



Life Story

1. WHAT'S A SHEPHERD?

Supplies:

- Shepherds and sheep pictures
- Facts list

Before the Activity:

- Review the facts list for discussion ideas.

Instructions:

- Gather a few children together at a table during free play.
- Show them the pictures of shepherds and sheep.
- Discuss what a shepherd does and how he lives.
- Explain that there will be a shepherd named David in today's story.
- Repeat the activity with another group of children.

2. SHEPHERD BOY KING

Supplies:

- 8 "brothers" cutouts (including David)

Before the Activity:

- Hide the David cutout in a place where the children can find it during the activity. Place the other 7 cutouts on a table.

Instructions:

- Gather a small group of children together during free play.
- Show them the cutouts.
- Explain that there are 8 brothers.
- Count the 7 brothers and point out that 1 is missing.
- Ask the children to help you find the missing brother.
- After they find the David cutout, hold it up and tell them that this brother's name is David.
- Explain that in today's story, David is the brother God sent Samuel to find.
- SAY: God knew David and David knew God. **God wants us to know him**, too!
- Repeat the activity with a different group of children.

3. LOOKING FOR DAVID

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 to familiarize yourself with today's Bible story.

Instructions:

- Gather all the children together in an open space on the floor.
- Explain that you're going to play a fun game of Follow the Leader. Tell the children that they will pretend to follow you up to the hills where the young shepherd David is looking after his family's sheep.
- Direct the children to:
 - Use their fingers as binoculars to look for the shepherd David and his sheep.
 - Walk, run on the spot, crawl, hop, etc. as you go up the pretend hills and back down to where Samuel is waiting.
- SAY: Today we're going to hear a Bible story about how Samuel looked for David. **God wants us to know him** just like he wanted David to know him!



CIRCLE TIME!

Supplies: CD player, tidy up and/or circle time songs on class CD

Instructions:

- Make sure the CD player is easily accessible during circle time.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the following activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

4. MUSIC

Supplies:

- Song lyrics sheet
- Wall-safe tape
- CD player
- "My Best Friend" (track 4) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD
- (Optional)
Scarves or musical instruments

Before the Activity:

- Tape the lyrics sheet to a wall or play panel so all the leaders can see it during this activity.

Leader Tips:

- Children will be excited if you're excited. Set the tone by being energetic and leading by example.
- Feel free to extend your music time with your class CDs.

Instructions:

- Mix it up each week! Here are some options:
 - Sing along with the song.
 - Wave the scarves.
 - Use the musical instruments.
 - Make up fun actions that go with the song.
- If using supplies, give them to children before starting.
- After the music is finished, prompt children to return any supplies to the bin.

5. BIBLE STORY

Supplies:

- "The teeny, weenie...true king" (Samuel anoints David from 1 Samuel 16) in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (pp. 116-121)

Leader Tip:

- Use the Bible story to start conversations about God with the children.

Instructions:

- Have all the children sit with you on the floor.
- Tell them that today's story about David is from the Bible.
- Read the story to the children. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- Explain that God knew David and David knew God.
- Emphasize the Big Idea: **God wants us to know him.**
- PRAY: Dear God, thank you for being so loving that you want to know us and that you want us to know you. Help us to know you better. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



6. SHEPHERD DAVID AND SHEEP PUPPETS

Supplies:

- Craft sticks
- David cutouts
- Sheep cutouts
- Cotton balls
- Masking tape
- Glue sticks
- Markers

Leader Tip:

- Help the children write their names on their crafts.

Instructions:

- Gather the children to sit at a table.
- Give each child 2 craft sticks, a David cutout, a sheep cutout, cotton balls, and 2 small pieces of tape.
- Place the glue sticks and markers where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage the children to glue the cotton balls onto the sheep and to colour David.
- Show them how to tape the cutouts to the craft sticks to create puppets.
- As the children work on their crafts, review the Bible story and emphasize the Big Idea: **God wants us to know him.**

7. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Brightly coloured sticky notes
- Marker
- Verse sign (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Wall-safe tape

Instructions:

- Gather the children into their small groups.
- Hold up the verse sign and SAY: In today's Bible story, we learned that "People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."
- Ask the children to share what they think God sees when he looks at their hearts (e.g., full of love like David; cares for others; happy to share).
- Write each child's response and name on a sticky note.
- Have the children put their sticky notes on the verse sign.
- Ask if anyone would like to pray a simple sentence prayer to thank God for loving them for who they are.

- Hang the verse signs with stuck-on prayers in a place where parents can see them at pick-up time.

8. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Cups (each with a word from the key verse written on it)

Before the Activity:

- Tape the key verse sign in a place where everyone can see it easily for reference during the activity.

Instructions:

- During free play, gather a few children together.
- Show them the cups with the words written on them.
- Review the key verse with the children.
- Instruct them to work together to build a tower with the cups. Encourage them to put the words in the correct order of the verse.
- When the verse is complete, repeat it aloud with the children.
- Instruct the children to knock down the tower.
- Repeat the activity as long as the children are interested. Then gather a new group of children to do it.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: WORSHIP LIKE DAVID

Supplies:

- CD player
- “Give Your Heart to Jesus” (track 6) and/or “With All My Heart” (track 10) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD
- Musical instruments

Leader Tips:

- Have a plan in place for collecting the instruments after the activity.
- Remember to lead by example and set the tone by being energetic and having fun. Choose a song that your group enjoys!

Instructions:

- Gather all the children together in an open space.
- Hand out the musical instruments.
- Remind the children that **God wants us to know him** just like David from today’s story knew God.
- Explain that David liked to sing and play his harp for God.
- Hand out instruments to the children.
- Start the music.
- Lead the children in singing and dancing as you worship God together.
- After the music is finished, collect the instruments.

9. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Children’s crafts
- Take home cards
- Key verse colouring pages

Before Dismissal:

- Place take home materials and crafts where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their children’s experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- Give parents take home cards and key verse colouring pages. Remind them to take crafts.
- Make sure children’s security numbers match parents’ numbers before they leave the classroom.