I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

A. The Lord prepared David to be the next king of Israel.

B. David represents the Lord in respect to Divine truth, and he pictures a spiritual understanding of truth in people.

C. David means “beloved,” and we should remember that the Lord loves us and cares for us always.

D. It is the Lord who protects us and delivers us from evil.

E. Goliath represents our love of self.

F. The five smooth stones represent truths from the Word that we have accepted.

G. If we trust in the Lord and obey His commandments, His power will always protect us.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction
Saul was the first king of Israel, and he was a good king for a while. But then Saul disobeyed Samuel. Because Samuel spoke for the Lord, Saul was actually disobeying the Lord. So the Lord rejected Saul as king, and He told Samuel to anoint a new king. The Lord led Samuel to anoint David, a shepherd boy from Bethlehem, as the next king of Israel.

B. Tell/Read the Story
1. Retelling of I Samuel 16 (David is Anointed)
The Lord said to Samuel, “Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse, for I have provided Myself a King among his sons. You shall anoint for Me the one I name for you.” So Samuel did what the Lord said, and he went to Bethlehem. He saw seven of Jesse’s sons, but the Lord did not choose one of them. Samuel asked if Jesse had any more sons, and Jesse answered that the
youngest was keeping the sheep. The youngest son, David, was sent for. He was ruddy and good-looking, with bright eyes. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!” Then Samuel took his horn of oil and anointed David in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.

2. But David did not become the king of Israel right away. Saul was still the king. When the people saw that the Lord was with David and not with Saul, then they accepted him as their next king.

3. After David was anointed by Samuel, he spent some time with Saul playing the harp to calm him. Saul loved David very much at that time and made him his armor bearer. Then David returned home to care for his father’s sheep, and Saul forgot him. But Saul met David again later. Let’s hear the story from the Word.

4. Read attached retelling of I Samuel 17 (David and Goliath).

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Literal Sense
   a. Why did the Lord want Samuel to anoint a new king? (Because Saul had disobeyed Samuel)
   b. Who did Samuel anoint? (David, the son of Jesse)
   c. What was David doing when Samuel found him? (tending sheep)
   d. Did David become king right away? (No)
   e. Who was Goliath? (A giant with the Philistines)
   f. What challenge did Goliath give to Israel each day? (Send a man to fight me. If I win, you will be our servants; if he wins, we will be your servants.)
   g. Why did David visit Saul’s army? (To bring food to three of his brothers)
   h. Why was David willing to fight Goliath? Why wasn’t he afraid? (He had killed lions and bears which were trying to harm his father’s lambs. He knew the Lord had helped him then and that He would help David fight Goliath also.)
   i. What were David’s weapons? (staff, sling, and five smooth stones from the brook)
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j. What did the Philistines do when they saw David kill Goliath? (They ran away.)

2. Further Ideas
   a. At first Samuel thought that one of Jesse’s other sons would be king, but the Lord made the choice, and He told Samuel, “The Lord does not see as man sees: for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” The Lord knew what was in David’s heart, and He knew David would be a good king. The Lord sees what is in our hearts—He sees our inner feelings—just as He saw David’s heart. That is why the Lord is able to lead us and take care of us so well.
   b. In the story of David and Goliath, were you surprised that David, a shepherd boy, could kill the huge warrior, Goliath? David was very brave, and he trusted in the Lord. Sometimes we face something difficult, but if we trust in the Lord and obey His Word, the Lord will be on our side, and we, too, will win the battle.

III. Enrichment Activities

   A. Music
      2. “Father in heaven,” HYMNAL #152.

   B. Activities

   C. Project (Choose one)
      1. Samuel Anointing David: Color the attached picture of Samuel anointing David with felt markers. Then (the teacher can) pour a little oil on David. Rub it over the picture with a paper towel. This will make the picture transparent, and you can hang it in the window. (Teacher could mount the picture in a construction paper “frame” by cutting a rectangle out of the middle of a 9 X 12 sheet and then taping the picture behind the opening.)
      2. David and Goliath: See attached instruction sheet.

IV. Teaching Aids

Illustrations of:

   A. David watching his father’s sheep
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B. Samuel anointing David

C. David and Goliath

(You can find these in David by Maud and Misha Petersham, and in the Teaching Pictures Flip Chart on David.)

V. Further Reading for the Teacher


C. SAUL, DAVID, AND SOLOMON by Hugo Lj. Odhner, Chapters 1 and 2.
Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle. And Saul and the men of Israel drew up in battle array against the Philistines. The Philistines stood on one mountain and Israel stood on another mountain with a valley between them.

And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines named Goliath. His height was six cubits and a span [about nine feet tall]. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail. He had a bronze javelin and a spear. And a shield-bearer went before him.

Goliath cried out to the armies of Israel, “Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to kill me, we will be your servants. But if I kill him, then you shall serve us. Give me a man, that we may fight together.” When Saul and all Israel heard Goliath, they were greatly afraid. And Goliath challenged Israel each day for forty days, in the morning and evening.

Now Jesse sent his son David to take food to his three brothers who were with Saul’s army. And as David talked with his brothers, Goliath challenged Israel. And all the men of Israel fled from Goliath and were dreadfully afraid. But David said to Saul, “I will go and fight this Philistine.” And Saul said, “You are not able to fight Goliath for you are but a youth.”

But David said, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went after it and struck it and took the lamb from its mouth. And when the wild animal attacked me, I caught it by its beard, and killed it. The Lord delivered me from the lion and the bear. He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.” Saul clothed David with his armor: a bronze helmet, a coat of mail, and a sword. But David couldn’t walk with the armor on, so he took it off. Then David took his staff in his hand. And he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook and put them in a shepherd’s bag [a pouch], and his sling was in his hand. And David drew near the Philistine.

When Goliath saw that David was but a youth, he scorned him, saying, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!” Then David said, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. But I come to you in
the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand. For the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands.”

When Goliath came to meet him, David ran to meet him. David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead. And he fell on his face to the earth. David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and killed him. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.