

# Mosaic

# God is good



SERIES

1

SERIES INTRODUCTION

# IN GOD'S HANDS

*Discover how God protects David in his early life*

## BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR YOU

**God's choice of David was surprising by any human standard; no one expected it at the time, and reading it now we still feel surprise. Why pass over the more obvious candidates?**

God sees things that we do not. He can see the potential created by a resolve to serve him, which is not always obvious to the casual observer. How far do we make judgements that are based on the wrong considerations? God always has a different perspective; how far do we go along with the assessment of

those around us? God shows his love to people we might not naturally love.

Some of the children in your group will be familiar with the story of David and Goliath. It is easy to see it just as a gung-ho adventure story of the underdog winning out. There is far more to it. It is part of a bigger story of what God is doing to save and protect his people. David has a special place in God's plans. In this story he demonstrates the faith that God looks for and that will bring victory. How do we show our faith in God to look after us?

## For your small group with a wide age range

Just as God helped David grow from a shepherd boy to a king, so he helps our children grow and achieve their God-given potential. The basic step which even the youngest can take is the realisation of God's love for us, and our priority is to see that everyone knows that.

Knowing his love, it is easier to grasp that God understands, protects and helps us grow in faith. Try to choose activities which make this message relevant across the age groups, providing enough challenge for older ones while giving younger ones reassurance, especially when the stories contain violent elements.

## Resources for ministry



X:site is a town, area or city wide children's event for anyone who is 7 to 11 years old. Events happen every two months and everyone that goes has lots of fun whilst learning more about God. It's a great opportunity for children from small churches to meet with lots of other Christians of their own age. Each event combines silly games, live music with a great band, videos, creative prayer, craft, drama, Bible stories and lots more, so that everyone can have a good time and learn about Jesus while having fun

at the same time! Maybe there is an X:site event in your area. Go to [www.xsiteuk.org](http://www.xsiteuk.org) to find out!

## Highlights from *LightLive*

Go to the 'Search *LightLive*' tab at [www.lightlive.org](http://www.lightlive.org) and enter this session's Bible reference to find:

- 'Bible story picture': a regular activity for 2-7s
- 'Audio Bible story': a regular mp3 download for 3-7s
- 'Learn and remember': a PowerPoint of a Bible verse to learn, for 5-11s (see also page 30)
- 'Presentation': an activity with animation for 11-14s





**SERIES 1** IN GOD'S HANDS

## SESSION 1

# Close to God's heart



### **Bible:**

1 Samuel 16:1–13;  
Psalm 23

**Aim:** To discover that God sees us differently than others

## **CORE PROGRAMME**

**For 3–14s**

### **Bible with games**

**5 – 25 minutes**

**Why:** to discover that God looks at what people are like on the inside

**With:** a variety of gift-wrapped packages, pictures copied from page 10, envelopes, small cards or slips of paper, *SU Bible Timeline* (optional)

#### **1 Prepare**

Before the session, prepare a variety of gift-wrapped packages – wrap some packages so that it is obvious what is inside, but make others less obvious. Make two or three sets of the pictures.

#### **2 Guessing game**

Display the gift-wrapped packages and invite the children to guess what is inside each one. Once the children have made their guesses, invite a volunteer to unwrap the package and see what is really inside. After all the packages have been unwrapped, chat about how easy it is to get fooled by

wrappings, not just in the case of gifts, but also people! Say that in today's Bible story they will learn that God never gets fooled by the 'wrappings', such as what sort of clothes they wear and how they do their hair. He knows exactly what each person is like on the inside.

#### **3 Bible verses game**

Divide the children into pairs or threes and give each team a set of six pictures from page 10. Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13, pausing at verses 1a, 1b, 5, 10, 11 and 13. Each time you pause, challenge the teams to select the picture that they think best represents that part of the story. Encourage them to arrange the pictures on the floor or a table from left to right, in order. Continue until the end of the Bible verses. Each picture in the correct place earns a team one point. The winning team is the one with the most points.

#### **4 Bible Timeline**

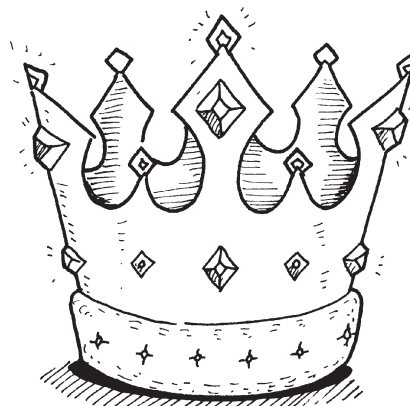
Display the *Bible Timeline*. Invite the children to find the characters Abraham, Moses and Daniel. Chat about what those around them saw when they looked at these people. (For example, Abraham was a very old man who was childless.) Ask what they think God saw when he looked at the person. (He saw Abraham, a man of great faith.) Invite the children to think of

suitable descriptions for David (for example, a young shepherd boy who became a great king). Stress that no one is too ordinary or too unimportant to be used by God.

#### **5 Response**

Read aloud God's words in 1 Samuel 16:7 (CEV): 'People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts.' Remind the children that God knows exactly what is in their hearts – the thoughts, attitudes and feelings deep inside them, which nobody else might see or know about. Give each child an empty envelope and a small card or slip of paper. Invite the children to spend some time in silence, thinking about what God sees when he looks into their hearts. Ask them to write down their thoughts (or draw something symbolic) on the card or paper and place it in their envelope. Suggest that they seal their envelopes and take them home as a reminder that God knows exactly what they are like on the inside and he loves them.

## Bible with games pictures



## CORE PROGRAMME CONTINUED

**Creative worship****5 minutes**

**Why:** to praise God because he knows us so well

**1** Invite the children to form a circle. In turn, ask each child to tell everyone something that no one in the group will know about them – encourage them to share something unusual or humorous!

**2** Explain that there is someone who knows everything about them, someone who knows them even better than they know themselves! Ask the children who this 'someone' is. Say that God knows each one of them so well – their thoughts, feelings, fears, hopes, dreams, strengths, weaknesses.

**3** Read Psalm 139:1–6. After each verse, invite the children to respond: 'I praise you, Lord. You know me so well.'

**Describe and imagine****10 minutes**

**Why:** to be assured that God knows us and loves us

**With:** a photograph of someone the children don't know

**1** Show the children the photograph and ask them to describe the person. Say that all the things they have said are true, but these are just about the outside of the person. Explain that God knows everyone, both on the outside and what they are really like inside. Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

**2** Invite the children to sit quietly and imagine God looking at them with love.

**3** Say a prayer out loud for each child, 'Thank you, God, that you know [child's name] and you love him/her, just the way he/she is.'

**Medals****10 - 20 minutes**

**Why:** to remember how God sees us

**With:** ribbon or string, large coins (2p UK currency), circles of card, tin-foil squares, permanent markers or biros

**1** Give each child 60 cm of ribbon or string, a large coin, two circles of card bigger than the coin and two tin-foil squares bigger than the coin. Make medals together by sandwiching the coin between the two pieces of card, then wrapping each square of foil tightly around it on each side.

**2** Ask each child to think of one good thing they think God sees in them, for instance being kind, brave or funny. Help them write their word on their medal using a permanent marker or a biro. Attach string or ribbon to the back of each medal and present them to the children, saying out loud the things written on them.

EXTENSION IDEAS

Activities for younger children

Finding game

5 minutes

**Why:** to learn that God loves everyone

**With:** any models or pictures of sheep available, at least one for each child

- 1 Stand the sheep together. Ask the children to pretend these are real sheep. Imagine David the shepherd boy looking after them. How would he find food and water? How would he keep them safe?
- 2 Ask the children to pick up one 'sheep' each. Say that if the sheep got lost, David would go looking for them. The children should go and hide their sheep somewhere in the room and then come back.
- 3 When the sheep are hidden, pretend they are lost. The children must now go and 'find' their own sheep and bring it back.
- 4 Comment that they knew their own sheep and were very good at finding them. God knows each one of us in just the same way. He loves everyone and never forgets where we all are.
- 5 Play the game several times, reminding the children each time of God's love for them.

For older children

5 - 10 minutes

**Why:** to thank God that he looks at what people are like on the inside

**With:** the Bible verses given on page 13 (optional)

- 1 Divide the children into two groups. Explain that one group is worried about what they look like, or the stuff they haven't got. The other group are 'agony aunts' (or uncles). (It is probably best if an adult chairs the proceedings.)
- 2 Ask one group to come up with a problem. For example, 'I don't wear the latest fashions and some people laugh at me.' Invite the agony aunts to suggest answers that relate to what they have learned in this session. (Check out 1 Samuel 16:7.)
- 3 After a few turns, encourage the children to thank God that he loves them for who they really are.
- 4 If appropriate, give each child a copy of the Bible verses.

THE LEARN AND REMEMBER VERSE

**'I have confidence in your strength; you are my refuge, O God.'**

*Psalm 59:9*

Write each word on a paper strip. Make a paper chain out of the strips and join the two ends to form a circle. Practise saying the verse together, starting from different places in the chain.

Find a poster for this Learn and remember verse on page 30.

You can also sing the verse with the song 'UR my refuge' on the *Bitesize Bible Songs* CD, available from Scripture Union.

**Check out these Bible verses when you are...**

<b>Angry</b>	Ephesians 4:26,27
<b>Worried</b>	1 Peter 5:7
<b>In need</b>	Matthew 6:19-34
<b>Afraid</b>	Isaiah 43:1,2; Matthew 10:29-31
<b>Struggling to forgive someone</b>	Matthew 18:21-35
<b>Feeling guilty about sinning</b>	Psalm 51; 1 John 1:9
<b>In danger</b>	Psalm 91
<b>Finding it difficult to pray</b>	Romans 8:26,27
<b>In a situation where you don't know what to do</b>	James 1:5
<b>Burdened with problems</b>	Matthew 11:28-30
<b>In need of courage</b>	Joshua 1:9
<b>Tempted to do wrong</b>	Ephesians 6:10-18
<b>Feeling all alone or abandoned</b>	Isaiah 49:15,16
<b>Feeling that everything is going wrong</b>	Romans 8:28

