

Memory Verse

“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God chose David to serve Him.2. David served God’s purpose.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God is all-knowing.2. God is all-powerful.3. God knows our thoughts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learn to examine our hearts and motives.2. Strive for a heart that is courageous, diligent, and dedicated to God’s purpose.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. David’s Character
- B. David’s Anointing
- C. David and Goliath
- D. David and Jonathan

Life Application: The Lord Looks at the Heart

Memory Verse

Conclusion: We should learn from David’s character and strive for a heart that is motivated for God, faithful in all things, and dedicated for His purpose.

Introduction

Activity:

1. *Before class, write down various types of church work on small pieces of paper. Fold them, and place them into an opaque jar, container, or bag. Examples of some work may be: Cleaning the restrooms; cooking; vacuuming; throwing out the garbage; preaching to others; teaching; leading hymns; interpreting sermons; etc.*
2. *Ask each student to pull out a random piece of paper from the jar, without looking. Once they each have one, tell them to read the paper they picked. Then ask whether they would be willing to do it, and whether they would excel in it or not, explaining why or why not.*

Sometimes, God calls us to do things for him, and although we may not excel in it, God has a purpose for all things. We should pray to understand God's will and ask for guidance and assistance. Today, we'll be examining the life of David and learning about his attitude towards serving God. But before we go into the lesson, what do we know or remember about David? *(Give the students time to come up with as many facts about David as they can remember. The following are some examples.)*

- *A descendant of Ruth, a Moabitess (Ruth 4)*
- *Skillful in playing the harp, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, handsome, and the Lord was with him (1 Sam 16:18)*
- *A shepherd; defended his sheep from lions and bears (1 Sam 17:34)*
- *Killed the giant Goliath with a slingshot and a single stone (1 Sam 17)*
- *Anointed by Samuel to be king over Israel*
- *A man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:13–14)*
- *Was forced to flee from King Saul as a fugitive (1 Sam 20–31)*
- *Despite the many opportunities he had, refused to harm Saul (1 Sam 24:6; 26:11)*
- *Made king in place of Saul (2 Sam 5)*
- *Thirty years old when he began to reign; reigned for forty years—over Judah for seven years and six months from Hebron and thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah from Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:3–5)*
- *Committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah; their first child was taken by God as punishment*

A. David's Character

When the Bible first introduces David, he was named “the youngest” in Jesse's family and considered lowly enough that he wasn't even summoned for Samuel's visit. He was charged with keeping his father's sheep (1 Sam 16:11), and he also ran errands for his father and older brothers (17:17). However, the Bible also describes him as a man after God's own heart (13:14), who, despite his sins, maintained a close relationship with God throughout his entire life.

1. A diligent shepherd

Tending sheep was not an easy or glamorous job. It required hard work, diligence, wisdom, and courage. A shepherd had to lead their sheep out to pasture every morning, water them every day, keep them healthy, guide them away from poisonous plants, search for them if they wandered off, and protect them from robbers and wild beasts. David, for example, recalled having to defend his sheep from lions and bears (1 Sam 17:34–36)! This shows not only his bravery, but also his love for his flock, and his faithful dedication towards the job entrusted to him (vv. 15, 20)

2. A man after God's own heart

Acts 13:22 says, "And when He had removed [Saul], He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'" Saul's servant described David as "a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him" (1 Sam 16:18). David was close enough to the Lord that even strangers could see that God was with him!

3. Behaved wisely in all his ways

Another characteristic that the Bible notes is his wisdom. The Lord trained David through his time as a shepherd, and later arranged for David to enter Saul's inner circle. Let's read 1 Samuel 16:14–23. As Saul's armorbearer, David would have been able to gain firsthand knowledge about how to lead a nation. The Lord had begun to train David up as king.

During this time, the Bible states that David "behaved wisely" wherever Saul sent him (1 Sam 18:5), and when Saul made him captain over a thousand, David "behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him" (v. 14). His wisdom was not simply based on his knowledge or leadership, but it was also spiritual wisdom from God, the result of his close relationship with the Lord.

B. David's Anointing

Eliab was Jesse's firstborn (1 Sam 17:13), so it probably seemed natural to Samuel that he would be God's pick. But God reminded Samuel that "the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (16:7). When David, the youngest and the smallest of the family, was finally called in from tending the sheep, the Lord triumphantly announced to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" (v. 12).

David was anointed two more times after this incident. Once over the house of Judah (2 Sam 2:4), and a second time over both Israel and Judah (5:3), this time by all the elders of Israel. The most important time, however, was the first time, when "the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward" (1 Sam 16:13). Without the Spirit of God, David wouldn't have been able to serve God properly, or to act as a wise or intelligent ruler over God's people. The Spirit's presence allowed David to serve God's purpose (Acts 13:36).

The Importance of Being Anointed

To be anointed with oil was a significant and symbolic action. In the Old Testament, the act was performed on someone who would be set apart for God's work (Lev 8:12). Every high priest, prophet, and king in Israel was anointed with oil. Even Jesus Christ was "anointed" in a way before He went out to preach (Lk 4:18–19). Today, we are anointed in the same way, through the Holy Spirit (1 Jn 2:20).

The Holy Spirit helps to support us and empower us in the Lord, and is therefore a necessary presence when serving God. For example, Saul's rule over his kingdom deteriorated when the Spirit left him, while David grew in wisdom and strength. Moreover, just like those anointed with oil in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is a sign and a reminder that we have been separated for God's work. He has chosen us especially for His purpose, so we must always remember to follow through and do our best to dedicate ourselves to Him, just as David did.

C. David and Goliath

Goliath was a giant over nine feet tall. He wore armor weighing 125 pounds and carried a fifteen-pound spear. The Bible records that for forty days he challenged the Israelites and blasphemed God’s name before David arrived. Let’s read 1 Samuel 17:4–51. What are the differences between David’s reaction and that of the rest of the Israelites? Let’s take a moment to compare the two.

Saul and His Army	David
Were greatly afraid (v. 11)	Indignant on the Lord’s behalf (v. 26)
Fled from Goliath (v. 24)	Quick to volunteer to challenge Goliath (v. 32)
Saw only physical danger (v. 33)	Saw only an uncircumcised Philistine (v. 36)
Relied on physical protection (v. 38)	Relied on God’s protection (vv. 37, 39, 45–47)

David’s perspective of the battle was entirely different. While everyone else was terrified by Goliath’s size and appearance, David saw a Gentile who dared to mock the Lord. He didn’t see a giant with a fifteen-pound spear. He didn’t even see a challenger or foresee a difficult fight. Instead, he saw a Philistine who was powerless before the might of the living God. This is especially clear in his weapon choice and his distinct lack of armor.

Saul tried to dress David in his own armor because he expected David to have to hold his own in one-on-one combat. His reasoning was flawed, because he only saw the physical threat and forgot about God’s power and presence. David had a better understanding: he may have been the one on the field, but God was the one fighting the battle. Therefore, he didn’t need any special armor or weapons. His faith was all that God needed.

David’s actions remind us that God can work powerfully through us with whatever talents we have. All we need to do is step forward courageously, no matter what insult or threat we face, and trust that God will fight for us. If we don’t advance, then our giants will advance on us. David understood this, and didn’t hesitate to face Goliath, because he also understood that his abilities weren’t what mattered – it was God who would give him victory. Zechariah 4:6 says, “‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.” No matter what impossible situations we face, no matter how skilled or unskilled we may be feeling, we must trust that God can overcome all things.

D. David and Jonathan

Although they were technically rivals for the throne, David and Jonathan had a truly beautiful friendship. The Bible records that Jonathan “took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt” (1 Sam 18:4). These would have been the most precious items that Jonathan owned, and he freely gave them to David as a sign of their close friendship.

The Bible also records that “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam 18:1) The two of them were so close that they made a covenant together (18:3; 20:42). They had a true friendship, one which we can learn a lot from. Let’s examine some characteristics of a genuine friendship, based on the example of Jonathan and David. From the two, we can see that genuine friends:

1. Protect each other

Jonathan may not have known when they met that David was anointed to be the next king, but his love for David didn’t waver even when it became clear that he was God’s choice for the

throne. Jonathan was never resentful towards his friend, nor did he bother making any moves to secure his own succession. Actually, he was quite concerned with David's survival. Let's read 1 Samuel 19:1–7. Jonathan interceded on David's behalf with his father, and when that didn't work, he helped David to escape. The two arranged a signal, indicating whether it would be safe or not for him to remain in the city after Jonathan confronted his father. Let's read 1 Samuel 20:32–42.

2. Love each other unconditionally

Although Jonathan was Saul's son, David never held Saul's actions against him. Their friendship was so strong that the two wept when they were forced to part! It's clear that David never once thought poorly of his friend, and he mourned bitterly when he was told of Jonathan's death. Devastated and overwhelmed with grief, he wrote a lament and said of Jonathan, "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; you have been very pleasant to me; your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women" (2 Sam 1:25–26). The two truly had an unconditional love for each other, despite their complicated circumstances.

3. Strengthen each other spiritually

One of the remarkable things about Jonathan was his complete willingness to give up the throne for his friend, and to follow God's will for David to be king. Let's read 1 Samuel 23:15–18. It would have been quite risky for Jonathan to visit David. But he did so anyway, and when he met him, he helped David by spiritually strengthening him in the Lord. Jonathan understood God's will and followed it without question by helping David however he could. Their friendship was based on God's truth, and it grew upon God's will.

4. Remain loyal to each other

When David was king over all Israel, he said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Sam 9:1). This is actually quite an unusual request, as it was standard practice for newly-crowned kings to put to death the entire family of the previous king, in order to eliminate any possible rebellion or uprising. But David treated Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, with great kindness, not only returning his lands to him, but also granting him a place at his table. David remembered his covenant and love for Jonathan, and he was faithful to his promise long after Jonathan's death.

Check for Understanding

- 1. What characteristics did David show as a shepherd?** He showed not only bravery in defending his flock from lions and bears, but also love for his sheep and faithful dedication towards the job entrusted to him.
- 2. What is the importance of being anointed by the Holy Spirit?** It is a sign that we have been set apart for God's work that allows us to be empowered by God for His service.
- 3. How was David's reaction to Goliath different from the Israelites'?** The Israelites feared Goliath's size and strength, but David was indignant on the Lord's behalf. He didn't see the physical threat, but the spiritual challenge to God.
- 4. Why did David refuse Saul's armor? What can we learn from this?** He knew that God was the one fighting the battle. Therefore, he didn't need any special armor or weapons. His own skills and abilities were all God needed. This reminds us that God can work powerfully through us with whatever talents that we have. All we need to do is to step forward courageously.

- 5. What four teachings do David and Jonathan teach us about true friendship?** Genuine friends protect each other, love each other unconditionally, strengthen each other spiritually, and remain faithful to each other.

Life Application

The Lord Looks at the Heart

God told Samuel that “man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam 16:7). He is more concerned about the motivations within our hearts, rather than our looks. Proverbs 16:2 says, “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.” If we have any impure motives, we may be able to fool others, but we can never fool God. Whatever we may think of ourselves, or whatever other people may think of us, we should be constantly examining our own motives. This is because our hearts can be very deceitful, even to ourselves.

So what kind of a heart should we strive to have? When David approached Samuel, the Lord said, “[This] this is the one!” What did the Lord see in David’s heart? What characteristics were hidden from his family, but seen and valued by the Lord?

1. A heart that is motivated by God

When David heard Goliath’s challenge, he was indignant not on the Israelites’ behalf, but on God’s. He demanded to know, “[Who] is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Sam 17:26). And when he went to defeat Goliath, he didn’t do it for glory or to be admired. He did it “in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (v. 45).

Have you ever performed a task or job just to “look good” in front of others? Perhaps dressed up a little bit better on Saturdays not out of respect for the Lord, but to be admired? Maybe you’ve been careful to make sure others see how particular you are with cleaning, so that you can be praised. These are signs of a heart that is motivated by selfishness, not by God. Let’s read Colossians 3:23. “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” Everything that we do should be motivated by our love for God, not by our desire for respect from people around us.

2. A heart that is faithful in the little things

The Lord Jesus said, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much” (Lk 16:10). People tend to put effort only into a task when there are great rewards. On the other hand, someone who is diligent in the small tasks given to them, no matter how great or small the reward, is a person who is faithful in their character. David was one such person, and we can see this reflected in his faithful diligence first towards his sheep, and then towards God’s people when he ruled over them.

Have you ever tried to do just a “good enough” job, or perhaps tried to skim over your duties without putting any effort into them? Perhaps just penned the minimum required answers for your homework, or crammed in your memory verse minutes before RE class? When we brush over small tasks, we are telling God that we don’t care enough to do a good job. On the other hand, if we are attentive towards the small tasks that He gives us, no matter how meaningless or thankless they may seem, then we are showing a heart that is diligent in serving God, and therefore faithful towards God Himself.

3. A heart dedicated for God's purpose

In one of his sermons, Paul mentioned that David "had served his own generation by the will of God" (Acts 13:36). David understood that he served God's purpose, not his own, and he followed through by faithfully serving the Lord until the day he died. What do you think of when thinking about your future? Are your thoughts of God, and of dedicating your time and energy to serving Him? Or do you think only of your own dreams and ambitions, without placing God in the picture at all? No matter how big or small, we can all do something to serve our generation and accomplish God's will.

4. A courageous heart that faces down giants

All of the Israelites were terrified at the sight of Goliath, but David dared to face him head on. He wasn't intimidated by Goliath's size, armor, weapons, or threats, despite the fact that David himself had only a staff, a sling, and five smooth stones in his pouch. Compared to Goliath, David was tiny! But nothing stopped David from accepting the challenge. He may have still felt fearful, but he trusted entirely in God's deliverance.

For us, a "giant" can be anything that stops us from drawing close to God. Do you have any "giants" that you have been unwilling to face? Perhaps you are scared to face them, or are unwilling to. A courageous heart is never devoid of fear, but it does trust God completely. Do you trust the Lord? Are you willing to rely on His deliverance in the face of your "giants"? You can win any spiritual battle with God on your side, as long as you are willing to face the battle with a courageous heart.

Below are several scenarios. For each, identify what kind of "heart" each person has, or what kind of heart they need to acquire.

Scenario 1: *Ben is always very concerned about his looks every time he leads hymns in front of the congregation. He likes to see if people are looking at him, and even fishes for compliments under the pretense of asking for advice. He's so concerned about receiving praise that he has lost sight of the purpose of serving, and he cares more about his performance than about worshipping God.*

What kind of "heart" does Ben need to learn? What advice would you give him?

Scenario 2: *Anne is always quiet in serving the Lord. When there are many pots and pans that she needs to wash after lunch, she never complains about it. On top of that, even though she has already spent so much time cleaning up after lunch, she always goes to the bathrooms to make sure they are clean after Sabbath service is over.*

What heart does Anne have? What qualities can you learn from her?

Scenario 3: *Caleb earned about \$200 a week from his part-time job after school, but he always placed \$20 in the offering box at church every Sabbath without fail. For about a year, he continued to faithfully give to God. After entering his second year in college, God blessed him with a promotion, and he started to earn \$400 each week. However, he still faithfully tithed, giving \$40 to church every week.*

What heart does Caleb have? What can you learn from him? Would you be willing to give to God every penny you have, knowing that He is the provider of all your blessings?

Scenario 4: *Danielle has been interested in graphic design and illustration since elementary school, and she has spent a lot of time learning and practicing her skills in both. Every day, she would take time to sketch something in her notebook with the intent of serving God with her skills. After entering high*

school, one day, she hears the church mention a need for artists to help illustrate certain pamphlets. Without any hesitation, she volunteers her time and energy for the project. Even if the drawings need to be redone due to certain specifications, she redraws them with gladness, knowing that she is serving the Lord's purpose.

What heart does Danielle have? What can you learn from her?

Scenario 5: *Ever since his friends invited him to play with them, Fred has slowly grown more and more addicted to video games. He plays for hours, day and night, to the point where his grades have begun to suffer, and he feels tired all the time. Deep inside, he knows that he needs to change himself and face this "giant" that is controlling him, but he's too timid to refuse his friends.*

What kind of heart does Fred need? What advice would you give him?

Memory Verse

"For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7b)

Meaning

Many people act for the sake of appearances, or for their own profit. But the Lord sees our hearts, and He knows what motivates our actions. With this in mind, it is important for us to examine our hearts, and to strive for a heart that is like David's – one that is diligent, faithful to God, and dedicated to His purpose.

Conclusion

We can see from David's actions towards God and towards his friend Jonathan that David was a diligent and faithful person. He also had a very courageous heart because he fully trusted in God. His time first as a shepherd, and then as Saul's armorbearer, helped to train him for God's purpose, and he eventually became a diligent and faithful shepherd over God's people. We should learn from David's character and strive for a heart that is motivated for God, faithful in all things, and dedicated for His purpose.

Lesson 8 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about our own hearts?
It is important for us to examine our heart and strive for a heart that is like David's – one that is diligent, faithful to God, and dedicated to His purpose.
2. "Then David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the _____ of the _____ of _____, the _____ of the _____ of Israel, whom you have _____.'" (1 Samuel 17:45)
name, Lord, hosts, God, armies, defied
3. What characteristics did David show as a shepherd?
David showed bravery in defending his flock, love for his sheep, and faithful dedication towards the job entrusted to him.
4. Why is it important that we are anointed by the Holy Spirit?
The Holy Spirit is a sign that we have been set apart for God's work, which allows us to be empowered by God for His service.
5. What was different about David's perspective of Goliath?
The Israelites saw a physical threat. David only saw a Philistine who was powerless before the might of the living God.
6. Are there any "Goliaths" in your life that stop you from drawing closer to God? Briefly explain.
Personal answers.
7. Of the four types of "hearts" that we learned from David, which do you need to work on the most? Why?
Personal answers.