

Shepherd, Dancer, Poet, King - Telling and Singing the Stories of King David
TEACHING AND TELLING THE KING DAVID STORIES WITH CHILDREN

Just keep in mind - you cannot "do" King David in a week!

GOALS AND RESOURCES WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

Build biblical literacy - teach these basic elements of the story -

Tribal structure changes to kings & nation

*The **Beulah Enterprises flannelboard Old Testament Heroes Story Set** includes Samuel and David but to use this set, you also need the Starter Set and Salvation Story Set. This is an expensive approach to buy in to, but it comes ready-to-use and is easy to use. as well. Written and designed by a thoughtful Episcopal educator, Gretchen Wolff Pritchard.*

David the shepherd boy / David and Goliath

*For \$22, Beulah Enterprises has a **David puppet** - the young, charismatic David, not the middle-aged power-hungry David or the old pathetic David. Sheep puppets should be easy to come across, and making a Goliath puppet sounds like a good project.*

Returning the Ark of the Covenant

*This procession would be a fabulous puppet project.
Check out the ideas at: <http://puppetco-op.org/index.html>
Accompanying Psalms might be:*

'Sing to the Lord a new song!' (Psalm 96)

'Clap your hands, all you people!' (Psalm 47)

'Praise God with the timbrel and dance.' (Psalm 150)

Harp & Psalms

Getting to strum an autoharp would be fun for children, and you can take your pick of metrical Psalms in the hymnbook.

Give children a sense of culture and place -

Food - *There's an abundance of Middle Eastern cookbooks - look in your public library for "Bible food" or "Bible Recipes." Giving a grand feast in the style of King David would be fun - also, a King David picnic catered by Abigail, as in 1 Samuel 25.*

Dance - *Someone in your community will know some Middle Eastern folk dances - this is something you can't get from a book!*

Model ways of relating to scripture -

*The **Godly Play** approach is particularly helpful in showing how to invite children to question a story and empathize with its characters. [Briefly: use objects to tell the story, don't editorialize, ask "wondering" questions.] Several churches in the Diocese use this curriculum - if you'd like to observe it in action, help is available. The Godly Play books are reasonable - it's the toys that run up the bills! The David story is in **Godly Play Volume 6, 15 Enrichment Lessons for Fall**. Maybe you could make your own toys?*

GOALS AND RESOURCES WITH OLDER CHILDREN

All of the above! *Any of the above activities can be adapted to include older children.*

Relating to scripture as story -

*Children can learn to tell stories too. Pamela or Jennie can help on this topic - it's another workshop. For a general introduction to Biblical storytelling, see Thomas Boomershine's **Story Journey**.*

Enactment -

Dress-up and costuming ideas/information can be figured out from illustrated guides to Biblical times. You might like to look at **The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Everyday Life in Bible Times**. Making a story cloth together is another good project - a particularly loving example is at: <http://notquitecrunchyparent.blogspot.com/2007/03/making-story-cloth-or-how-i-spent-my.html>



but yours would not have to be this elaborate. Here's a story cloth where each panel holds one piece of the story.

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Worship -

What are the psalms and why do we keep repeating them? Older children can memorize a Psalm. Walter Bruggemann gives a simple, pastoral way of thinking about the Psalms in several of his books: the shortest (and cheapest) is **Spirituality of the Psalms**, \$7 on Amazon.

Maps, geography -

Where are these places? What did they look like? Sound like? Your public library will have books on life in Biblical times, although when using these one

wants to be aware of the author's interpretive approach. There are several inexpensive and pleasant Kregel Pictorial Guides that relate to the story. Again, you might like to look at **The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Everyday Life in Bible Times**.

GOALS AND RESOURCES WITH TEENS:

Model an adult relationship with the Bible -

This is of the first importance. We won't have these young men and women in church much longer, and we need to model for them a relationship with the Bible that is informed, intelligent, critical, and faithful. How does the Bible tell the truth, and what is the nature of the truth it shows? Bruggemann's **David's Truth** would be a fine resource for teachers.

Teens need to be shown how to evaluate different approaches to the Bible. Choosing one story and looking at how different commentaries treat it would be a useful exercise.

How do we respond to the violence in the Bible, and to the idea that religion causes violence? **"Does Religion Cause Violence"** is an excellent discussion resource - details in the general bibliography.

Show how Bible stories raise important questions -

David and Bathsheba - What's our experience of the view from the roof, where we can take whatever we want?

Samuel and Saul - What does it mean for a political leader to say "I know God's will"?

For more good questions, nose around in the articles in the general bibliography.

This material was prepared by Pamela Grenfell Smith for the workshop **Shepherd, Dancer, Poet, King - Telling and Singing the Stories of King David** offered by Pamela Smith and Jennie Kiffmeyer at Under One Roof, a conference sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, in March 2009.