

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD IS LOVE

David and Jonathan's Friendship

1 Samuel 19–20; 31:1–2; 2 Samuel 9:1–7

Jonathan and David show God's love through their friendship with each other. Jonathan protects David from Jonathan's father, King Saul, and David vows to care for Jonathan's family when David becomes king.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD IS OUR SHEPHERD AND KING

David Crowned King

2 Samuel 5; Psalm 23

God works through the reign of King David to illustrate that He is our true Shepherd and King.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- Israel's lack of unity grieved God. The tribes couldn't agree, and there were separate kings ruling over them. God had a plan to bring His chosen people back together. He chose David, a shepherd king, who would rule Israel following God's command.
- "And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler'" (2 Samuel 5:2b). The word "shepherd" used here is the Hebrew word *ra'ah*, which means "to tend or feed a flock." Through David's guidance, Israel's focus was pointed toward God once more.
- Scripture refers to God as the King of Kings, the ultimate King, ruling over all people—both the common and the kingly.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Before dinner, have your children go into various areas of your home. Call them to the table by their full names. Once seated, talk about a shepherd's job. He knows each of his sheep by name and cares for them by keeping them safe from harm. Tell them you're going to read a part of The Big God Story where God chose a shepherd to be king. After reading **2 Samuel 5:1–5**, ask why they think a shepherd would make a good king. Then share that God is the King of all kings—greater than any other king. Explain that God is also our Shepherd and He knows each of us by name.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- Why do you think God chose David to be king?
- Who is our Shepherd and King?
- How does God care for you as your Shepherd?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Is Our Shepherd and King into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God
will be with you wherever you go.**

Joshua 1:9

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **the Lord is your Shepherd. May you follow Him always. The Lord is your King. May you praise His holy name.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to truministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.