3:9

Read: John 3:16

Say:

- He does value ALL people!

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- If we value what God values, will we value all people also?
- What if someone is mean to us? Are we still supposed to love and value that person?

Read: Matthew 5:43-48

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- How can we show people that we love them and that they are valuable to us?

Say:

- When we show others that we value their company, conversation, gifts and talents, and presence, we are showing them that we love and value them.
- When we value what God values just because it's valuable to God, we are showing our devotion to Him!
- God's "What I Value List" helps us know what to put on our own "What I Value List."
- When David knew that God valued something, he valued it as well.
- He was a man who was loyal to God, a man after God's own heart.

Read: Acts 13:21-22

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What does it mean that David was loyal to God or a man after God's heart?

Say:

- David was devoted to God.
- God's desires and plans were important to him.
- God's valuable things were valuable to David.

Final Thought:

When we read the Bible, we see what God sees as valuable. We, like David, can seek wisdom and guidance from God. We can ask Him to reveal His plans and desires. We can devote ourselves to the things that are valuable to God.

Activities: David's Devotion

Craft: Making Music

Items Needed:

- General: Construction Paper, Scrap Fabric, Paint Brushes, Masking Tape, Water Cups (to rinse brushes), 1 Bag of Dried Beans, Craft Paint, Markers and Glue
- Per Child: 1 Empty Coffee Can (make sure you use the type without sharp edges)

Instructions:

- Tell the children that they will create a shaker drum.
- Give each child one can.
- Have each child put a handful of beans in his or her can, put the lid on the can, and secure the lid with tape.
- They will use the supplies to decorate their cans as they imagine the instruments played during the time King David was alive.
- After the decorations are complete, they will each stand and show everyone their creative drum shaker.

Variation:

- Acorns may be substituted for the beans.



Indoor Activity: Bible Drill

Items Needed:

- Per Child: 1 Bible

Instructions:

- Have the children line up side by side and facing the leader.
- Each child will hold the Bible upside down with the spine facing up.
- The leader will call out a book, chapter, and verse from the Bible; they will flip over their Bibles and search for the verse.
- When they find the verse, they will step forward.
- The first child to find the verse wins a point.
- The child with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Variation:

- The search can be for a certain book or chapter, depending on age and experience.

Outdoor Activity: Pass the Bag

Items Needed:

- General: 2 Beanbags

Instructions:

- Divide the children into two equal teams.
- Tell them to stand in a circle, alternating teams so that every other child is on the same team.
- Give the beanbags to two children on opposite sides of the circle and on opposing teams.
- They will pass the beanbags around the circle to members of their own team.
- The first team to pass their beanbag around the circle wins the game.

Variations:

- Pass the beanbag around more than one time.
- One team will pass the bag around to the right and the other team will pass the bag around to the left.

Lesson: God's Heart

Prior to Lesson

Have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.

Lesson

Say:

- The Bible tells us that we shouldn't judge others.

Read: **Matthew 7:1-5**

Ask: Allow time for discussions.

- What does it mean to judge others?

Say:

- Judging is viewing another person's faults.
- We might feel that this other person is not worthy of our love, our time, our resources, or being around us.
- If I see that I am a sinner, I will then see my need for God's grace and forgiveness.

Read: **Romans 3:21-26**

Say:

- We have all sinned, turning away from God's plans and desires.
- But God's plans and love always win!
- His love provided a plan to fix our sins.

Ask: Allow time for discussions.

- What did God's love provide for our sins? *Jesus*

Read: **John 3:16**

Say:

- Jesus' gift is the only thing that makes us righteous.
- We can't brag that our sins are more forgiven or that our sins are less bad.

Read: **Romans 3:27-28**

Say:

- Our salvation rests in our faith in Jesus alone.
- Jesus makes us worthy.
- When we are forgiven, we have access to God.
- Our prayers of faith give us the confidence that God hears our prayers.

- David wanted to know God's plans and desires.
- He prayed for guidance from God many times before he took the first step.
- David did right by Saul, even though Saul was trying to kill him.
- David did right by Saul's family when he took care of Saul's grandson.
- David was a sinner who tried to focus on God's plans and desires.
- He was loyal to God, a man after God's own heart.

Read: **Acts 13:21-22**

Say:

- David fell short sometimes and sinned.
- We please God when we focus on His plans and desires.

Ask: Allow time for comments and discussions.

- How can we find out what God's plans and desires are for us? *praying, reading the Bible, learning from Christian preachers and teachers, and growing our relationship with God*
- Once we find out God's plans and desires, how can we focus on them?

Say:

- We can try our best to focus on God's desires and plans.
- We can try to obey His commands and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Final Thought:

As we seek and work toward God's plans and desires, our relationship with Him grows. As our lives become more pleasing to Him, we receive more of His blessings. When we focus on God's plans and desires, we become a person after God's own heart. In the middle of God's will is always the very best place to be! His plans and desires always win!

Activities: God's Heart

Craft: King David Theater

Items Needed:

- General: Construction Paper or Scrap Fabric, Pipe Cleaners, and Glue
- Per Child: 1 3"x4" Piece of Thin Cardboard, 1 Paint Stirrer or 1 Spoon or 1 Large Craft Stick, and 2 Wiggly Eyes

Instructions:

- Divide the children into teams of two or three.
- Give each child his or her individual supplies (cardboard, stirrer or spoon or stick, and eyes).
- They should each cut the cardboard into an oval or round shape for the head.
- Tell the children to work together and use the stirrers or spoons to make characters that are part of King David's story (Jonathan, Sheep, Saul, King David, Bear or Lion, Samuel, Goliath, etc.)
- They will use the materials provided to create their characters.
- When the teams have completed their characters, have them use their newly created characters to act out their story about King David's life.
- Tell them they can use their characters to tell their family and friends what they know about King David's life.

Variation:

- This may be done individually instead of as teams.



Indoor Activity: Obey the Commands

Items Needed:

- 1 or 2 Balloons Per Child (blown up with a message containing a question or an action inserted into each one)

Instructions:

- Tell the children to stand in a circle.
- Give one child a balloon and have the children pass the balloon around the circle.
- When the leader calls "Stop!" the child with the balloon will enter the middle of the circle and pop the balloon.
- The children in the circle will ask, "What does it say?"
- The child in the circle will read the message and answer the question or perform the action in the message.
- When the child has completed his or her task, he or she will return to the circle and another balloon will be passed around.

Sample Messages:

- Name a tool that a shepherd uses.
- Why is Jesus called the Good Shepherd?
- Pretend to be a sheep.
- Pretend to be a hungry wolf.
- Pretend to be a shepherd.

Outdoor Activity: Touch Tag

Instructions:

- This is a game of tag.
- Choose one child to be "The Shepherd" by tapping him or her on the left shoulder.
- "The Shepherd" will place his or her right hand on his or her left shoulder and try to tag the other children.
- When a child is tagged, he or she must place his or her right hand on the spot where he or she was tagged.
- The tagged child becomes the shepherd and will try to tag the other children while his or her right hand remains on the spot where he or she was tagged.
- Open a discussion about how Jesus touches our lives and makes a difference in how we live our lives.