

DAVID BECOMES KING – A THRONE AT LAST!

BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises. David is made king and God promises to build a kingdom through him. God promises the real king, Jesus, will one day be born through David's descendants.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

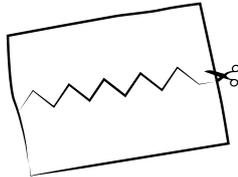
Buy balloons (one per person)

Buy/make a special treat – a feast fit for a king

Get a vivid marker

Make rods by rolling newspaper and securing it with tape or rubber bands (one per person)

Find an A4 piece of card or paper. Cut it down the middle lengthwise in a zig-zag pattern to make the points of a crown (see diagram)



Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

Did you know that Jesus is often called the Good Shepherd? That is because God has a shepherd's heart. We are going to talk about a shepherd's heart today and how God calls some to be shepherd leaders.



David was a true leader with a shepherd's heart because he wanted so much to be a good king to the people of Israel. Keeping our eyes on God is the best way to be a leader, because then we will learn about God's heart for the people we lead.

LET EACH PERSON BLOW UP A BALLOON, tie it, and draw a face, ears and a tail to make their own 'sheep'.

GAME

Herding your Sheep

Set up two chairs at one end of the room. Give everyone a rod and explain that they are to pretend to be shepherds.

Use a kitchen timer or mobile phone alarm as a 'starter gun' (or say "ready, steady, go" with a clap!) Everyone must race to herd their sheep in between the chairs at the other end of the room, without allowing their sheep to get hurt (burst).

The first in with their balloon through the chairs is the winner of that round.

(If you wish, once they have done it a few times, you may try it again with a fan turned on to make it more difficult.)

Come back to the table and let everyone hold their 'sheep' on their lap.

Now let's see how the things that he learned when he was growing up prepared David to be a king.

David started off as a shepherd boy and that's where he learned to lead sheep and care for them. Because he was faithful at protecting his father's sheep for the family, God had some bigger things in store for him.

READ

David was a shepherd, but God looked at him and saw a king. Sure enough when David grew up, that's what he became. And David was a great king. He had a heart like God's heart – full of love. Now, that didn't mean he was perfect, because he did some terrible things – he even murdered a man. No David made a big mess of his life. But God can take even the biggest mess and make it work in his plan. "I need a new heart, Lord." David prayed, "Because mine is full of sin. Make me clean inside." God heard David's prayer. He forgave David and He made David a promise: "I will make you great, David. And one day, a King will be born into your family, and he will heal the whole world." Did you know that David was a songwriter, too? In fact his songs were so good, they might have been in the top 40 charts (if they'd been invented then).

God gave David a special song to sing to His people, so they could know that He loved them and would always look after them – like a shepherd loves his sheep.

And one day God was going to show his people once and for all just how much he loved them. Another shepherd was coming – a greater shepherd. He would be called the Good Shepherd. And this shepherd was going to lead all of God's lambs back to the place where they had always belonged – close to God's heart.))

Psalm 51 and 2 Samuel 7

The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, pages 130, 135, Zondervan © 2007

EXPLORE

David had been a shepherd of sheep when he was a boy, now he was to be a shepherd of God's people and a king!

David knew that **HE** had a shepherd too. In Psalm 23 David describes God as the Good Shepherd.

QUESTIONS

What does a shepherd do for the sheep?

Some possible answers

- *Guides them to better paddocks for good food*
- *Frees them when they get tangled up in prickly gorse*
- *Helps them up when they fall over*
- *Protects them from wild animals*
- *Goes and looks for them when they get lost*

David knew that as a leader he needed to help the people by guiding them and protecting them. But he also knew that he needed all those things from God for himself.

QUESTIONS

How does God make sure we don't get into tangles?

David was patient and waited for God's time to become King. He knew that God would give him the King's crown at the right time. He wasn't impatient and even though he could have killed Saul, he refused to because he wanted to become King in God's way. He trusted God and only wanted to be King when God chose.

QUESTIONS

If God wants you to be a leader, how will he show you?

Do you have to push yourself forward and fight to be chosen?

When you become a leader, what sort of leader will you be?

David became a great king. Can you think of the qualities he learnt as a shepherd that made him such an awesome king? (e.g. courage, vision, leadership, prayerfulness, fairness, listening, kindness, facing his mistakes and saying sorry, being wise and reliable).

TAKE OUT THE 2 PIECES OF PAPER CROWN. Get the children to write the qualities of a good king on the crown (e.g. "a heart after God"), and then staple or tape the pieces together to fit their heads. Choose someone who has shown a 'king quality' this week to wear it.

PRAY

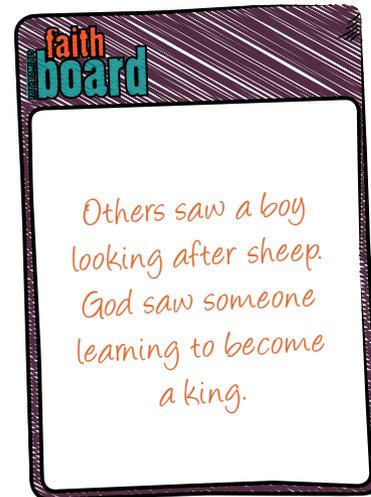
Father, thank you for being our good shepherd. Thank you for protecting us, and guiding us. Help us to do our best to lead others well when you ask us to.

Finish with your special treat to celebrate – a feast fit for a king.

LIVE

This week write out the words to the song 'The Lord is my Shepherd' (<http://youtu.be/ZW7k1aIMCsE>) or 'Baa Baa Song - He's the Good Shepherd' (<http://youtu.be/PGPQX3vQtU8>) and sing it together.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 *Wolf, Shepherd, Sheep Game*

Pick one person to be the shepherd and one person to be the wolf. All the rest of the players are the sheep. Line all the sheep on one end of the playing area. The shepherd must be placed at the other end of the playing area and the wolf is put in the middle.

The shepherd calls out a sheep by name. The sheep must then get to the shepherd without being tagged by the wolf. If the wolf tags them, the sheep must go to the wolf's den (another side of the play area). If they make it to the shepherd without the wolf tagging them, then the sheep go to the shepherd's barn (the other side of the play area). The shepherd can help the sheep as much as possible.

The shepherd can steal the sheep from the wolf's den if he can do it without being caught by the wolf. If he is caught, then all of the shepherd's sheep must move to the wolf's den. The same thing happens with the wolf. If he can steal the sheep from the shepherd without getting caught, the sheep must move to the wolf's den, but if he gets caught, he loses all the sheep he has.

Play continues until all the sheep have been called. The player (either the shepherd or the wolf) with the most sheep on their side wins the game.

2 *Listen to the Shepherd*

In pairs, give one of the pair a piece of paper and pencil and blindfold them. The other of the pair is then to give verbal instructions to the artist (but not touch the artist or the paper) to guide them to draw a sheep. The artist must simply do what the "shepherd" tells them to do. After a while, switch roles.

At the end, you may wish to award prizes for the best sheep; the most unusual sheep; the best abstract art etc. Talk about how we are like sheep, dependent on the shepherd. What is hard about being a sheep? What is good?