God Chooses David as King

Memory Seed: Mark 12:30: … Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Apple: God is in charge. God chose David to be king of the Israelites because David would love and obey Him. When we trust Jesus Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit helps us to love and obey God more and more.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: 1 Samuel 8; 1 Samuel 16; Galatians 5

Memorize: Mark 12:30

The Israelites had a hard time obeying God. When we read about their antics we might sometimes wonder why they had such a hard time obeying. But when we really think about it, we’re not much better! We may struggle with obeying in different ways, but we are equally stubborn and disobedient. How have you struggled to love God? How have you struggled to love others? Be mindful of this as you read, memorize and pray for this lesson.

An important truth in this lesson is that we need help. Isn’t it good to know that we have the Holy Spirit to guide and help us love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? We are powerless to do it on our own.

We also need to remember that our disobedience has consequences. Unfortunately for Saul, the consequences of his disobedience meant that David was chosen to be the next king. God knew that David would love and obey Him. David wasn’t perfect, as we find out later in Scripture, but he was repentant when he became aware of his sin. Repentance was a concept Saul didn’t grasp. The people of Israel should have known that Saul would not be successful! After all, he was made king after they rejected God as their king. But again, they were stubborn and wanted to be like other nations. God allowed them to be disobedient and have a king (Saul).

Pray that your Cubbies will hear and understand the importance of obeying God.

SEE THEM SPROUT!

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Review that God is the King to be obeyed.
2. Hear examples of ways the Israelites broke God’s commands.
3. Know that God gave the Israelites King Saul because they rejected God as King.
4. Understand that King Saul did not obey God, so God chose David to be the next king. David would love and obey the Lord.
5. Realize they need God’s (the Holy Spirit’s) help to love God and others.
6. Name specific ways to love God and others.
7. __________________________
   (Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)
COMING IN
(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Desert Play Area

What You Need
- Sand table or bin filled with sand
- Shallow box or tray with a rim around the edge
- Number cards printed on card stock (resource CD) or plastic numbers
- Blocks

Repeat this play area from Bear Hug 19 and add a sand writing tray. Pour enough sand into your shallow box or tray to just cover the bottom. Allow Cubbies to use their fingers to write numbers in the sand or draw pictures of items from past Bible biographies. Explain that when the Israelites were in the sandy desert, God called Moses up on a mountain and gave him 10 commands — a command is important words to obey. Other Cubbies can build a mountain with blocks or find hidden numbers in the sand bin.

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Tablets

What You Need
- Play-Doh (each Cubbie should have enough to work with)
- Craft sticks
- Paper
- Markers
- Optional — rolling pins

Give each Cubbie a mound of Play-Doh. Show Cubbies how to flatten the dough with their hands or a rolling pin and separate the dough to make two tablet shapes. Remind Cubbies that God wrote 10 special commands for the Israelites on two stone tablets. Let Cubbies use the craft sticks to “write” on their tablets, even though Cubbies’ writing will look mostly like scribbles. Encourage capable Cubbies to write numbers on their tablets. Younger Cubbies may not be able to write numbers past four. Leaders could also write large numbers, with thick lines, on sheets of paper. Cubbies could roll the dough into “snakes” (closed tubes) and curve the snakes over the numbers or make the right number of Play-Doh balls beside each number (e.g., number two has two balls). As Cubbies work, talk about some of the ways the Israelites broke God’s commands (e.g., worshiped fake gods made from stone and wood, lied, stole, disrespected their parents).

IDEA 3: Story Crowns

What You Need
- Yellow construction paper strips
- One copy of the large crown pattern for each Cubbie (resource CD; best if printed on card stock)
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stapler for leader
- Optional — jewel stickers, pom-poms, glitter glue

Cut lengths of yellow paper two to three inches (5-8 cm) wide and slightly longer than the size needed to wrap around a child’s head. Let each Cubbie color and cut out a crown pattern (or cut out crown in advance). If desired, Cubbies can decorate their crowns with jewel stickers, pom-poms or glitter glue. Cubbies glue the crown to the center of a yellow headband. Leaders staple the headband to fit the child’s head. Ask Cubbies to tell you what a king does and what a good king is like (e.g., kind, fair, obedient to God).

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse, Cubbies motto, unit Core Truth: God Is in Charge and the A and C verses along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.
PUPPET SHOW  
(3-5 minutes)

What You Need
• Cubbie Bear puppet
• Luvie Lamb puppet
• Optional — train whistle and small conductor’s hat (available at most toy stores)

(If you have the conductor’s hat, place it on Cubbie’s head. If the hat is too big, fill the extra space with wadded up papers.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let’s call him together. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view. Cubbie should face sideways, making train sounds as you move him from one side to the other.)

CUBBIE (traveling slowly to one side): Chugga, chugga, chugga, chugga. Choo! Choo! (He turns and travels to the other side.) Chugga, chugga, chugga, chugga. Choo! Choo!

LEADER: Cubbie, what are you doing?

CUBBIE (stopping to face audience): I’m pretending to ride the train! It’s Timothy’s birthday party today, and we’re all getting ready to ride the train on the farm. (Cubbie starts moving to one side again.) Chugga, chugga, chugga —

LEADER: Boys and girls, do you want to pretend to ride a train too? (Allow response.)

(Let the group make train sounds with Cubbie for a few moments. If desired, the Cubbie puppet could lead Cubbies around the room. If you have a train whistle, blow it when they say, “Choo, choo.”)

CUBBIE (stopping to talk): My favorite place to sit on the train is in the very first car with Timothy. But Timothy’s friends, Will, Mia and Luvie Lamb aren’t being very nice today.

LEADER: They aren’t? What are they doing this time?

(Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE (adamant): I heard what Cubbie said, and it’s not true. Mia, Will and I are being nice. We just don’t want to sit in the first car like Timothy said. We all like the last car, the caboose, best.

CUBBIE: Why do you like the caboose best? The first car is so much better! You can see where the train is going, and you get to sit right behind the train conductor, Mr. Ted.

LUVIE (with a slight attitude): No — I think the caboose is better. You can look out the back window and wave at all the people who are visiting the farm.

CUBBIE: The first car is still better!

LUVIE: No, the caboose is better! I think —

LEADER (interrupting): OK, stop right now! Don’t you remember what I said last time? I said both of you should think about how to be kind to your friends. It’s fine to like different things, but you still need to be nice. Luvie, how do you think Timothy feels when most of his friends don’t want to sit with him on his birthday?

LUVIE (hanging head): Probably not very good.

LEADER: Cubbie, would you and Timothy be willing to take a ride in the caboose at least once with your friends?

CUBBIE (hesitating): Maybe.

LUVIE: I have an idea! How about riding the train two times? The first time, we’ll all sit in the first car with Timothy. The second time, we’ll ride in the caboose.

LEADER: Good thinking, Luvie! That’s the way to be kind to your friends. The next time I see you two I want to hear that everyone is getting along at Timothy’s birthday party.

LUVIE and CUBBIE: OK. Bye!

LEADER: Goodbye, Cubbie and Luvie. Don’t forget to be kind!

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)
SNACKS (5-10 minutes)
Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Heart Treats

What You Need
- Red Jell-O Jigglers or seedless watermelon slices cut in the shape of hearts (or other snacks, such as small sandwiches or cereal pieces, in heart shapes)

As Cubbies eat the heart snack, remind them that in Mark 12:30, Jesus said: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart …” Explain that the heart is who they are on the inside, how they think and feel. Talk about specific ways to love God and others.

IDEA 2: Surprise Inside

What You Need
- A variety of finger snacks most of your Cubbies enjoy (e.g. Goldfish or animal crackers, Teddy Grahams)
- Aluminum foil
- Large bowl
- Optional — serve a snack with a surprise center (e.g., cream-filled cakes, cheese-filled pretzels, carambola fruit [fruit that reveals a star when sliced])

Beforehand, tear foil into squares. Place a handful of one kind of finger snack in the center of each. (Alternate the finger snacks you use so not every Cubbie gets the same snack.) Gently crumple the foil into a ball around the snack. Place foil balls in a bowl. Let Cubbies each choose a ball and open it to discover what’s inside. Talk about how we can’t always tell what’s on the inside of a thing or a person by looking on the outside. God looks at our hearts. He sees if we want to love and obey Him.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:
- “God Is in Charge” to the tune of “God Is So Good”
  God is in charge (repeat 3 times)
  He’s the King of me.
- The chorus of the hymn “Oh, How I Love Jesus”
- “Love, Love, Love the Lord” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”
  Love, love, love the Lord,
  That’s what Jesus said.
  Love your neighbor as yourself.
  And Jesus will be glad.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, in Mark 12:30, Jesus said: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart …” But we don’t always do a good job at loving the Lord. What are some ways we don’t show love to God? (Help Cubbies think of examples, such as not wanting to pray, disobeying Mom or Dad or taking a toy from a friend.) Let’s pray and tell God we are sorry for these things. We are thankful because if we have trusted Christ as Savior, we are forgiven for all our sin. When we trust Christ, we become children of God, and God sends us a helper, named the Holy Spirit, to help us to love and obey Him more and more. (Pray with children.)
LESSON TIME  (15-20 minutes)

What You Need
• Teaching Cards (TC) 54, 66, 69-75
• Bible with markers placed at 1 Samuel 8, 1 Samuel 16 and Mark 12:30
• Ten Commandments Lesson Tablets used in the last lesson (resource CD)

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Today, Cubbie Bear and Luvie Lamb were having some trouble being kind to their friends. Cubbies, why should we be kind? (Allow a variety of responses; some Cubbies may remember the reason you gave in the last lesson.)

Those are good reasons (hold up your Bible), and the best reason to be kind is because God tells us to be kind in His Word. God is in charge. (Display TC69.) He is the King of everyone — and we should obey what He says.

But sometimes, we have a hard time obeying God as King. (Display TC66.) Do you remember when God’s people, the Israelites, were hiking through the desert? In the desert, the Israelites had a hard time obeying God’s Ten Commandments. (Display the Ten Commandments Lesson Tablets.)

(Hold up the front of one tablet and ask Cubbies to count to four with you on their fingers, and keep their four fingers raised.) Commands one, two, three and four tell ways to love God. In Mark 12:30, Jesus said … “Love the Lord your God with all your heart …” Let’s say that together: (Repeat the short version of Mark 12:30 with Cubbies.)

Jesus also said we should love others. (Show the back of the tablet and ask Cubbies to count from five to 10 with their remaining unraised fingers.) Commands five, six, seven, eight, nine and 10 tell ways to love each other.

The Israelites did not obey God’s 10 commands in the desert. But God gave them another chance to obey when He brought them home to the Promised Land, the land of Canaan (display TC54). Cubbies, what do you think — did the Israelites obey God’s commands in their new land? (Allow speculation. When Cubbies answer, probe thinking by asking, “Why do you think that?”)

At first they tried to obey, but then something very sad happened. (Display TC70.) They forgot about God and all the good things He had done for them. They disobeyed all of God’s 10 commands.

(Point to the man bowing down to the idol on TC70.) What is this man doing? (Allow response.) Yes, he’s bowing down to a golden cow. He thinks the cow is a god! Isn’t that silly? We know there is only one God, and He is not a cow. This man is disobeying God’s commands (hold up one of the tablets) and he is not showing love to God.

(Depending on time and Cubbies’ attention, ask Cubbies to describe each of the pictures on TC70 — the girl disobeying her mom, the men fighting and the woman stealing bread. Explain that the people are disobeying God’s commands and not showing love to God and others.)

(Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 8.) The Israelites kept on disobeying, and after a while, they told God that they didn’t want Him to be their King anymore.

The Israelites said, “Give us a man to be our king! All the other lands have men as kings, so why shouldn’t we?” God was still the true King, but He decided to give them the kind of king they wanted. He chose a man named Saul to be the first king of the Israelites.

(Display TC71 and point to Saul.) Saul looked like a king. He was the tallest of the people. He looked good on the outside. But something was wrong with Saul on the inside. What do you think was wrong? (Allow kids to guess.)

King Saul didn’t want to obey God’s commands, so God said he could not stay king for very long. God would find a different king. What kind of king do you think God would find?

continued on next page
Unit 5: Bear Hug 20

Core Truth: God Is in Charge

Grew up, He would become the next king of Israel. David wasn’t perfect, but God knew He wanted to love and obey the Lord.

Cubbies, do you want to love and obey the Lord? (Allow response as you open your Bible to Mark 12:30.) In Mark 12:30, Jesus said … “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” That means you should love God with every part of you — everything you think and feel and do! (As you repeat the verse, make up hand motions together.)

Cubbies, what are some ways you can love God? (Help Cubbies think of concrete examples.) Loving others is a way to love God too! (As you close in prayer, explain that we need help with loving God and others. When we trust Christ as Savior, God [the Holy Spirit] helps us to love Him and others more and more.)

**HANDBOOK TIME**

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 20 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

**Bear Hug 20 Activity Sheet**

**What You Need**

- A copy of the Bear Hug 20 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- Optional — a handheld mirror for each handbook group

As Cubbies complete the fun options on the activity sheet, ask Cubbies why God chose David as king. Emphasize that God knew David wanted to love and obey Him. To illustrate this point, let each Cubbie look in the mirror and describe what he or she sees. Explain that we use mirrors to check how we look on the outside, but God looks at us on the inside. He sees how we think and feel. He sees if we want to love and obey Him.
PLAY TIME  (15-20 minutes)

Any of the games from the prior lesson, Bear Hug 19, also fit the lesson themes for this week. Feel free to repeat them.

IDEA 1: Heart Games

What You Need
• Several different colors and sizes of paper hearts
• Bucket (or box)

Beforehand, hide the hearts around the room or spread them out on the floor. To begin the game, lead Cubbies in reciting Mark 12:30 and ask Cubbies to name a few specific ways they can love God and others. Then Cubbies will race to gather the hearts and drop them in the bucket. Give them a number of hearts to find (such as two or three) or add variation by calling out a color or size, and Cubbies will race to pick up all the hearts of that color or size. At the end of the game, give each Cubbie a handful of hearts. To the tune of “London Bridge,” sing together “Jesus wants us to love Him, to love Him, to love Him. Jesus wants us to love Him. I love Jesus!” After children sing the last line, let them throw their hearts up into the air and enjoy watching them float down.

IDEA 2: Kindness Charades

What You Need
• Paper bag
• Slips of paper naming concrete ways we can show love to God and others (See Kindness Charades Slips on the resource CD.)

To prepare, print and cut out the slips from the Kindness Charades Slips page and add some of your own slips. To play, pull a slip of paper out of the bag and read the words on the slip to the group. Cubbies act out what you read. (Examples of actions on slips: pray, carry a bag of groceries for Mom, sing a worship song to God, sweep the floor for Dad, share food with a hungry person.) Let Cubbies think of additional items to act out. Tell them to be happy and smile as they act out the items, because God sees how we feel on the inside.

IDEA 3: Find the King

What You Need
• Small crown pattern (resource CD) or crown headbands made during Coming In
• Optional — tape

Start by asking a few review questions: Why couldn’t Saul stay king? How did Samuel know which one of Jesse’s sons would be the new king? Why did God choose David to be the new king? Play a game of Find the King in one of three ways:

1. Choose one Cubbie to wear the crown he made during Coming In. He hides while all the Cubbies close their eyes and a leader counts to 10 slowly. Cubbies open their eyes and search for the king. Repeat the game so several Cubbies get a chance to be king.

2. Beforehand, cut out a small crown pattern and hide it in the room. Let Cubbies try to find the crown.

3. Choose one Cubbie to be Samuel. Samuel closes his eyes while you give a small crown pattern to another Cubbie. The Cubbie can put the crown in her pocket or you can tape it to the bottom of her shoe. Cubbies all run around the room and Samuel tries to tag them. If he tags the one with the crown, she gets to be the new Samuel.

GOING HOME  (5-10 minutes)

If you plan to do IDEA 1: Giant Attire in the next lesson, tell parents to dress their child for club in clothes that are too big for him or her.
... Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)

Basic Instructions: God chose David to be the next king of Israel because God knew David wanted to love and obey Him. Color David.

Even More Fun: Color the hats. Circle the hat that David should wear as king. Put an X through the hats that a king probably would not wear.

Ultimate Fun: Retell the true Bible lesson of Samuel choosing David to be king to someone.