

God Exalts David

Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

The messenger came stumbling into the city unannounced. David was alarmed when he saw the man. He could only be bringing bad news.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

- A. King Saul and Jonathan were killed in the battle with the Philistines. (1:1-4)
- B. David, his men and their families went to Hebron as God directed them. (2:1-3)
- C. David was anointed king of Judah, where he reigned seven and a half years. (2:4-7,11)
- D. Abner made Saul's son, Ishbosheth, king of Israel. (2:8-10)
- E. In anger Abner left Ishbosheth to join forces with David. (3:1-12)
- F. Abner urged the tribes of Israel to make David their king. (3:17-19)
- G. Abner and David made a covenant of peace together. (3:20-21)
- H. In jealousy and revenge, Joab killed Abner. (3:22-30)
- I. David and the people mourned for Abner. (3:31-39)
- J. Ishbosheth was murdered by his own men, opening the way for David to be king over Israel. (4:1-7)

III. CLIMAX

In God's perfect time, David was finally made king over all Israel! (5:1-5)


IV. CONCLUSION

David captured the city of Jerusalem, setting up his capital there. (5:6-12)

Challenge (saved child): Wait for God to use you. [1 Pet. 5:6]
Invitation (unsaved child): Call on the Lord and be saved. [Rom. 10:13]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.

Lesson Overview	
Scripture	2 Samuel 2:1-10; 3:1, 6-12, 17-39; 4:1, 5-7; 5:1-12
Memory Verse	1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."
Teaching Objective	The saved child will wait for God's timing, humbly trusting Him to work out His will in his life.
Main Teaching	Wait for God's right time.
Teaching Statement	Wait for God's right time!
Emphasis for Unsaved	Call on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.
Visual Aids	Flashcards 2-1—6, map

Schedule		60-min	75-min
Before Club	Complete attendance record as children arrive, listen to each child recite previous verse	—	—
Opening	Welcome "Good News to All the World" Review rules, "David's Crown" attendance incentive	4	4
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children	3	3
Song	"I Want to Know Christ"	2	2
Memory Verse	(Review previous verse) 1 Peter 5:6 Repetition: Choir Director	8	8
Bible Lesson/ Invitation	(Review previous lesson) God Exalts David	20	20
Review	Review game and/or growth activity	0	6
Gospel Activity	"Nothing But the Blood" (review) 	4	4
Missions	Song: "Children All Around the World" Story: <i>Mountain Pathways</i> , part 2 "Flight to the Field" missions chart, emphasis, prayer	10	10
Song	"Nothing But the Blood"	2	2
Wonder Time	"God Wants to Spend Time with Just You" or "Get It Read," quiet time teaching and <i>Wonder Devotional Book</i> review, awards	6	15
Closing	Announcements, prayer, verse/teaching tokens, <i>Wonderzone</i> bookmarks, <i>Truth Chasers Club</i> starter, lessons	1	1

Extended Class Time: Use additional sidebar activities.

Teaching the Memory Verse

Preschool Memory Verse

Teach John 3:16 throughout the series. See p. 7 for teaching instructions.

Arrange for a child or helper to pretend to be impatiently waiting—looking at his watch, frowning, crossing his arms and tapping his foot, checking his watch again.

The memory verses in this series are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. If you are using another version, you may need to adapt the explanations slightly.

Preschool Repetition

“Choir Director”

For preschoolers hold hands low for soft then at waist for medium then high for loud voices. Repeat several times.

This scene could be acted out by a child or helper.

- Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:6
“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”
- Introduction:** Do you ever get tired of waiting for God to work in your life? Instead of waiting for God’s right time, for Him to use you in a special way, you try to work things out for yourself. Maybe you even boast about how well you can do something. Our verse today reminds us that it’s important to wait on God for His right timing.
- Presentation:** *(Read the verse from your Bible—or have an older child do so—then have the children read with you from the verse visual.)*
- Explanation:** “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God”—See yourself as God sees you and submit, or give in to God’s rule in your life. “that he may exalt you in due time”—When you humble yourself and allow God to rule, He will honor or promote you. When does this happen? In His good time.
- Application:** *Saved:* If you have called on the Lord Jesus as your Savior from sin, this is a command for you. You are to be humble and accept God’s authority in your life. He gave you parents, guardians and teachers to help guide you. Be patient and He will promote and honor you in His time. *Unsaved:* God cannot help you be humble until you have called on the Lord Jesus to save you. Listen carefully during our Bible story to hear how you can call on Him for salvation.
- Repetition:** Choir Director
(As the verse is said, the teacher holds out hands as if directing a choir. Hold hands high for “loud,” place finger on lips for “soft,” rotate hands rapidly for “fast” and hold hands low for “slow.” Repeat several times, allowing volunteers to direct the choir.)

Gospel Activity

Nothing But the Blood (Song Review)

(Present the Gospel as you review this song. See p. 51 for teaching instructions.)

Lesson

INTRODUCTION

Slide 2-1

The messenger came stumbling into the city unannounced. Everyone stared in shock at his appearance. He looked exhausted. His clothes were torn. Dirt covered his head and was streaked through his hair and beard. David was alarmed when he saw the man. In his culture, a messenger with this appearance could only be bringing bad news. The people crowded around David as he approached the stranger to get answers.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

David, his men and their families had been back in their ruined city of Ziklag for three days. In spite of the destruction from the invading Amalekites, these had been wonderful days of happy reunion. God had given David’s army victory over the enemy.

But now the celebrating stopped as all eyes watched the messenger who just entered the city. The man bowed low before David.

“Where did you come from?” David asked.

“I have escaped from Saul’s army,” the man answered.

David knew that Saul's army had been in battle with the Philistines since he and his men left King Achish. He was almost afraid to hear the answer to his next question, but he had to ask, "How have things gone there?"

The messenger shook his head sadly and answered, "The Israelite soldiers gave up the battle and ran. Many soldiers were killed. Saul is dead. Jonathan is dead, too."

This was the news David was dreading to hear. As their custom was in a time of great sadness, David and his men tore their clothes and wept for Saul and Jonathan. They fasted (refused to eat) until evening as they mourned their great loss.

Now that Saul was gone, who would lead the Israelites? David knew that he would be the next king because God had told him so. Should he gather the army of Israel and declare himself king? He had waited so long for God's promise to come to pass. It would be very easy for David to get impatient for God's right time to work out His will in David's life.

Slide 2-2

Do you sometimes get impatient waiting for God to work in your life? At times it may seem like God has forgotten all about you. But you can be sure He hasn't! If you have called on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you need to wait for God's right time. Maybe you feel God has given you a talent or ability to do something special. Perhaps you want to be president of your class, captain of your team, or leader of your club. Maybe you want to win a special award or contest. If you're not patient to wait for God's right time, you might decide to work things out for yourself. Some boys and girls whine and complain when things don't go their way. Others cheat or threaten people to get what they want. You may get results this way, but you won't be trusting God to work out His will, and sooner or later you'll be the loser. (*Repeat 1 Peter 5:6 together.*) God will exalt or promote you to a place where you can bring glory and honor to Him as you humble yourself and wait. Don't be impatient. Wait for God's right time!

It would be easy for David to be impatient for God's right time to work out His will in his life. But David had learned some very hard lessons.

Rather than rushing to take over the kingdom, David very wisely and humbly talked to God in prayer.

"Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" he asked the Lord. (The cities of Judah were the southern part of the kingdom of Israel.)

God answered David, "Go up. Go to Hebron."

Knowing this was God's clear direction for him, David took his family, his men and their families and left Ziklag in the land of the Philistines. They went home to Israel, to Hebron and its surrounding towns. How good it was to be home at last!

Slide 2-3

Not long after settling in Hebron, the leaders of Judah came to David and anointed him as their king! Finally David wore the crown and royal robes. But this wasn't exactly what God had promised. Judah was only part of Israel. God had divided the people into twelve different tribes or family groups. What about the other eleven tribes? They did not join in anointing David. He was now king over only one tribe in the southern end of the kingdom. God had promised that David would be king of all Israel. Did David fuss and complain? Did he try to force the other tribes to accept him as king? No! David humbly waited on God. He knew when the time was right, God would keep His promise.

Up in Israel, Abner, who was the commander of Saul's army, heard that David had been made king of Judah. Abner still felt a deep desire to follow Saul's family. Abner was against anyone else being king. With Saul and Jonathan both dead, Abner decided to make Saul's youngest son, Ishbosheth, king of Israel.

This decision divided the people. Some sided with David and some with Saul's son. It caused a terrible civil war between the tribe of Judah and the tribes of Israel. Many men lost their lives as God's people fought against each other. During one of the fierce battles, Abner killed the younger brother of Joab, David's army commander.



Teaching Card and Statement

Show card and have children shout "Wait for God's right time!" (See GNC resource pack.) This teaching statement—a shortened version of the teaching emphasis for the saved child—will be easy for kids to repeat. Tell the kids that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when kids are restless or anytime!

Preschoolers will enjoy humbly kneeling with you.

Judah (JOO-duh)

Hebron (HEE-bruhn)

Preschool Song

Sing "Have You Any Fear?"

Ishbosheth (ihsh-BOE-sheth)

Slide 2-4

Ishbosheth was not a very strong king. In fact, Abner was the one who made most of the decisions. One day Ishbosheth and Abner had a serious argument when Ishbosheth accused Abner of planning to take over the kingdom.

Abner angrily said to the king, "You can expect me to do nothing more for you. From now on, I am for David. I will see that he gets the kingdom that God promised to him." Abner stormed out, never to see Ishbosheth again.

Immediately, Abner put his plan into action. He began visiting the leaders of the tribes of Israel, encouraging them to join David's side. Abner was very convincing as he told them, "In the past you wanted to make David king. Now let's make him king over all Israel. For the Lord has said, 'By the hand of my servant David I will rescue my people out of the hand of the Philistines and from the power of all their enemies.'"

Since the enemy Philistines were still a threat to Israel, Abner's words made the people think. Soon the tribes were in agreement with Abner.

Abner then went to Hebron to see David. At a great feast that David made for him, Abner made a promise to the king.

"I will bring all Israel here to my master the king," he said. "Then you may reign over all that your heart desires. You may be king over the whole nation."

When Abner left, he and David were friends. David must have thought a lot about what Abner had said, but how could it be? Ishbosheth was still king in Israel. He was Saul's son, and David would never strike against him. He must continue to wait for God's perfect plan.

Soon after Abner left, David's commander, Joab, arrived. He had been away at battle but learned that Abner had been there to meet with David and that they had feasted and become friends. This made Joab very angry. He was probably jealous and a little concerned that Abner might take his place as David's commander. He was also still angry at Abner because he had killed his brother in battle.

"What have you done?" Joab asked David angrily. "Abner was here and you sent him away in peace. You know he came here to deceive (trick) you. He came just to spy on you!"

Slide 2-5

The enraged commander turned and left David. Without David knowing, Joab sent messengers to find Abner and bring him back. When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took the unsuspecting general aside into a shadowy, private area. There Joab killed Abner. Sinful jealousy and a desire for revenge had taken over Joab's thoughts and he became a murderer. That's the terrible power that sin can have over a person's mind and actions.

Did you know that you were born under the power of sin? God's Word says, "For all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Sin's power is great and if you do not have God's help, sin can take over your mind and actions, causing you to break God's laws in many different ways. When you think unkind thoughts about someone or say hurtful things or hit someone in anger, you are sinning. God is not that way; He is holy—completely without sin. He hates your sin because it keeps you away from Him. But in His love for you, God made a way for your sin to be forgiven. His perfect Son, the Lord Jesus, came and died on the cross. He could take the painful punishment for your sin because He had never done any wrong Himself. He gave His own blood to pay for the wrong things you've done. The Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). After His death on the cross, Jesus' body was placed in a tomb, but three days later He came to life again, proving that God accepted His payment for sin. By calling on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you can be free from the power of sin under which you were born. Sin no longer has to control your mind and actions.

Joab's mind was being controlled by sins of jealousy and revenge, and he became a murderer, killing Abner. David was grieved when he learned of Abner's death. He and the people showed great sorrow and they buried Abner there in Hebron.

A short time later, David was grieving again. King Ishbosheth was killed by two of his own soldiers. David was sorrowful at the loss of Saul's last son.

Joab (JO-ab)



Be sure to take time at another point in the class hour to reinforce Gospel teachings (see schedule, p. 15).

"Jesus gave his own blood." Be careful how you explain the shedding of Christ's blood. Children may understand *shed* to be where wood is stored or what happens to the fur on a pet. *Gave* is usually a better word but always in the context of Christ's death on the cross. He didn't give His blood as blood donors do.

Preschool Song
Sing "Good News."

Slide 2-6

After Ishbosheth died, people from every tribe of Israel began to arrive in Hebron.

“We believe in you, David,” they said. “Even when Saul was king it was you who led Israel.” They wanted David to be king of all Israel. Seven and a half years after Saul died, the time had finally come.

David had been just a young man when Samuel first told him he’d be king. Now he was thirty years old. David had humbly waited for God’s right time, trusting Him to work out His will in his life.

Slide 2-7

It may take a long time, but as you humbly wait for God’s right time, He will work out His will for you, too. If you have called on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you need to wait for God to use you. Resist the urge to run ahead and work things out for yourself. Remember what our verse says. (*Repeat 1 Peter 5:6 together.*) Instead of trying to impress others with how good you are, see yourself honestly as God sees you. Listen to God and trust Him. When you do this, God’s promise is that He will exalt (honor or promote) you in His perfect time. Let God decide when and if it is right for you to be class president or team captain. Let God choose when and how you receive an award or win a contest. When you trust God to work as you humbly wait, you will bring glory to God because others will notice. Ask God to give you patience and help you be humble. Thank Him that He is at work in your life and that you can bring glory to Him. It may take a long time, but God will work out His will for you as you humbly wait for His right time.

David had waited for God’s right time to work out His will in his life.

Slide 2-8

As the elders of Israel gathered around, David knelt and was anointed with oil—for the third time!

CLIMAX

In God’s perfect time, David was finally made king over all Israel!

CONCLUSION

The people rejoiced! They feasted and celebrated for three days in honor of their new king.

Now that David was leader of all Israel, he wanted to make his capital in a city that would be central to the whole kingdom. He chose the city of Jerusalem. An enemy army had control of Jerusalem, but God helped David’s army capture the city. David had a fine palace built there.

The Bible says David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. Because David had humbly waited for God’s timing, trusting Him to work out His will in his life, God exalted David just as He promised.

CHALLENGE

Slide 2-9

God will exalt you, too, if you humbly wait for God’s right time and trust Him to work in your life. If you have called on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, will you wait for God’s right time? Remember our memory verse. (*Repeat 1 Peter 5:6 together.*) If you find yourself getting impatient for God to work, ask Him to give you patience. Ask God to help you be humble so that you see yourself as He sees you. Thank Him that He is at work in your life. When God does choose to exalt you, don’t forget to give Him the praise!

Every time you see a clock, remember to humbly wait for God’s right time to use you.



Teaching Card and Statement

Show card and have children shout
“Wait for God’s right time!”

Tactile learners will understand *feast* and *celebration* as you serve “royal” food—grapes, apple wedges, etc.

Read 2 Samuel 5:12 from your Bible.



Teaching Card and Statement

Show card and have children shout
“Wait for God’s right time!”



Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus using this method or another you have found effective. See invitations in other lessons and sidebar notations for tips and suggestions.

Preschool Invitation

Sing “Nothing But the Blood” and present the invitation using John 3:16 and “believe in” terminology. Ask those who would like to believe in Jesus to stay with you at the story rug.

Review Game

“Crown Me”

Place a chair in front of the class. Provide a crown (see GNC resource pack) and a scepter, gaudy ring and robe if possible. The first child who answers a question correctly may sit in the chair as “king.” Ask the next question and have the king watch and name the child who raised his hand first. If this child answers correctly, he may come up and be king and so on until all questions have been asked. If you wish to divide into teams, have each king draw from a point bag (use the point cards from “Zonk,” the review game for Lesson 5) to determine how many points he has won for his team.

INVITATION

If you have never before called on the Lord Jesus as your Savior from sin, this is God’s right time for you to do that! The Bible says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). Maybe now you realize that you’ve been sinning against God. You must admit to God that you’ve sinned, realizing your sin against God keeps you separated from Him. You must believe with all your heart that the Lord Jesus died on the cross as the only way your sin can be forgiven. Then you can call on the Lord Jesus—tell Him you want Him to be your Savior. He will save you from sin’s punishment. Will you call on Jesus and be saved? Please bow your heads and close your eyes. If you would like to call on the Lord Jesus so you can be saved from sin, you can talk to Him right now. Say something like this: “Dear Lord Jesus, I do believe You died for me. I’m sorry for the wrong things I’ve done. Please take away my sin and help me obey You. Thank You for saving me today.” If you prayed that prayer, please meet me (*designate time and location*) so I can talk with you about it.

Review Questions

1. What terrible news did the messenger bring to David’s city of Ziklag? (*That King Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle and that Israel was defeated.*)
2. Why didn’t David take over as king of Israel right after Saul was killed? (*He was waiting for God’s right time to become king.*)
3. Why should you, as God’s child, wait for God to use you? (*If you try to work things out for yourself, you may create greater problems.*)
4. What did the people in Hebron make David king over? (*The southern tribe of Judah.*)
5. Who did Abner make king over Israel? Why? (*Saul’s son, Ishbosheth; Abner felt a strong loyalty to Saul’s family.*)
6. When Abner and Ishbosheth had an argument, what did Abner do to help David? (*He visited the elders of the other tribes of Israel to try to convince them to make David king over all Israel.*)
7. Why did Joab get so angry when he heard that Abner had been welcomed by David? (*Joab was afraid Abner might take his place as commander of David’s army, and he was angry at Abner for killing Joab’s younger brother.*)
8. How can you be forgiven for the sin that you were born with? (*You can call on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, believing He died on the cross for you.*)
9. What happened to David after the death of Ishbosheth? (*He was made king of all Israel.*)
10. Quote 1 Peter 5:6. What does it mean? (*1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” See yourself honestly as God sees you and wait for His perfect time to promote or honor you.*)

Preschool Review Questions

1. What terrible news did a messenger bring David? (*King Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle.*)
2. What did the leaders of Judah do to David? (*Crowned him king.*)
3. How did David finally become king over the rest of Israel? (*He waited for God to work it out.*)
4. How can you be saved from the power of sin? (*Believe in Jesus to save you.*)

Growth Activities

Humility Skit

Our memory verse tells us to humble ourselves and God will exalt us. Luke 18 tells of a proud Pharisee and a humble publican (tax collector), both praying in the temple. Have the children act out Luke 18:10-14. You may wish to hand out scripts before club and have the children practice reading and acting out their parts, or have someone read the passage while the children pantomime.

Preschool Review Game

"Crown Me"

Make a crown from shiny paper if available. When a child answers a question, he may come to the front, sit in a special chair and wear the crown. The child who answers the next question takes his place and so on. Continue until all the children have worn the crown.