

Preschool

Your Job Description

Your job is to gather your class at the beginning of the VBS day in the main assembly, take them to your self-contained classroom, and lead Bible story and lesson activities in your classroom. Depending on the setup for your VBS, you may be responsible to lead the crafts, snacks, and games described in this booklet as well, or designated leaders for those areas may bring the craft materials, games, and snacks to you.

Please take time to read through the preschool curriculum in the remainder of this book. Be sure to get familiar with your materials before VBS. Be praying now for the kids and families God will be bringing to your church! Pray for open doors for the gospel, and let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Sample Preschool Schedule

TIME	LENGTH OF TIME (MIN)	PRESCHOOLERS
9:00–9:35	35	Opening Assembly
9:35–9:50	15	Greeting/Tactile Activity
9:50–10:10	20	Opening Circle/Story Time
10:10–10:30	20	Snack
10:30–10:50	20	Bible Learning Activities
10:50–11:25	35	Gross Motor Play (Indoor or Outdoor)
11:25–11:45	20	Craft Time
11:45–12:00	15	Closing Assembly or Closing Circle

If you wish for preschoolers to join the larger closing assembly with the elementary students, you can adjust this schedule accordingly.

Story Circle Format

The Story Circle times outlined in this booklet are in the following hook-book-look* format:

- * **HOOK—Grab their attention!** A HOOK activity is designed to introduce and overview the lesson. This is a preparation activity designed to engage the child's senses as well as introduce new vocabulary and concepts. This part of the lesson is intended to capture the attention of the children, to set the stage for God's Word. In this way, the HOOK activity speaks to the contemplative learning style, and it answers the question, "Why do I need to know this?"
- * **BOOK Time—This is where you school them!** This is intended to be an interactive time. The BOOK time speaks to the analytic learning style, and it answers the question, "What do I need to know?" The Bible story is the main focus of the lesson. Since learning about God through the Bible is our primary point, we've been pains-

taking about putting quality preparation into studying the Scripture passage and writing clear, interesting, and interactive stories. The truths of Scripture should be explained in a way the children will understand and enjoy. Each successive day of VBS will build on these stories, bringing increasingly profound truths to the children's attention, so don't feel pressured to communicate everything at once. Use the visual aids to help keep the children's interest. A child's attention span is one minute per year of age, so preschoolers have an attention span of three to six minutes. Make the most of these precious minutes!

- * **LOOK—Look at your heart. Look to Jesus. What should you do?** The LOOK section works in two ways. First, we want our kids to look to Jesus—seeing Jesus at the heart and center of the Bible story we are teaching. Second, we want our kids to look at their hearts and connect the lesson to their lives. So, we have tried to include creative activities for helping children move from the Bible to practical application. Sometimes it is helpful to have the children move from the story circle to another location to transition their thinking in this way. The LOOK activity speaks to the pragmatic learning style, and it answers the questions, "How does this truth work? How does it work out in my life?"

**For more information about learning styles and the HBLT method, see Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt, Creative Bible Teaching (Chicago: Moody Press, 1970, 1998), pp.151–165, 292–97.*

Supplies

General Supplies for the Week

Every lesson requires a Bible, the provided story visual, music for background during snack, crayons or markers, glue sticks, and precut paper crafts with scissors.

Daily Supplies

Day 1: Laugh!

- * Paper plates
- * Safety scissors
- * Crayons or markers for royal crown
- * Story visual (David with sheep Fig. 2)
- * Precut laughing mouths (Fig. 4) glued to craft sticks
- * Craft pages (fig. 4b, 4c)
- * Baby Oil (Post an allergy alert!)
- * Coloring pages (David with sheep black & white)
- * *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- * A small gift bow
- * Something to make for your teaching: two gifts. One should be a beautifully wrapped box with a can of spinach inside. The other should be an ugly/old box—perhaps a cardboard box you've received in the mail but ripped and torn) with some fun stickers inside

PRESCHOOL DAY 1

LAUGH!

MAIN POINT:

Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 126

MEMORY WORK FOR THE WEEK:

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:1–2)

TEACHERS:

Take this lesson, study it, and make it your own. Allow the truths of the Scripture to sink into your own heart. Know what you are saying and say it with confidence. Passion and voice inflection are essential with preschoolers. Repeat the main point over and over again.



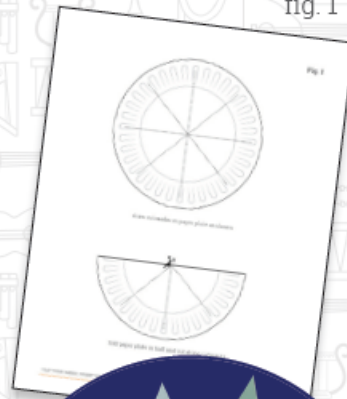
SUPPLIES

- ✦ Paper plates
- ✦ Safety scissors
- ✦ Crayons or markers for royal crown
- ✦ Story visual (David with sheep fig. 2)
- ✦ Precut laughing mouths (fig. 4a)
- ✦ Craft pages (fig. 4b, 4c)
- ✦ Craft sticks
- ✦ Baby oil (*Post an allergy alert!*)
- ✦ Coloring pages (David with sheep fig. 3)
- ✦ *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- ✦ A small gift bow
- ✦ *Something to make for your teaching: two gifts. One should be a beautifully wrapped box with a can of spinach inside. The other should be an ugly/old box—perhaps a cardboard box you've received in the mail but ripped and torn with some fun stickers inside*

1. Greeting/Tactile Activity (15 minutes)

Have paper plates with cut marks (fig. 1) ready in front of each seat at the table when children first enter the classroom. Preschool children can be apprehensive about a new classroom, unfamiliar teachers, and unfamiliar kids. Be friendly and confident and direct them to a seat at the table. Explain that today you will be learning how God made a surprising choice for a new king for Israel, and that they are going to make paper plate royal crowns to help tell the story. Have the children cut down the dotted lines with safety scissors (or precut lines for younger students), decorate the triangles and rim, and bend the triangles upward to create their crowns.

fig. 1



2. Story Circle (20 minutes)

Give each child a spot to sit—a carpet square, tile, taped "X" or shape on the floor. Gather the children around you on the floor, and set the two gifts—the beautifully wrapped box with spinach and the old box with stickers—in front of you.



HOOK (Grab their attention)

SAY: Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy that you are a part of our class for this first day of Vacation Bible School! All this week, we're learning about worshipping God. Today, we're going to worship God with joyful laughter. So, everyone put your hands on your tummy and laugh with me: "Ho! Ho! Hehe!" Great job! Let's rehearse our main point for the day.

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*
(Have the kids raise their hands after the laugh part and wiggle/twinkle their fingers. Repeat this several times and get the kids to say it with you. This should be the main point the kids remember about today's lesson.)

SAY: Now, before we begin our Bible lesson, I have two gifts. I'm going to let some volunteers open them, and then we're going to share the best gift with the whole class.

ASK: Before we open the gifts, let's vote on which gift we think is the best. Who Coloring page (David and Goliath Fig. 3) wrapped box has the best gift inside? (*Hold up the nicely wrapped present*). We'll see. (*Choose one child to hold the first gift.*) Who thinks this second ugly and torn

box has the best gift inside? (*Hold up the torn cardboard box. Choose a second child to hold the second gift.*) Okay, on three I want you to open them. Can everyone help me count? **One, Two, Three!**

ASK: What did you find when you opened the first box, (*first child*)? (*Direct your question to the child with the nicely wrapped present.*) Oh, I'm sorry. That is not a very fun gift! The box was so pretty! It looked like it would have a wonderful present for us to share inside.

What did you find when you opened the second box, (*second child*)? (*Direct your question to the child with the torn box.*) Wow! What an exciting gift! I love stickers! Even though that box was ugly on the outside, it had a wonderful gift on the inside. (*Share the stickers with the entire class.*)

SAY: We cannot always know what is within based on how the outside looks. Today, we're going to learn a story about how appearances (the way something looks on the outside) are sometimes surprising. Let's review our main point again.

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*
(*Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.*)

BOOK (Teaching Time)

Tell the story below. Try to put it to memory so that you don't have to read it. If the children begin to lose interest, or are younger preschoolers, it may be necessary to either abridge the reading or break it up into two parts in order to keep their attention. **Essential plot points are highlighted to aid in summarizing.**

SAY: Our story today is found in 1 Samuel, chapter 16 (*Show them in your Bible*). The Bible is God's Word. He wrote it, so we know that every part of it is true. As I read the story, I need you to listen very carefully. This is God's Word! He wants to you to know it so that you may know him.



fig. 2

fig. 3

Now, boys and girls, as I tell you the story, I have some important instructions for you. Every time I do a motion with my hands, I want you to do the same! Listen and watch very closely or you may miss them. Also, anytime I say the word, "king," I want you to put your royal paper crowns on your heads. (The word "king" is underlined in each instance below to remind you when the children should put on their royal crowns.)

God gave a king to his people. That king's name was Saul. Saul was a good king for a while, but then he turned away from God. He disobeyed God. He loved doing things his own way instead of following God's ways.

God chose *Samuel* (Ask: What book is our story in? First Samuel!) as his messenger. He sent Samuel to warn Saul and correct him again and again. But Saul would not turn away from his sin. Samuel was sad that Saul had turned away from God.

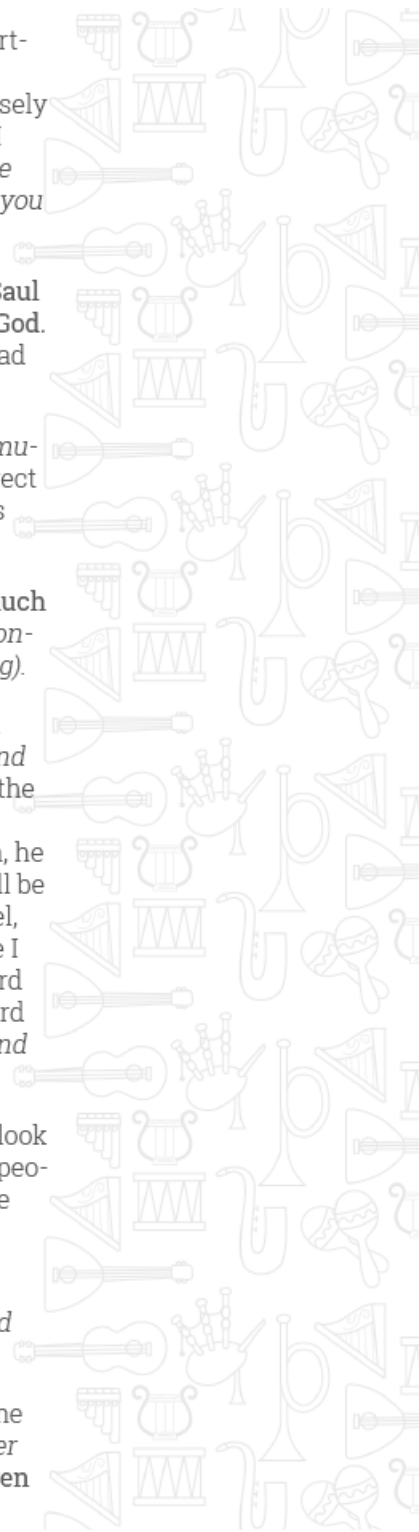
One day, God told Samuel that Saul would not be king for much longer. God had chosen a new king for his people! (Say "I wonder who it will be" then tap your chin and look up, wondering).

SAY: God told Samuel to go to Jesse's house in Bethlehem. Jesse had many sons, and one (Hold up one finger, and prompt the children to follow you) of them would be the new king! Samuel obeyed what God commanded. He went to Bethlehem. When Samuel saw the oldest son, he thought (tap finger on forehead), "Surely this man will be the king the Lord has chosen!" But God said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or his height, because I have not chosen him (Shake your finger 'No'). The Lord sees differently than people do. We look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (Place hand over heart)."

Just like with our two gifts, God says that he doesn't look on the outside like people do. He chooses surprising people! God doesn't choose the strongest and the best. He chooses people who no one else would choose.

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*
(Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)

Next, Jesse's other sons passed before Samuel. But each time Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one (Shake finger "No")." Again and again, God said, "No" (Shake finger 'No'), even



though seven of Jesse's sons walked in front of Samuel. So, Samuel asked Jesse, "Are all of your sons here?" Jesse said, "No. There is still one more (*Hold up one finger*), my youngest. He is keeping the sheep." Samuel told Jesse to send for him and said, "We will not sit down until he comes (*Stand at attention!*)"

Jesse sent for his youngest son and brought him in to Samuel. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for he will be the king." Finally, the youngest son would be the next king of Israel! The young boy's name was David. David was a surprising choice because he was the youngest. How could he be a great king before his brothers who were older and stronger? Only because God chose him!

Samuel took some oil and put it on David's head (*Demonstrate by pouring a small amount of baby oil on the back of your hand and letting the children see/touch it*). This is called anointing. Can you say "anointing"? (*Prompt the children to say it*) The anointing showed that David was chosen by God. After this, God's Holy Spirit was with David every day. Wow!

As each child looks at the oil on your hand, say, "Laugh! God chooses surprising people!"

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)*

LOOK (Look at your heart. Look to Jesus!)

Begin this closing reflection time by asking the following questions:

ASK: Who does God choose? *Surprising people.*

ASK: Who does God choose in the story? *David.*

ASK: Was David the tallest? Did Samuel want to choose him? *No, David was not the tallest, oldest, or strongest. At first, Samuel wanted to choose one of the older brothers.*

ASK: How did Samuel show that David was the chosen king? *He put oil on his head.*

ASK: Why do you think God chose David to be the next king of Israel? (*Let the kids give some possible answers and then say...*) *David was not the oldest brother or the strongest brother. He is not the one most people would*



have chosen to be king. God did not choose David based on what people could see with their eyes, but because God already knew David's heart.

ASK: Do you think that God chose David because he had less sin in his heart? Do you think God chose him because he was the most obedient son? *No! David was not perfect. He was a completely surprising choice, but, in his heart, David trusted God.*

Review Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)*

SAY: Did you know that Jesus is a surprising choice? No one would have chosen Jesus to be our king. He didn't look strong or handsome like David's older brothers. The prophet Isaiah says, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him" (Isa. 53:2b). But he is our king! God has chosen to save us through HIM!

SAY: Did you know that we are surprising choices too? We are all sinners. We disobey God every day. None of us are good enough. But God chooses to save surprising people through Jesus.

ASK: How can we respond? *We don't have to be pretty or handsome or strong to respond to God. Because God graciously chooses the people we'd least expect, we can simply laugh with joy and give thanks with a heart of trust.*

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)*

3. Snack (20 minutes)

This would be a good time for a restroom break. Have children wash their hands and then sit for snack time. Pray together before eating. Play quiet music while they eat. Use this time to clean up the remains of the opening activity and any wrapping paper left from opening the two presents.



4. Bible Learning Activities (20 minutes)

SAY: We're learning a Bible verse this week. Let's say it together: "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs" Psalm 100:1-2. (*Repeat two times.*) Let's learn a song about our verse. Ready?

*Learning Activity 1: Sing "Psalm 100"

This song is recorded on the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD. The hand motions will make the song more fun. These can be found in the Assembly & Music Guide.

*Learning Activity 2: Follow the Leader

Start off with the teacher leading the kids in a game of "Follow the Leader," and then allow some of the kids to be the leader. Remind the children that we worship when God speaks and we follow.

Here are some suggested actions for the follow the leader game:

- * Stick out your tongue
- * Jump!
- * Hop on one foot
- * Touch your Toes
- * Touch the ground
- * Reach to the Sky
- * Touch your nose
- * Tap your elbows

If a child completes the incorrect action they should sit down until the next round.

*Learning Activity 3: "Brother, Brother, David"

This game is played like "Duck, Duck, Goose." Have all children sit in a large circle. As the leader, you should walk around the circle gently tapping each child on the head saying, "Brother, Brother, Brother..." Choose one child and shout "David!" after you tap them on the head. The child should chase you around the circle back to the empty spot in the circle. Allow many different children to have a turn being "David."

