



David



Track 25

The Shepherd King

The shepherd boy David let out a whistle that only his sheep knew. Quickly they came and began to follow him.

They followed him to a shady, grassy place. It was near a spring of cool, still water. For sheep, it was just the right place. They could take long drinks. They could eat and lie down in the soft, green grass.

“David!” called a voice behind him. David turned to look. It was one of his father’s servants.

“You must come to the house right away!” he said.
“The prophet Samuel wants to see you.”



Samuel? David trembled.¹ Samuel spoke the words of God. He could ask the Lord to make thunder and rain come down from heaven.² Why did he want to see David?

David asked another shepherd to take care of his sheep. He hoped they would be safe! Then he went with the servant.



When he entered the house, he saw his father and his seven brothers all standing together. He saw Samuel holding a horn full of oil.

What could this mean?
he wondered.

The prophet Samuel turned to David. He looked at David's handsome face and beautiful eyes. "This is the one," said Samuel.

"Are you sure he's the one?" asked David's father, Jesse. "David is the youngest of all the brothers. He's just a shepherd."

"Yes, the Lord told me to anoint him. He's the one," answered Samuel. David was the one God wanted to be the next king of Israel.

David knelt before Samuel. Samuel tipped the horn and poured the oil over David's head. David could hardly believe that a shepherd boy like him would become the shepherd of God's people, the Israelites!



Member Name: David

Hometown: Bethlehem

Current Profession: Shepherd

Future Kings' Club

When David became king, many years later, he never forgot being a shepherd. But now he wrote songs about the one who was *his* shepherd. This shepherd had taken care of David his whole life. He helped David make right choices. He protected him from all his enemies. And whenever David felt scared or sad, his shepherd gave him comfort.

“The Lord is my shepherd,” David sang. He knew that the LORD, the God of Israel, was the greatest shepherd of all.

¹ See 1 Samuel 16:4. Based on the Israelites' response to Samuel, we can assume David would have been somewhat apprehensive.

² See 1 Samuel 12:18.



**Learn from
David's biography:**

- The Lord was King David's shepherd.
- When you trust Jesus Christ as Savior, He will be your shepherd too.

Parent Ideas

David, the Shepherd King Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- The Lord was King David's shepherd.
- When you trust Jesus Christ as Savior, He will be your shepherd too.

1. Read-together activity –

Before you read the biography together, make simple puppets for David, two sheep, the servant, the prophet Samuel, Jesse, the animal horn and King David's harp. You can make these puppets by cutting out pictures from your old Bible story coloring books (or simply search for "Bible coloring pages" online and download free pages). You can draw your own characters as well. Tape or glue each character to a craft stick, drinking straw or bath tissue roll.

Divide up the puppets between you and your child, and then act out the biography with the puppets as you read. Maybe you can even put on a puppet show for someone else in your family!

2. Discussion activity – Help your child to first understand the metaphor of sheep and shepherd, so she will be able to understand how the Lord acts as her shepherd (Psalm 23). Ask questions like these:

- What does a shepherd do to care for his sheep?

- Would you have liked to be one of David's sheep? Would you have trusted him? Why or why not?
- How did the Lord, David's shepherd, take care of him?

Parents, help your child to see the many responsibilities of a shepherd: leading his sheep to food and water, providing them with rest and refreshment, keeping them from wandering or getting lost, protecting them from sharp rocks and wild animals, carrying them when they were hurt or tired, etc. Each sheep is valuable to the shepherd; he knows each one by name (John 10:3). The sheep also know the shepherd's voice (John 10:4) and respond to his distinctive whistle or call. Talk with your child about the ways the Lord cares for His children, just like a good shepherd cares for his sheep.

3. Application activity – Help the metaphor of sheep and shepherd to come alive for your child! Borrow books or videos about shepherds and sheep

from the library. Search online or at a Christian bookstore for a children's picture book about Psalm 23. You may even want to see live sheep at a local petting zoo or talk to a local sheep-owner about raising sheep.

4. Application activity – If your child has trusted Christ as Savior, he can be sure Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, takes care of him. Write an acrostic or simple poem together about the ways the Good Shepherd takes care of him and your family each day. For your acrostic, use the word *shepherd*. For each letter, name a way Christ shows His care (e.g., "**S** is for the way Jesus **Soothes** my fears. **H** is for the way Jesus **Helps** me to make right choices."). Be sure to focus on His spiritual as well as physical care for us in your acrostic or poem. Encourage your child to depend on Christ more and more, just like a little lamb has to depend on its shepherd.