

United Timeline Unit

Outline of Lessons

<i>WEEK #1–Transition For God’s People</i>	
Sunday	Transition #1–Eli to Samuel The Philistines Capture the Ark of the Covenant
Wednesday	Transition #2–Samuel to Saul Israel Rejects God as their King God Chooses Saul Saul Sins
<i>WEEK #2–A Man After God’s Own Heart</i>	
Sunday	Samuel Anoints David David and Goliath Saul Tries to Kill David David, the Fugitive
Wednesday	David Becomes King Incorrect Transportation of the Ark Davidic Covenant David Sins
<i>WEEK #3–Solomon’s Reign</i>	
Sunday	Solomon Asks for Wisdom Solomon Builds the Temple Davidic Covenant Restated
Wednesday	Worship and Be Wise–Books of Wisdom and Poetry Solomon’s Unfaithfulness In His Later Years

"UNITED" Essential Knowledge and Skills



Essential Knowledge. Students will know that...

Lesson 1a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God desires reverence and respect. 2. God wants all the people of the earth to know Him. 3. God desires for people to obey Him in everything. 4. God is in control of kings and kingdoms.
Lesson 1b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Israel rejected God as their king. 2. Saul was the first king of Israel. 3. God desires for people to obey Him in everything. 4. God is in control of kings and kingdoms.
Lesson 2a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God does not judge by appearance but by the heart. 2. David was chosen by God to succeed Saul. 3. David's character is shown in the killing of Goliath. 4. David had to wait upon God before becoming king.
Lesson 2b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In God's good time, David became king over all Israel. 2. God expects obedience in all things. 3. Sin, even though repented of, produces consequences.
Lesson 3a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solomon, David's son was his promised successor. 2. Solomon asked God for wisdom and received it abundantly. 3. Solomon built the temple for the LORD. 4. Solomon became unfaithful to the LORD in his old age
Lesson 3b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name the Books of Poetry in the Old Testament: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon 2. Name the writers of the books of Poetry: David, Solomon and others 3. Summarize briefly the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

SKILL OBJECTIVES IN "UNITED" Students Can...

1. Name the first 3 kings of Israel.	<i>Saul, David and Solomon</i>
2. Name the books of Poetry in the OT and their writers.	<i>Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. Writers: Various, David, Solomon, unknown (Job)</i>
3. Define these UNITED words:	<i>Covenant, temple, wisdom</i>



UNITED Lesson 1A–Transition 1–Eli to Samuel

OBJECTIVES:

1. *God desires reverence and respect.*
2. *God wants all the people of the earth to know Him.*
3. *God desires for people to obey Him in everything.*
4. *God is in control of kings and kingdoms.*

STORIES TO BE HIGHLIGHTED:

Transition Period from Eli to Samuel

The Philistines Capture the Ark of the Covenant

Introduction:

1. Have students turn to “**United**” in their binders.
2. Have students read the key verse, the key words, and look at the events page together.
3. Explain that at the beginning of the “**United**” timeline unit, the Israelites are being judged by Eli and Samuel. It is at this time in Israel’s history that a “**transition**” period takes place in which God will rule through kings instead of judges.

LESSON: PART 1–ELI TO SAMUEL. 1 SAMUEL 1 - 2.

1. Birth and dedication to the LORD of Samuel by Hannah. 1 Samuel 1. Have the students recount the details of this story to the rest of the class.
2. **Read 2:12.** Eli’s sons did not know God. They were evil!
3. **Read 2:27ff.** A man of God comes to Eli to tell him that Eli’s line of priests will be cut off forever.
4. **1 Samuel 3.** God Calls the boy Samuel.
5. **3:11ff.** God’s anger against Eli’s sons. Samuel reports to Eli everything that God told him in the night.



SAMUEL reminds us of CHRIST:

1 Samuel 3:19-21--Samuel became a **judge** (a leader and arbitrator) and a **prophet** (one who proclaims the word and has foreknowledge) and a **priest** (one who mediates between two parties). This is a foreshadowing of Christ’s work as a **judge, prophet** and **priest** when he came to the earth to redeem man.

LESSON: PART 2–THE PHILISTINES CAPTURE THE ARK. 1 SAMUEL 4

1. **Read 4:1-2**--the Philistines defeat Israel!
2. **Read 4:3-4**--Hophni and Phinehas are sent to get the **Ark of the LORD** from Shiloh and bring it to the battle site.
3. **Read 4:5**--the earth shook because of the shouts of the people when the ark arrived!
4. **Read 4:6-11**--The Philistines defeat Israel, kill Hophni and Phinehas and capture the Ark.
5. **Read 4:14-18**--Eli is told of the defeat, his sons' deaths, and the capture of the Ark. He dies when he hears the news from falling off his chair.

LESSON: PART 3--THE PHILISTINES AND THE ARK. 1 SAMUEL 5 and 6.

1. The Philistines had 5 "capitol cities" with 5 kings. The Ark was first brought to **Ashdod**, which was one of these royal cities.
2. **Read 5:1-2**--The Ark was put beside **Dagon** in the House of Dagon. Dagon was the Philistine's idol that they worshipped. The next morning, Dagon had fallen on its face to the ground in front of the Ark!
3. **Read 5:3-4**--The next night--it fell again. The head was broken off and its hands also.
4. **Read 5:6-7**--God struck the people of **Ashdod** with tumors. *"The Ark of God must not remain with us..."*
5. **Read 5:8**--All the lords of the Philistines were sent for to discuss the matter. It was decided to send the Ark to **Gath**, another royal city.
6. **Read 5:9**--tumors broke out on the people of **Gath**.
7. **Read 5:10**--The Ark was sent to **Ekron**. *"They have brought the Ark of the God of Israel to kill us!!"* Plagues and tumors again.
8. **Read 5:11-12**--A great destruction was brought upon the Philistines because of the Ark.
9. **Read 6:1**--The Ark remained in the country of the Philistines 7 months. The priests and diviners were called together to find out how the Ark was to be sent back to Israel. They were told to send it back with a trespass offering:
 - *5 golden tumors (yuck!)*
 - *5 golden rats*
 - *Give glory to the God of Israel*
 - *Don't harden your hearts like the Egyptians and Pharaoh.*
 - *The Ark is to be put on a cart pulled by 2 cows; set it beside a chest with the golden tumors and rats inside; send it away on its own.*
 - *If it goes to the Israelite territory, then you will know that God is the one who caused this great calamity to come upon you.*

 ***Why do you think God caused all this to happen when the Ark came to the Philistine cities?***

- 📖 *God desires reverence and respect! His presence was in the Ark. The Philistines were idol-worshippers. God wanted even the Philistines to know that He was the only true God and that the Israelites were His special people.*
- 📖 *Do you remember the rules God gave Moses concerning the Ark? How was it to be carried? By whom was it to be carried?*

LESSON: PART 4—ISRAEL SINS WITH THE ARK. 1 SAMUEL 6:10-21.

1. The Ark headed straight for **Beth Shemesh** in Israel. I think maybe the Philistines know who God is now!
 2. The **Israelites** rejoiced to see the Ark returned, but then they sinned by looking inside the Ark. The LORD struck 50,000 men dead because of it!
 3. **Read 6:20-21**--They sent a message to **Kirjath Jearim** in Israel to come and get the Ark.
 4. **Chapter 7**--The Ark remained there for 20 years. This is not the end of the story of the Ark, however! We will study about that later.
- 📖 *It is very important to obey God's specific commands concerning worship! God deserves our reverence and respect when we worship Him and in the way we live.*
 - 📖 *How does God want us to show reverence and respect for Him today? Is the way we behave during worship important to God? Is the way we use His name important to God? Yes!!*
 - 📖 *God also wanted His own people to understand His holiness and power.*

LESSON: PART 5—REVIVAL! 1 SAMUEL 7:3-6.

1. **Samuel** told the people to get rid of all their **Baals** and **Ashtoreths** and to serve God only. (Baals were the god of fertility and Ashtoreths were goddess of fertility. These were *Canaanite* gods that God's people had adopted!)
 2. Samuel prays for the people, and then becomes their judge.
 3. **Read 1 Samuel 7:13**--The hand of God was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.
- 📖 **TEACHER NOTE:** *This may be a story the children have not heard. In some ways, it is kind of humorous--visualizing the Philistines filled with fright when the Ark of the LORD was sent to each city, not to mention the statue of Dagon falling over on its face! Remember to teach it with a lot of drama.*
 - 📖 *But also, it teaches a very important lesson about respect for God's holiness. Remember to help the children understand that, as Christians we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Whenever we dishonor our bodies, we are dishonoring the presence of God just like the Philistines dishonored God by their actions with the Ark.*
 - 📖 *It also reminds us that our worship to God must be as He has revealed to us through His word. To violate that word by doing things our own way or adding to His complete and sufficient revelation is sin and will bring punishment!*



UNITED Lesson 1B–Transition 2–Samuel to Saul

OBJECTIVES:

1. *Israel rejected God as their king.*
2. *Saul was the first king of Israel.*
3. *God desires for people to obey Him in everything.*
4. *God is in control of kings and kingdoms.*

Stories to Be Covered:

Israel Rejects God as Their King
God Chooses Saul
Saul Sins

Introduction:

1. *Review what we studied in Sunday's lesson, retracing the steps of the Ark of the Covenant.*
2. *Samuel is now Israel's judge (1 Samuel 7).*
 - ▶ *7:13--"And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel."*
 - ▶ *7:14--The Israelites regained their cities and territories taken by the Philistines.*

LESSON: PART 1–TRANSITION #1...SAMUEL TO SAUL.

1. **1 Samuel 8:1-3**--Samuel's sons took bribes and perverted justice, turned aside after dishonest gain. It sounds like even Samuel did not learn from Eli's mistakes!
2. **Read 8:4-5**--*"Make for us a king to judge us like all the other nations."*

❏ *What was wrong with Israel wanting to be like other nations?*

❏ *Didn't God designate the nations of Israel to be "Holy" and "set apart"--in other words, different from the other nations?*

❏ *We need to be careful when we desire to be like other people (for example: denominations or friends) instead of being "set apart" and "holy."*

3. **Read 8:6-9**--*Samuel is not pleased and prays to God. God says that they have not rejected Samuel but rather they have rejected God as their king.*
4. **Read 8:10-18**--Samuel is told by God to go ahead, but to warn the people of the behavior of kings.
5. **Read 8:19-22**--But the people want a king anyway!

LESSON: PART 2–GOD CHOOSES SAUL. 1 SAMUEL 9 - 12.

1. **Read 9:1-2**--Saul was handsome and tall.
2. **Read 10:6**--Samuel tells Saul that the Spirit of the LORD will come upon him and he will be like another man.
3. **Read 10:9-10**--Saul prophesies!

4. **Read 10:17-27**--Samuel anoints Saul. The tribes are called together--Benjamin is chosen; then the family of Matri; then Saul, son of Kish is chosen but he is hiding!
5. **Read 2:13-1**--Samuel confirms Saul as king and warns Saul and the people to obey God and serve Him and fear Him.

LESSON: PART 3--SAUL'S MISTAKES. 1 SAMUEL 13 - 15.

1. **Read 1 Sam. 13:5-7**--The Philistines made ready to fight the Israelites with their 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen. The Israelites were so afraid that they hid in caves, thickets, rocks, holes and pits.
2. **Read 13:8-9**--Saul becomes afraid and does not wait for Samuel to come to make burnt offerings and peace offerings to the LORD but does it himself.
 - ❏ *Saul did not obey--only Priests could make the sacrifices--he did not have the faith to wait! He sought out his own solution to his problem rather than choosing to wait on God.*
 - ❏ *What happens when we try to work out our own problems without consideration for God and His desires?*
 - ❏ *Waiting on God requires faith and patience on our part. Do you remember how much faith and patience Abraham had when he waited on God for a son?*
3. **Read 13:11-14**--Samuel tells Saul-- *"You have done foolishly. You have not obeyed the commandment of the LORD--the LORD would have established your kingdom forever if you would have obeyed. The LORD is looking for a man after His own heart."* Remember this phrase because it will be coming up again in another lesson!

LESSON: PART 4--SAUL SINS AGAIN. 1 SAMUEL 15

1. **Samuel 15:1-3**--Samuel gives Saul specific instructions about the attack of the Amalekites.
2. **Read 15:8-9**--Saul destroys all the people, but took the king Agag alive; Saul and the people kept all the good sheep and oxen, but everything that was worthless they destroyed.
3. **Read 15:13**--Samuel hears the sheep and the oxen; Saul says, "The people have saved the best of the animals to sacrifice to God."
4. **Read 15:16-23**--Samuel tells Saul why God has rejected him as king and given the kingdom to another. **Vs. 22-23**--God desires obedience as well as sacrifices.
5. **Read 15:24-25**--Saul regrets what he has done and begs forgiveness! But it is too late.
6. **Read 15:28**--The kingdom has been torn from Saul as Samuel's robe was torn.
7. **Read 15:32-33**--Samuel hacks Agag to death to his great surprise!
8. **Read 15:34-35**--Samuel and Saul see each other no more and Samuel mourns over Saul.

❏ *Saul was proven unworthy because he did not trust in God to obey Him in everything.*

- 📖 *God desires our obedience in every aspect of our lives, not just when it is convenient or desirable for us.*
- 📖 *Saul thought the ends justified the means. God wants us to use His ways to conduct our lives.*
- 📖 *Saul was sort of like Esau—he was sorry about what he had done when it was too late. We must remember to obey God when we have the opportunities to do so.*



UNITED Lesson 2A–David, a Man after God’s Own Heart

Objectives:

1. SW know that God does not judge by appearance but by the heart.
2. SW know that David was chosen by God to succeed Saul.
3. SW be shown David’s character in the killing of Goliath.
4. SW know that David had to wait upon God before becoming king.

Stories to be Covered:

Samuel Anoints David
David Kills Goliath
Saul Tries to Kill David
David, the Fugitive

Introduction:

1. Briefly review that transition phases that we have learned so far in “United:”
 - Transition #1--Eli to Samuel
 - Transition #2--Samuel to Saul
2. Briefly review Saul’s **character flaws** that caused the LORD to remove him as king:
 - *Disobedience to God’s commands (rebellious)*
 - *Did not trust God enough to wait (weak faith)*
 - *Performing priestly duties even though he was not a priest (pride)*
 - *Held himself above God’s laws (pride)*

LESSON PART 1-- David is Anointed By Samuel. 1 Samuel 16.

1. **Read 1 Samuel 16:1-5**--God sends Samuel to anoint a new king. Samuel is afraid of Saul, but God tells him to go to Bethlehem with a heifer to sacrifice. The people of Bethlehem are a bit afraid and ask if Samuel comes peacefully.
2. **16:6-7**–Eliab (the oldest) comes before Samuel but is rejected by God. *“Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*
 - ☐ *God could see inside Eliab’s heart to know if he was worthy of being king or not. God can see into man’s heart today--the qualities of a person’s heart are dear to God--not the outward appearance. What should we be most concerned with--our looks, or what is inside?*
 - ☐ *God was looking for someone different--someone special--for a special need!*
3. **16:8-10**--All the sons of Jesse are brought before Samuel, yet none are chosen!
4. **16:11-12**--The youngest has been left out in the field keeping the sheep. He is brought to see Samuel. He is described as being ruddy with beautiful eyes and good looking. God says, *“Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”*

5. **16:13**--Samuel anoint David and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

LESSON PART 2--Saul's Distressing Spirit. 1 Samuel 16:14-23.

1. **Read 1 Samuel 14:14-23**--The Spirit of the LORD now departs from Saul and a distressing spirit comes instead. He requests that a skillful harp player be brought in to help ease his mind.
 - ▣ *Saul had not obeyed God on several occasions. He had grieved God. Because he had not allowed God to work for good in his life, he had an empty place in his heart. God sent a distressing spirit to trouble him. However this was all part of God's providence to bring David into the palace and into the presence of Saul. God is working His plan!*
 - ▣ *We must be very careful today not to disobey God in such a way as to leave empty places in our heart that Satan can fill!*

LESSON PART 3--David Kills Goliath. 1 Samuel 17.

(To save time, you might want to let the students tell you this story)

1. Important ideas to remember from this event in David's life:
 - **17:34-37**--David's great *trust and faith* in the LORD are revealed! He knows that the living God can win over anything. God will deliver David! This is in contrast to Saul's (and Israel's) weak faith in this situation.
 - **17:40-44**--Five smooth stones are David's choice of weapons. Goliath acts insulted that David has been sent out to fight him! This shows the pride of those who do not know about God and His great power!
 - **17:45**--David: *"...I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied."*
 - **Read 17:46-47**--- *"That the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...the battle is the LORD's."*
 - **17:49ff**--Goliath is killed with one stone! (God was with David every step of the way) David cuts off his head; the Philistines retreat in defeat.
 - David now becomes the husband of one of Saul's daughters (Michal) as a gift from the king for having killed Goliath.

LESSON PART 4--Saul's Jealousy/David becomes a fugitive. 1 Samuel 18-26

1. **Read 18:7-8**---When David becomes a successful warrior, Saul becomes angry and jealous.
2. **Read 18:10-16**--Saul tries to kill David two times with his spear, but each time David escapes. Saul perceives that God is with David, and that the people love him. This makes Saul afraid.
3. **Read 1 Samuel 20:1-2.** Jonathan (Saul's son) and David are close friends. David asks Jonathan to find out why Saul is trying to kill him. Saul even becomes angry with his own son and throws a spear at him because he knows that Jonathan loves and supports David!
4. Saul tries during this time period to have David killed 8 times! David has to flee from Saul's presence in order to save his life.

5. **Read 24:1-4**---Saul and his men go to seek David and his men to kill him. David finds out about it and is encouraged by his men to kill Saul when he is discovered in a cave. David cuts off the hem of his robe, but is troubled later over it.
6. **Read 24:8-10**---David tells Saul that he had the chance to kill him but didn't and so not to be afraid of him anymore.
7. **Read 24:17-22**--Saul is sorry for mistreating David and confirms that David will indeed be king one day. A temporary peace is reached, but peace with Saul does not last for long.
8. **Read 26:9**---David is again encouraged to strike Saul down but again refuses to kill the LORD's anointed.

- ▣ *David was willing to wait upon God for good things to happen to him. He knew that someday he would be king. In the meantime, even though he did not have a home and spent his life in hiding from Saul, he trusted God to make good on His promise in His own time.*
- ▣ *David did not take it upon himself to kill Saul although he could have! He knew that at one time, Saul had been chosen by God. Even though Saul was not a good king, David knew he had no right to take matters into his own hands.*
- ▣ *What about today? Might we have times where we are tempted to take things into our own hands? It is sometimes very difficult to be patient and wait upon God to help us with the struggles of our lives. We always want things to be better right now! We have to remember that God's time is not the same as ours. He works things out for our good in His own time!*

LESSON PART 5--Saul's Last Days. 1 Samuel 28

1. **28:3-6**---Saul tries to inquire of the LORD about the success of the battle with the Philistines but the LORD does not answer.
2. **28:7-11**--A witch from Endor is called out to bring up the spirit of Samuel.
3. **28:11-14**--She is surprised and afraid when Samuel actually appears!
4. *Samuel's message to Saul: The LORD has given you over to the Philistines. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.*
5. **31:1-2**--Saul and his 3 sons (including Jonathan) are killed upon Mt. Gilboa--Saul falls on his own sword in suicide.

- ▣ *Isn't it sad how Saul's life ends? He had such a great beginning--tall, handsome, chosen by God to lead the people. He also had the support and friendship of Samuel! He had only to put himself into the hands of the LORD in order to be successful.*
- ▣ *But he chose instead to direct his own paths, to leave God out of his life. I hope and pray that each one of you will remember to be like David and not like Saul in your own life!*



UNITED Lesson 2B–David Becomes King

Objectives:

1. SW know that in God's good time, David became king over all Israel.
2. SW know that God expects obedience in all things.
3. SW know that sin, even though repented of, produces consequences.

Stories to be Covered:

David Becomes King Over All Israel
Incorrect Transportation of the Ark of the Covenant
David Sins

Introduction:

1. TW help students remember that David was chosen by God as "a man after God's own heart."
 - Ask students to remember some of David's character in the Goliath story--courage, belief in God's power to deliver, belief in the one God, and love for God's nation of Israel.
2. TW review that Saul and Jonathan are now dead, killed by the Philistines in the battle at Mt. Gilboa.

LESSON PART 1–David Becomes King. 1 Samuel 2 and 5.

1. Read 1 Samuel 2:4--David is first anointed king over the tribe of **Judah**. He was 30 years old.
2. 1 Samuel 5:3-5--David is eventually made king over all Israel.
3. 5:6-10--David drives the Jebusites out of Jerusalem and renames it "The City of David." This becomes his royal city!

LESSON PART 2–Incorrect Transportation of the Ark. 1 Samuel 6

1. Do you remember where we last heard of the Ark of the LORD? I told you then that the story of the Ark was not over! (*You might want to recap what happened when the Ark was not handled properly by the Philistines*)
2. Read 1 Samuel 6:3--David wants to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. David makes several mistakes as he is transporting the Ark to Jerusalem; first, it was set on a new cart. What was wrong with this? (It was to be carried with poles by the priests)
3. Read 6:6--as the oxen stumbled, **Uzzah** put out his hand to steady it and died on the spot! This caused David to be both angry and afraid. The Ark remained where it was for 3 months.
4. Later, David studies on the matter and correctly brings the ark to Jerusalem. 1 Chronicles 15:13--(David to Zadok, the priest) "...*The LORD broke out against us because we did not consult Him about the proper order.*"

- ▣ *David cared enough about God and His laws to study to find out what was pleasing to Him in this matter. God wants us to obey all His commands and instructions.*
- ▣ *Why do you think God had so many rules regarding the Ark? Do you remember that between the cherubim's wings was where God's presence dwelt?*

LESSON PART 3--The Davidic Covenant. 1 Samuel 7

1. **1 Samuel 7:1-3**--David intended to build a house for the LORD and talked to the prophet Nathan about it.
 2. **7:12-17**--God tells Nathan what to say to David about building Him a house--He instead promises a kingly **dynasty** (what is a "dynasty?") to David.
 3. God's Promise to David:
 - *David's son would be king*
 - *David's son would build the LORD a house to dwell in*
 - *His kingdom will be established forever*
 - *If he does wrong, he will be chastened, but God's mercy will not depart from him.*
 - *David's house and kingdom will be established forever--David's throne will be established forever.*
 - *A place (land) for the people of Israel forever.*
- ▣ *Let's think about how David's throne was established forever. There isn't a king over Israel today, so how can this be? Jesus Christ is a direct descendant from David through His mother Mary and His earthly father, Joseph. He (by his birthright) has the right to be king.*
 - ▣ *Christ is our spiritual "king" today reigning in heaven. Later on, when we get to the "Christ" timeline unit, we will study this in more detail.*

LESSON PART 4--David Sins. 1 Samuel 11.

1. **Read 1 Samuel 11:1-5**--David saw a beautiful woman bathing on the roof of her house and he sent for her. She was already married. Later she became pregnant. Remember that David already has several wives and several sons and daughters.
2. **Read 11:13**--David tries to figure out a way to get **Uriah** (Bathsheba's husband) to spend time with his wife so that he will think that the child is his. But Uriah is too noble to spend the night with his wife while the rest of the soldiers are off fighting!
3. **Read 11:14-25**--David orders **Joab** to put **Uriah** in the worst part of the battle unprotected so that he is sure to be killed. And he is. David marries Bathsheba and she has a son. But God is very displeased.

- 📖 *It's hard to believe that someone like David, a "man after God's own heart" could do something so wicked. This is a warning to us to not be complacent about our relationship with God. We must always be alert for Satan and His tricks and wiles.*

LESSON PART 5--Consequences! 1 Samuel 12.

1. **12:1-6**--Nathan comes to David with a parable about 2 men and a pet lamb.
 2. **12:7**-- "You are the man!"
 3. **12:10-12**--**Prophecy of the sword.** The sword would never leave David's house! There would be violence in his home for the rest of his life. Have the students remember all the bad things that happen to David later:
 - *David and Bathsheba's child dies*
 - *Amnon (David's son) rapes Tamar (David's daughter)*
 - *Absalom (another son) kills Amnon*
 - *Absalom incites rebellion against David--wants to be king--makes himself a king, driving David out of his city*
 - *Joab kills Absalom*
- 📖 *David was forgiven of his sin--he repented with great sorrow and sadness. But he still had to pay the consequences for the rest of his life. That is the way sin is.*
- 📖 *Some sins carry heavy consequences. Just because we have repented and been forgiven, does not mean that we will not have bad results from our sins.*
- 📖 *But even if we must suffer consequences, God can continue to bless our lives anyway because we have turned back from sinning to follow Him.*



UNITED Lesson 3A–Solomon Becomes King

Objectives:

1. *Solomon, David's son was his promised successor.*
2. *Solomon asked God for wisdom and received it abundantly.*
3. *Solomon built the temple for the LORD.*
4. *Solomon became unfaithful to the LORD in his old age.*

Stories to Be Covered:

David Makes Preparations for the Temple before His Death
Solomon Succeeds His Father as King of Israel
Solomon Asks God for Wisdom
Solomon Builds the Temple
Solomon Sins

Introduction:

1. **Read 1 Chronicles 22:5.** David made preparations for the building of the Temple before His death so that Solomon would not be so overwhelmed with the task.
 - ▣ **22:6-8**--David speaks to Solomon about why he was not allowed to build the temple for the LORD.
 - ▣ **22:9-11**--It was God's plan for Solomon (a man of rest) to build this house for the LORD.
 - ▣ **22:12-13**--David gives Solomon advice concerning obedience to God's laws.
2. **Read 1 Kings 2:10-12.** David dies and Solomon takes his place as King.

LESSON PART 1. Solomon Asks For Wisdom. Read 1 Kings 3:3-15.

1. **Read 1 Kings 3:3**--Solomon loved the LORD, but he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.
2. **3:4-5**--God appears to Solomon in a dream and says *"Ask! What shall I give you?"*
3. **3:6-9**--Solomon ask God for an understanding heart to judge God's people, to discern between good and evil.
 - ▣ *See how many things we can find out about Solomon's character in this speech to God: humility, thankfulness for God's mercy; love for God's great nation; not worldly or concerned with material things.*
4. **3:10-15**--God is pleased with Solomon's answer and grants to him a wise and understanding heart like none before him, riches, honor, and length of days like his father David.

LESSON PART 2--The Display of Solomon's Wisdom. 1 Kings 3:16-28.

1. **Read 1 Kings 3:16-22**--two harlots come before Solomon with an account of their two sons, one alive and the other dead.
2. **3:23-25**--Solomon seeks to remedy the situation by cutting the live child in two!
3. **3:26-27**--The true mother asks that the child be given to the other so that he may live.

- *How does this event show Solomon's wisdom?*
 - *He knew the real mother would not want her own baby to be sawn in two! The emotions shown by the true mother revealed that the baby was indeed hers!*
4. **3:28**--Solomon's wisdom in the matter becomes widely known as wisdom from God--all Israel feared the king because of it.

LESSON PART 3--Solomon's Wisdom is Known Far and Wide. 1 Kings 4:29-34.

5. **Read 1 Kings 4:30**--Solomon's wisdom excels all the men of the east and Egypt--he was wiser than all men!
6. **4:32**-- He spoke 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs.
7. **4:33**--He was knowledgeable about trees, animals, birds, creeping things and fish.
8. **4:34**--Men of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

LESSON PART 4--Solomon Builds the Temple. 1 Kings 6.

1. **Read 1 Kings 6:1**--480 years after the Israelites left Egypt, the **Temple** is begun!
2. **6:12-14**--God's promise and warning to Solomon.
3. **6:38**--Solomon spent 7 years building the Temple!
 - *At this point in the lesson, if there is time, show the overhead of the temple layout to the class. Talk about the similarities between the Temple and the Tabernacle.*
 - *Show the picture book that has pictures of Solomon's Temple. Talk about the beautiful furniture, the opulence, the amount of gold that was part of the structure and furnishings, etc.*

LESSON PART 5--Solomon's Prayer to God That He Will Hear. 1 Kings 8:22-53.

1. Solomon prays that the eyes of the LORD will be open toward the temple day and night. God is too big to be held inside a building!
2. Solomon prays that God will hear the prayers of His people in heaven when they:
 - *Sin*
 - *When they are defeated by an enemy*
 - *When it has not rained because of their sins*
 - *When there is famine because of sin*
 - *When there is plague in their hearts because of sin*
 - *When foreigners who have heard about God pray*
 - *When God's people turn back to Him when they are in captivity.*

3. Solomon wanted the Temple to be a place where people could turn their hearts back to God and He would hear.

LESSON PART 6–Reiteration of the Davidic Covenant. 1 Kings 9:3-7.

1. **Read 1 Kings 9:3**---God will sanctify the temple and His eyes and heart will be there perpetually.
2. **Read 9:4-7**--God renews the promise first given to David, but also gives a warning:
 - *Solomon and his sons were to keep God's commandments and statutes*
 - *They were not to serve other gods*
 - *They were to walk in integrity of heart and in uprightness and do all according to what God had commanded*
 - *If these things were not done, then God would cut off Israel from the land that He gave them, and the temple would be cast out of His sight!*

LESSON Part 7–Solomon's Heart Turns Away from God. 1 Kings 11:1 - 8.

1. **Read 1 Kings 11:1 - 3.** Solomon loved many foreign women. He took wives and concubines from other nations. These women were idol worshipers! **Verse 3** tells us that Solomon had 700 wives and princesses, 300 concubines! Remember that God had warned His people long ago not to intermarry with foreigners because of their idolatry!
2. **Read 1 Kings 11:4 - 8.** Solomon's heart was turned away from worshiping God and his heart was not loyal to the LORD as was his father David's. He even built high places to worship these false gods!

- ☐ *We will finish with the story of Solomon by simply saying that the end of his life was not as glorious as the beginning. He did not remain faithful to God.*
- ☐ *It is clear that Solomon let his wives influence him away from the one true God. These women were of the world, and Solomon's love for them caused him to love the world and the things in the world more than God.*
- ☐ *The book of Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon late in his life, suggests that Solomon regretted his folly and wasted time due to worldliness and idolatry. We will look at this book and some of the other books of Poetry on Wednesday night.*



UNITED Lesson 3B–Worship and Be Wise

SKILLS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Name the Books of Poetry in the Old Testament: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon
2. Name the writers of the books of Poetry: David, Solomon and others
3. Summarize briefly the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

INTRODUCTION:

1. Introduce to the students the **“Books of Poetry”** from the Old Testament:
 - These 5 books are a **division** of the OT books. They are sometimes called the “Wisdom” literature of the Bible.
 - **David** and his son **Solomon** were the major writers of this literature, although many others also contributed to the Psalms and Proverbs. No one knows for sure who wrote the book of Job.
2. Today we will look briefly at Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon to find out what these books are all about.

LESSON: PART 1–The Psalms.

1. David wrote the majority of the **Psalms**. However, other people also wrote some of the **Psalms**, such as **Solomon** (Ps. 72 and 127), **Asaph** and even **Moses** (Ps. 90)!
2. The **Psalms** show us how to praise God when we remember His power, goodness and mercy. The Psalms are really songs that speak of our relationship to God.
 - ❏ *What is “praise?” Praise is a special way to show love, admiration and respect to God. Praise is a way to worship and thank Him for what he has done for us and for how wonderful He is.*
 - ❏ *How do we feel when we praise God? Happy and joyful! We should also remember that praise is for God, and not for us.*
3. Types of Psalms:
 - *Praise Psalms. #117 and #100. Read at least one of these.*
 - *Historical Psalms. #78:1-2, 12ff.*
 - *Friendship Psalms. #23 and #8*
 - *Angry Psalms. #35*
 - *Confession Psalms. #51*
 - *Worship Psalms. #92 and #122. These Psalms were used for singing when the people came together for special holy times to worship.*
 - *Messianic Psalms. Example: #22. Read.*

- 📖 *Many of the Psalms specifically anticipate or look forward to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ—the promised Messiah. Psalm 22, written by David (Jesus’ ancestor) is prophetic in the way it pictures the crucifixion of Christ.*
- 📖 *By the way, the longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117!*

LESSON: PART 2—The Proverbs.

1. Solomon wrote many of the Proverbs.
2. Proverbs is filled with wise sayings. In fact, that is what a “proverb” is = a wise saying.
3. The Proverbs can help people think about their choices; they help them decide what is really important.
4. Read **Proverbs 3** together. A **Key verse** in the book of Proverbs is **3:5 - 6**: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*
 - 📖 *Proverbs teaches us how to be wise, self-disciplined and righteous in our everyday lives. King Solomon wrote these wise sayings for his son, to teach him how to live a Godly life.*

LESSON: PART 3—Ecclesiastes.

1. Written by Solomon. The wisest, richest, most influential king in Israel’s history looks at life “under the sun” and, from a human perspective, declares it all to be empty or “vain.”
2. Solomon says that power, work, popularity, pleasure, prestige, and even wisdom cannot make men truly happy.
3. Solomon learned through his search that *only God can give meaning and purpose to our lives*. When we follow His commandments, then the other things can be enjoyed as gifts from God.
4. **Key verse: Ecclesiastes 12:13 - 14.** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.*
5. An important verse for us: **3:10 - 11.** *“I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”*
 - 📖 *In Ecclesiastes, Solomon talks about life “under the sun” 29 times! He seems to be saying that life under the sun can be filled with unfairness, injustice and changes in fortune. But Solomon says that life is a gift from God and without Him, life would be very empty!*

LESSON: PART 4–Song of Solomon.

1. Written by Solomon. The *Song of Solomon* is a love song written by Solomon about the relationship of a shepherdess (the Shulamite) and the king, and their marriage.
2. It is also a “picture” or “shadow” of 2 things: *it shows Israel as God's bride*—showing the love of God to His people as being like the love story between a man and a woman. It also is a “shadow” of *Christ and His bride, the Church*.
3. The book is arranged like scenes in a drama with 3 main speakers: the bride, the king or groom (Solomon), and a chorus of the daughters of Jerusalem.
 - ▣ *According to 1 Kings 4:32, Solomon wrote 1,005 songs! However, this beautiful tribute of love stood out among them as “the Song of Songs” which is how it is referred to in chapter 1:1. In some translations, this book is actually called “The Song of Songs.”*



UNITED--20 QUESTIONS

1. 8:1-5--Why did the Israelites want Samuel to give them a king? (2 reasons)
 - because his sons were corrupt
 - so they could be like other nations
2. 9:1-2--Describe Saul's physical appearance.
 - head and shoulders above everyone else
 - handsome
3. 13:8-9--Why did Saul make an offering to the LORD himself instead of waiting for Samuel?
 - he was afraid the people would all leave him because of their great fear of the Philistines
4. Why couldn't Saul make an offering himself?
 - he was not a priest
5. 13:11-14--What kind of man was the LORD looking for?
 - a man after His own heart.
6. 15:1-3--In the battle against the Amalekites, what instructions did Samuel give to Saul?
 - destroy every living thing--people and animals
7. 15:8-9--In the battle against the Amalekites, how did Saul disobey Samuel's instructions?
 - he took king Agag alive
 - he let some of the people keep the best of the livestock
8. 15:32-33--What happened to King Agag of the Amalekites whom Saul spared?
 - Samuel hacked him to death
9. 16:8--How many sons did Jesse of Bethlehem have?
 - eight
10. 16:11-12--Where was David when Samuel came to his father's house to anoint one of the sons?
 - tending his father's sheep
11. 16:12--Describe David's physical appearance.
 - ruddy with beautiful eyes and good looking

12. 16:6-7--What is the difference in the way the LORD looks at a man and the way man sees other men?

- God looks at the heart; man looks at the outward appearance

13. 16:14ff--Who was hired to play the harp for Saul to ease his spirit?

- David

14. 17:4--How tall was Goliath?

- 9.75 feet

15. 17:8-11--What was Goliath's challenge to Saul and the army of Israel?

- to send one man out from the Israelites to fight against him to determine the outcome of the battle

16. 17:12-18--Why did David's father send him to the battle with the Philistines?

- to send provisions of food to his 3 older brothers

17. 17:25--What was the reward for the man who killed Goliath?

- the hand of Saul's daughter in marriage, great riches, tax exemption for family

18. 17:40--What was David's choice of weapons against Goliath?

- 5 smooth stones

19. How many times did Saul try to kill David?

- eight

20. 18:7--When David would come home from fighting Saul's battles, the women would sing "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Which one of these words describes Saul's feelings about that?

a) proud b) happy c) angry and suspicious

- C-angry and suspicious