

Grade 3—Unit 4

David

Samuel had grown old. The Israelites asked him to appoint a human king, like the nations around them. Samuel warned them against having a king, but they insisted. So God told Samuel to grant their request. God initially chose Saul, but later rejected him because of Saul's disobedience.

God chose David to replace King Saul. The Israelites cheered David's courage in challenging Goliath and applauded his many victories in battle. Saul's jealous rage forced David into hiding.

After killing the Philistine giant, David had developed a close friendship with the king's son, Jonathan. Jonathan defended David to his father, remaining loyal to him and protecting him. When David went into hiding, the men separated, expressing their love for each other, and promising good relationships between them and their descendants.

David was forced to live as a refugee, to stay out of King Saul's way. He spent much of his young life in hiding and on the run. Despite the circumstances, David remained faithful to God. After Saul's death, all Israel asked David to be their ruler. He became one of Israel's greatest kings.

LESSONS

1. A Courageous Youth
2. David, a Friend of Jonathan
3. A Fugitive Becomes King

Unit 4: David

Unit Information

SUMMARY

David was the youngest of eight sons of Jesse. He was a shepherd boy, and took care of his father's sheep. David was brave, killing wild animals that attacked the sheep. Because Saul, God's chosen first king of Israel, was disobedient and selfish, God took the kingdom from him and had Samuel anoint David as the new king. The announcement, however, was not made for a long time.

David's brothers served in King Saul's army, and one day David took food to them. While there, David killed Goliath, the Philistine giant. After this, he developed a close friendship with Saul's son, Jonathan.

After David killed Goliath, the Israelites' admiration for David grew. Saul feared that David would become the next king, and wanted to kill him. David was forced to become a fugitive, but he remained respectful of King Saul and refused to bring harm to him. David also remained faithful to God and became Israel's king after Saul died.

KEY BIBLE TEXTS

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Samuel 16:7b (memory verse)

1 Samuel 17

1 Samuel 18, 19

1 Samuel 20

1 Samuel 24, 26

2 Samuel 5:1-5

2 Samuel 7:5-16

Psalms 51:1, 2 (memory verses)

Psalms 51:10-12 (memory verses)

Psalms 121 (main memory passage)

Psalms 142

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

David's Early Years

David was one of the eight sons of Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem, of Judah. An Ephrathite was from the tribe of Ephraim. Ephraim was the part of Canaan named after Joseph's second son. David was the smallest son, as well as the youngest. He was a handsome youth with a ruddy appearance, which may mean the reddish tint of his hair or even his skin.

David often helped his brothers take care of their father's sheep. While watching the sheep, he killed a bear and a lion that were attacking the animals. It is possible that while watching the flocks, David played his harp and sang praises to God.

Anointing of David

Samuel was instructed to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of Jesse's sons. God

told Samuel to invite Jesse to a sacrifice, despite King Saul's possible anger. Seven of Jesse's sons passed in review before Samuel, but each was rejected. Finally, David was summoned from tending sheep and Samuel anointed him at God's command. After the Spirit of God came on David, Samuel returned to his home, and David went back to taking care of the sheep.

King Saul began to be troubled by an evil spirit, and his attendants searched for someone who could play the harp for him, to soothe him. One of the servants recommended David, son of Jesse. So Saul sent for him, and David entered the king's service.

David Kills Goliath

Three of David's brothers served in Saul's army. One day, Jesse sent David to take food to them. As David arrived at the camp, Goliath came forward to challenge Israel. David scorned the Philistine who had reproached the living God and asked repeatedly what rewards would come to the one who fought with him. He offered to fight the Philistine, telling how he saved his father's sheep from wild animals, with God's help. Saul accepted David's offer and gave him a blessing. After trying on garments offered by the king, David declined them and chose a stick and a shepherd's sling as weapons. David knocked down the Philistine with a stone from his sling, then cut off his head with the giant's own sword. The men took David to Saul, who put him in charge of the troops and asked him to live in his house.

Friends with Jonathan

Saul had a son, Jonathan, and he and David became best friends. Jonathan loved David, and the two made a covenant with each other. Jonathan even dressed David in his own garments.

As David experienced victory on the battlefield, Saul became jealous of his popularity among the Israelites. Saul felt threatened, believing that one day David would usurp his throne. Because of this, he announced his plan to kill David. Jonathan spoke up for David, noting his victory over the Philistine giant. Saul was moved by Jonathan's speech and swore not to kill David. However, as David was playing music for Saul, the king was seized by an evil spirit and attempted to kill him. David escaped, and Jonathan talked to him, explaining that he didn't believe his father really wanted to kill David. David convinced Jonathan that the threat was real.

Jonathan agreed to offer an excuse for David's absence from a festival, to gauge from Saul's reaction whether or not he really meant to harm David. Jonathan swore that he would tell David any bad news. He wished for David the same blessing Saul had enjoyed as king. Jonathan asked him to always remember him and his family, and then repeated the same oath out of love for David.

When Jonathan defended David to the king at the banquet, Saul tried to kill him. Jonathan sent a signal to David about the king's reaction. The two men expressed their love for one another and their sadness at what had happened. Jonathan sent David off, reminding him of their mutual oath for good relationships between them and their descendants.

Life as a Fugitive

Saul began a hot pursuit of David, who was forced to live as a fugitive. He spent many of his young adult years in hiding and on the run.

David fled to an area of rocks and caves, to hide from Saul. He gathered a band of fighting men and took his parents to Moab for protection. For a time, David and his 400 men stayed out of Saul's reach by serving a king in nearby Philistia.

Despite the disappointing circumstances, David chose to follow God. He called on God for help while he was pursued by Saul and his men. Twice David had the opportunity to retaliate and kill King Saul. Twice he refused to kill the one God had first chosen. David respected Saul as God's anointed king, even when Saul was seeking to kill him. David did what he knew was right in the eyes of God.

King David

After Saul's death, the leaders of David's tribe asked him to be their king. Later, all Israel agreed to this choice. Under King David's reign, Israel won many victories over their enemies. The people of Israel lived without fear of attack.

David conquered Jerusalem, made it the nation's capital, and settled into his own palace. David did not forget that it was God who won the victories. He continued to praise God. David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but God declined his offer. God sent Nathan, a prophet, to give David a special message. God promised David that one of his descendants would build God's house. "He is the one who will build a house for my Name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son," 2 Samuel 7:13-14a. This was fulfilled in the lives of two men: Solomon, builder of an earthly temple, and Jesus Christ, who truly established God's kingdom.

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- When David was a young boy, God recognized that his heart was full of love for God.
- A friend is always loyal and can be trusted.
- God has special plans for each of us. We do not need to be jealous of God's plan for others.
- God's love helps us to love others.

WORSHIP

1. Introduce worship by reading "A Songbook for God's People" from *God's Chosen King* by Eve B. MacMaster.
2. Use the memory passage, Psalm 121, as the focus for worship. Work with one stanza each day, reading, discussing, and writing it in your own words. Students may illustrate the images used in the psalm and use the illustrations to aid in memorization. The psalm and illustrations could be added to the students' Bible memory journals.
3. Show students a small jar of oil that is used for anointing services today. Talk about its importance as a symbol. Invite a pastor to talk about anointing services.
4. Have students tear out pictures that show people doing things out of love and faithfulness to others. As they do, briefly list the deeds on the chalkboard or a large sheet of paper. Guide the conversation with questions such as: What was the deed? Who did it? What was the result? Was the helper rewarded? How? Do you think people help others so they will get something in return, or just because

they want to? We never know the full purpose and importance of doing something at the time, but we can choose to do things that honor God.

5. Identify a problem situation at school in which children may be jealous. Talk about how each person involved might feel. Invite students to role-play the situation. How did the actors work with their feelings of jealousy? In what other ways could the situation have been resolved?

6. Have students ask their parents for stories of people who have refused to harm those who wanted to hurt them. Share the stories.

MEMORY PASSAGES

This unit offers a main memory verse passage, plus several bonus passages to be used if desired. These passages are provided in large format on pages 72-75, to be used as posters or overheads.

ASSESSING TEACHING / LEARNING

- Students' understanding of the lessons may be assessed by their answers given on the worksheets.
- You may assess students' understanding of David's life and character as they write commercials, sign autograph books, participate in class discussions, and create cartoon strips.
- The symbols students draw on their Faith Hero T-shirts may also be used to assess their learning.

Lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth. He will
not let your foot slip—he who watches over
you will not slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—the Lord is
your shade at your right hand; the sun will
not harm you by day, nor the moon by
night. The Lord will keep you from all
harm—he will watch over your life; the
Lord will watch over your coming and
going both now and forevermore.



Psalm 121





The Lord does not
look at the things man looks at.

Man looks at the
outward appearance, but
the Lord looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7b



Have mercy on me,
O God, according to your
unfailing love; according to your
great compassion blot out my
transgressions. Wash away
all my iniquity
and cleanse me from sin.

Psalm 51:1-2





Create in me a pure heart, O
God, and renew a steadfast spirit
within me. Do not cast me from
your presence or take your Holy
Spirit from me. Restore to me the
joy of your salvation and grant
me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalm 51:10-12

David

LESSON 1: A COURAGEOUS YOUTH

Objective

Students will identify character traits of David that God was looking for in a king.

Key Concepts

- David trusted in God to help him complete a difficult task.
- God chose David to be Israel's second king, because he saw the love for God in David's heart.

Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Samuel 17

Estimated Lesson Time: 45 minutes

Materials

- Bibles
- Advertisements from magazines
- Chart paper, markers
- Video camera, *optional*
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: *David and Goliath* by Tomie dePaola
- For Extend the Lesson, option four: Faith Hero T-shirts, fabric crayons/markers
- For Extend the Lesson, option five: Hall of Faith cards
- For Extend the Lesson, option six: "A Courageous Youth" maze (p. 125)

Teacher Preparation

- Clip or tear advertisement pages from magazines, for Introducing the Lesson.
- Practice reading or telling the story of David from 1 Samuel 17:1-51.
- If using Extend the Lesson, option six, make copies of the maze, one per student.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Outside and inside. Advertisements try to get us to believe that outer appearances are most important. Look at the advertisements you clipped from magazines and talk about the messages they give (*beauty, success, wealth, having the latest things are most important*). Then make a list of characteristics that describe a person on the inside (*kindness, selfishness, gentleness, honesty, dishonesty, obedience to God, etc.*). Do the students see these characteristics in advertisements or in television/movie personalities?

LESSON STEPS

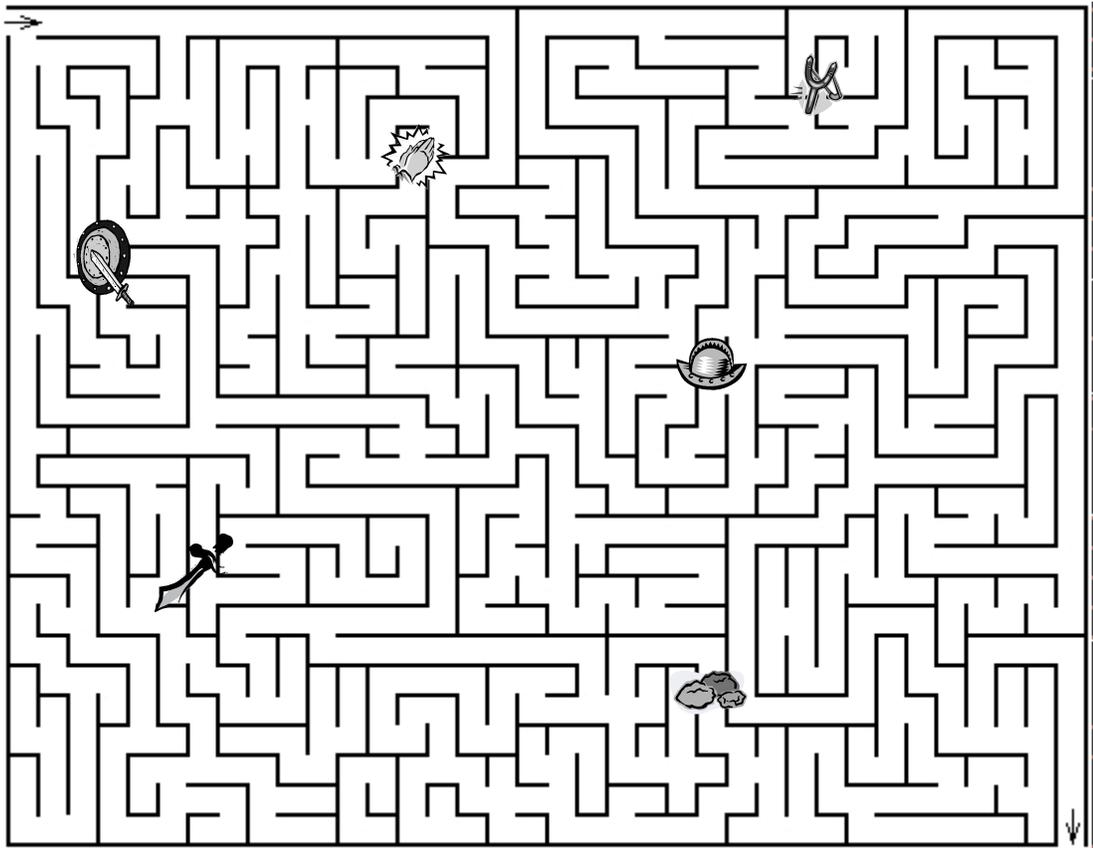
1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Discuss what characteristics God would want a king to have. What character traits might David have had? List them as a class.

2. Outer appearances. God told Samuel that what people were like on the inside was more important than how they looked on the outside. Have students read 1 Samuel 16:7. On chart paper, list characteristics that describe a person's outside appearance.

Name _____

A Courageous Youth

Directions: Help David conquer the giant Goliath by collecting symbols of things he used and avoiding things he rejected.



But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts . . . This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand." (1 Samuel 17: 45a, 46a)



David

LESSON 2: DAVID, FRIEND OF JONATHAN

Objective

Through the story of David, students will identify characteristics of friendship.

Key Concepts

- A friend is always loyal and can be trusted.

Texts: 1 Samuel 20

Estimated Lesson Time: 45 minutes

Materials

- Bible
- Paper, construction paper, stapler(s), markers/glitter pens, stickers
- *God's Chosen King* by Eve B. MacMaster
- For Extend the Lesson, option one: large-size construction paper, crayons/markers
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: "David, Friend of Jonathan" worksheet (p. 128)
- For Extend the Lesson, option three: Bible memory journals; markers/gel pens, stickers, etc., for decorating

Teacher Preparation

- Have paper, construction paper, and stapler(s) ready for students to make autograph books. Provide markers and/or glitter pens and stickers to decorate the covers.
- Be familiar with Chapter 14 in *God's Chosen King*.
- If using Extend the Lesson, option two, make copies of worksheet (one for each student).

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Make autograph books. Show students how to staple papers together with a construction paper cover, to make autograph books. They may decorate the covers to personalize them. Invite students to write in each other's books. An autograph book reminds us of our friendships. Students might enjoy thinking of symbols to draw in their classmates' books. Remind them that this is an opportunity to make new friends and affirm others.

LESSON STEPS

- 1. Read about the beginning of a friendship** in 1 Samuel 18:1-4. What is important in a friendship?
- 2. Read "The Secret of the Arrow"** in *God's Chosen King* (chapter 14). Ask children to think of a person they trust. Why do they trust that person?
- 3. Together, list three or four scenes** from the story, putting them in proper sequence on the chalkboard, under the title "David and Jonathan." (You may add them to the David and Goliath scenes from last time, Extend the Lesson. See page 124.)

4. Choose one or both of the following activities:

- Have students create a cartoon strip of one of the stories.
- Invite students to pretend they are David and write a paragraph beginning with, “One thing I like best about my friend is . . .”

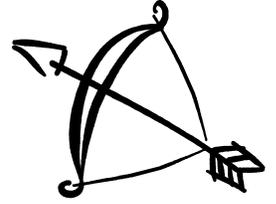
EXTEND THE LESSON

(These activities will extend the lesson to longer than 45 minutes.)

- **Make a friendship collage.** Hand out sheets of paper. Invite students to create a collage showing symbols of friendship between David and Jonathan. They may draw a robe, tunic, bow, arrows, belt and other symbols in all different sizes, then color in the drawings and background. Mount papers on large sheets of construction paper, to make a mat around the outside edges. Display these with the title “Symbols of Friendship.”
- **Complete the worksheet.** Have students complete the “David, Friend of Jonathan” worksheet (p. 128). This could also be used as an assessment.
- **Bible memory journal.** Students may add Psalm 121 to their journals and decorate the page with markers, gel pens, stickers, etc. While they are working, talk about why these words were comforting to David.

Name _____

David, Friend of Jonathan



Directions: Look at 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; and chapter 20, to find the answers for the blanks. Choose words from the following list:

arrow	jealous	evil spirit	defended	kill	leave
promised	good-bye	promise	blessing	clothes	descendants
friends	Goliath	David	Jonathan	playing	repeated

Saul had a son, _____. When David lived in the house of King Saul, he and Jonathan became best _____. Jonathan loved David and even dressed David in his own _____.

King Saul became _____ of David, because the Israelites loved him. Saul was afraid that one day _____ would become king. Because of this, Saul announced his plan to _____ David.

Jonathan spoke up for David, reminding his father of David's victory over _____. Saul felt sorry and said he would not kill David. However, as David was _____ music for Saul, the king was seized by an _____ and tried to kill the young musician by throwing a spear at him.

Jonathan talked to David and _____ to tell him any bad news from King Saul. He also wished for him the same _____ his father had enjoyed as king. Jonathan asked David to never forget him and his family. Then Jonathan _____ his own promise of love for David.

When Jonathan _____ David to the king at a banquet, Saul tried to kill his own son. Jonathan used an _____ to tell David he must _____ and hide from his father. Jonathan and David kissed each other _____ and wept. Jonathan sent David off and reminded him of their _____ to have good relationships with each other and their _____.

“David, Friend of Jonathan” Answer Key:

Saul had a son, Jonathan. When David lived in the house of King Saul, he and Jonathan became best friends. Jonathan loved David and even dressed David in his own clothes.

King Saul became jealous of David, because the Israelites loved him. Saul was afraid that one day David would become king. Because of this, Saul announced his plan to kill David.

Jonathan spoke up for David, reminding his father of David’s victory over Goliath. Saul felt sorry and said he would not kill David. However, as David was playing music for Saul, the king was seized by an evil spirit and tried to kill the young musician by throwing a spear at him.

Jonathan talked to David and promised to tell him any bad news from King Saul. He also wished for him the same blessing his father had enjoyed as king. Jonathan asked David to never forget him and his family. Then Jonathan repeated his own promise of love for David.

When Jonathan defended David to the king at a banquet, Saul tried to kill his own son. Jonathan used an arrow to tell David he must leave and hide from his father. Jonathan and David kissed each other good-bye and wept. Jonathan sent David off and reminded him of their promise to have good relationships with each other and their descendants.

David

LESSON 3: A FUGITIVE BECOMES KING

Objective

Students will recognize Saul's jealousy of David.

Key Concepts

- David refused to harm Saul even though Saul tried to kill him.
- God blessed David with a special promise.
- God spoke to people through prophets like Nathan.

Texts: 1 Samuel 18–19; 1 Samuel 24, 26; Psalm 142; 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 7:5-16

Estimated Lesson Time: 45 minutes

Materials

- Bibles
- *God's Chosen King* by Eve B. MacMaster
- Pair of old eyeglasses, 2 cardboard tubes from bathroom tissue
- For Extend the Lesson, option two: Unit 4 Review (pages 132-133)

Teacher Preparation

- For Introducing the Lesson, glue to the lenses of old eyeglasses two cardboard tubes from bathroom tissue. Secure them so that when you put on the glasses, you are looking through the tubes.
- Become familiar with chapters 13 and 18 in *God's Chosen King*.
- If using Extend the Lesson, option two, make copies of the Unit 4 Review, one for each student.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Jealousy glasses. Put on the eyeglasses you prepared and ask students if they have ever seen anybody who looks like this. Say, “These glasses are called see-what-somebody-else-has glasses. Lots of people wear them. I think you do, sometimes. When I wear glasses like this, I can’t see the good things God has given me. All I can see is what God has given somebody else—things I wish I had. This is called *jealousy*. I’m wearing jealousy glasses. When we’re jealous of someone for something they can do that we can’t, do you know what we’re saying? ‘God, you made a mistake—you should have made me *that way*.’ Now, God doesn’t make mistakes. If we just take off our jealousy glasses (*remove glasses*), we can see all the good ways God made us.

“Remember, when we’re jealous of someone’s abilities or possessions, you’re wearing the jealousy glasses (*put glasses back on*). So, whenever you find yourself feeling jealous, just rip off those see-what-somebody-else-has glasses. (*Rip cylinders off glasses, then put glasses back on.*) Then you’ll really be able to see how good God is to you. You can begin to enjoy the talents God gave you and all the blessings you have.”

LESSON STEPS

1. **Read chapter 13, “Saul Turns Against David,”** in *God’s Chosen King*.
2. **List characteristics or talents** that made David a good leader.
3. **Talk about jealousy.** What did Saul’s jealousy lead him to do? Discuss what jealousy can do to a person.
 - Have students identify times when they were jealous and describe their feelings.
 - Ask: How does it feel when someone is jealous of you? What can you do when that happens?
4. **David, the fugitive.** Explain that David was forced to live in caves and eventually moved his band of followers to Philistia where he served a Philistine king. Talk about how David might have felt as he was chased from place to place by Saul and his men. Have students turn to Psalm 142, where David describes how he felt hiding from Saul.
5. **Read “A Close Call,”** chapter 18 in *God’s Chosen King*. Discuss David’s choices. Why did David refuse to harm King Saul? Why did David let Saul know he had spared his life?
6. **Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5.** List three reasons the 12 tribes chose David to be their king. (*He was an Israelite, one of their own; David had won many military victories; God had already chosen David to be their king.*) Review 1 Samuel 16, if students have trouble remembering Samuel’s anointing of David.

EXTEND THE LESSON

(These activities will extend the lesson to longer than 45 minutes.)

- **Write a limerick** as a class, using the theme of jealousy. Then have students write their own limericks. Use the following as a guideline for writing limericks:
 - A limerick has 5 lines.
 - Lines 1 and 2 have three beats and rhyme with each other.
 - Lines 3 and 4 have two beats and rhyme with each other.
 - Line 5 rhymes with lines 1 and 2 and has the same beat.
 - Limericks often begin with: “There once was a . . .”
 - Think of a humorous twist.
 - You may choose a surprise ending.
- **Do the Unit 4 Review** on page 132. This may be used as an assessment.

Name _____

Unit 4 Review—David

Directions: Fill in each blank with a word from the list.

inside youngest shepherd outside Philistine

1. David was the _____ of Jesse's sons.
2. David was a _____ when Samuel anointed him.
3. The Lord told Samuel that it is more important what someone is like on the _____ than on the _____.
4. Goliath was fighting with the _____ army when David killed him.

Directions: Answer these questions with complete sentences.

5. What did the Lord tell Samuel about appearances when he was sent to anoint David?
6. How did King Saul's son, Jonathan, save David's life?
7. What did David and Jonathan promise each other?
8. Define the word *jealousy*. Use a dictionary to find your answer.
9. Saul was jealous of David. Why?

10. Give three reasons the twelve tribes chose David to be their king. Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5 to find your answers.

11. How did David feel when he was being chased by King Saul? Find your answers in Psalm 142.

12. Why wouldn't David kill Saul? (Read 1 Samuel 24:6.)

13. Twice, David had the chance to kill King Saul while he was being chased. Instead, what did David do? (See 1 Samuel 24, 26.)

Directions: Fill in the blanks. Use 2 Samuel 5:1-5 to find your answers.

14. All the tribes of Israel came together at _____ and asked David to be their king.

15. For the second time, David was _____ king. He had been anointed by Samuel.

16. David was _____ years old when he became king, and he reigned for _____ years.

Unit 4 Review Answer Key:

1. youngest
2. shepherd
3. inside; outside
4. Philistine
5. What did the Lord tell Samuel about appearances when he was sent to anoint David? *The Lord doesn't look at outside appearances, but inside, at the heart.*
6. How did King Saul's son, Jonathan, save David's life? *He defended David to his father and warned David when his father was going to kill him. (May mention shooting the arrow to warn David to flee.)*
7. What did David and Jonathan promise each other? *David and Jonathan promised to always have a good relationship between themselves and their descendants.*
8. Define the word *jealousy*. Use a dictionary to find your answer. *Answers will vary.*
9. Saul was jealous of David. Why? *David was popular among the Israelites.*
10. Give three reasons the twelve tribes chose David to be their king. Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5 to find your answers. *He was an Israelite; David had won many military victories; God had chosen David to be King—he had been anointed by Samuel.*
11. How did David feel when he was being chased by King Saul? Find your answers in Psalm 142. *No one cared about him; desperate need; couldn't praise God.*
12. Why wouldn't David kill Saul? Read 1 Samuel 24:6. *Saul was the anointed one of Israel.*
13. Twice David had the chance to kill King Saul while he was being chased. Instead, what did David do? See 1 Samuel 24, 26. *Cut off the corner of Saul's robe; took Saul's spear and water jug.*
14. Hebron
15. anointed
16. 30 (thirty); 40 (forty) years.