God calls David
1 Samuel 16:1-20:42
After God rejected Saul, Samuel went back to his house and cried. He was so disappointed Saul was not the one.

Finally God said, “How long will you cry over Saul? I have found a new king in Bethlehem. Go to Jesse’s house one of his sons will be king.”

“But if Saul hears, he will kill me,” said Samuel.

“Bring an offering and if asked say that is why you are going,” God responded.

Samuel went to Jesse’s house. He met the oldest son and thought, “Now this looks like a king.”

But God said, “He is not the one. You look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.”
This happened again with each of Jesse’s sons. Finally Samuel turned to Jesse, “Have you no more sons?”

“Well, the youngest is out with the sheep.” Jesse answered.

“Send for him,” Samuel replied. After some time David walked in.

“This is the one,” whispered God’s voice.

“Kneel,” Samuel commanded. Then he anointed David as God commanded.

When that happened God’s spirit rushed upon David and left Saul.
Now in those days the Israelites were at war with the Philistines. Three of David’s brothers joined the army.

Each day when the armies gathered a Philistine named Goliath came out and challenged them. He was taller than any of the Israelites and they were terrified of him. Each day he would challenge them.

“Send out one of your men to fight me. If I win you will be our slaves. If I lose than we will be your slaves.” For 40 days he challenged them.

Jesse sent David with food for his brothers. As he arrived Goliath started his challenge.

David gawked at his daring, “Who is this dog that challenges God’s people? I will show him the proper respect to show God. I’ve killed a lion and a bear. I can kill that upstart.” David kept repeating it until King Saul heard.
“What makes you think you can kill a giant?” Saul asked. David explained how he’d protected his father’s sheep against animals.

“If you must do this, then at least wear my armor.” David tried it on, but it was too big for him.

“If it’s okay sir, I’m going to just be myself.”

Then David went out and picked up 5 stones. He faced Goliath, the giant towered over him.

As David got closer he started to run, “You come at me with sword and spear, but I come at you with the might of God!” David threw his stone and Goliath went down. David ran to Goliath and took Goliath’s sword and beheaded the giant.

The Philistines saw Goliath fall and they ran in terror. The Israelites gave chase and defeated them.
After this God sent an evil spirit to torment Saul, his servants worried about him and finally sent for David, because he played the harp very well.

David came and played for Saul and Saul became calm while David played. Saul was so impressed by David’s skill and presence he asked David to live at the palace and enter his service, even becoming Saul’s armor bearer.
During that time David and Jonathan became great friends.

Jonathan gave David his own robe and armor to wear to show how much he loved him. They were like brothers.

They swore loyalty to each other and were always together. They fought together, played together, and talked about the future together.
One day David returned with the armies from fighting. He had been victorious many times and had killed many Philistines.

As David and King Saul rode in the women cheered and chanted for David.

Saul has killed his thousands  
But David has killed his ten thousands

Over and over they chanted this. Saul heard this and his smile faded. “David was more popular than him, what if they make him king and not me?” thought Saul.
They went in to the palace and Saul asked David to play and calm his anger. As he listened to David play, Saul toyed with the spear in his hand.

Suddenly Saul leapt up and hurled his spear at David as hard as he could.

David dodged the spear, but Saul grabbed up another and threw it. Surprised David ran from the room. Saul calmed down, but was still angry. Finally he decided to demote David and not let him be in charge of any part of the army.

But, he started to look for a way to get rid of David.
An idea struck him when his daughter Michal, asked to marry David.

“David, my daughter wants to marry you. I know you don’t have the money to pay the bride price, so I’ll make you a deal. Bring me proof you killed 100 Philistines, and you can marry her.” Saul thought the Philistines would kill David and keep him from having to kill David.

So David gathered up his men and slaughtered 200 Philistines.

He came back and Saul was forced to let his daughter marry David.
Saul was still jealous of David’s success. David was winning battles and God was obviously with him.

Saul called Jonathan to him and said, “We need to get David killed. He will steal the kingdom from us.”

“What?” said Jonathan in surprise. “He is loyal to you. Every command you’ve given him, no matter how dangerous or ridiculous, he has done well. God is obviously with him. I will not hear of this.”

Saul shook his head and his eyes seemed to refocus, “Oh, you’re right. What was I thinking?”

Many days later Saul was again seized by the evil spirit. He tried to pin David to the wall with his spear again, but God prevented him.
Frustrated King Saul paced back and forth. Finally he called his soldiers and ordered them to arrest David.

David’s wife, Michal, overheard and ran to warn her husband. “You must leave. My Dad sent soldiers to arrest you. Go out the window and I’ll make it look like you’re in bed.”

David climbed out of the window and ran to Samuel at Ramah.

The soldiers burst in and demanded to see David.

“He’s sick, and you are not to bother him,” Michal said.

The soldiers had orders to get him, sick or not so they pulled back the covers and discovered the pillows and no David.
David snuck back to the palace and met with Jonathan.

“What have I done? Why is your father hunting me?”

“No,” said Jonathan shaking his head. “My Father tells me everything. I would know if he’s hunting you.”

“He wouldn’t tell you this. He knows what good friends we are. I need to find out more,” David said.

“What should we do?” Jonathan asked.

“I’ll skip this new festival. If your father asks where I am, then we’ll know he wants to kill me,” David plotted.

“I’ll do it,” Jonathan answered.

“Are you sure? You know what this might mean?” David asked.
Jonathan pulled David closer, “Listen to me, and God will be my witness. I have no closer friend than you. I trust you. I will find out what my Father wants. If he intends to kill you, than let me be killed if I do not help you to safety. I only ask that you remember me and my family when you become king.”

David hugged Jonathan and they swore friendship with each other.

“Now, three days from now, I’ll come out here and shoot. If I tell my servant the arrows are on this side, then it is safe. If I say, the arrows are further away then run as far as you can.” Jonathan said.
David hid in the field and Jonathan went to the feast.

As they sat down King Saul looked around, “Where is David?”

“Oh, I told him he could go home to Bethlehem,” Jonathan lied.

“Are you a fool?” Saul roared. “He stands between you and the throne. As long as he’s alive you can’t be king.”

“I don’t want to be king if it means killing him. God has chosen him. I can’t change that.” Jonathan yelled back.

“You don’t care!” Saul seized a spear and pinned Jonathan to the wall. “How can you not care?”

Jonathan threw his father off and ran out of the palace.
The next day Jonathan got his arrows, bow, and a servant. Furious he shot three arrows rapidly to the side of the target.

“Boy, go get the arrows,” said Jonathan. As the boy started running, Jonathan added, “Go further on. They’re beyond you.”

The boy ran closer and Jonathan yelled, “Hurry and be quick about it.” David nodded as he heard this. “Go home boy,” Jonathan instructed.

As soon as the boy left David came out. “It is as I feared. Thank you my friend.” David bowed low to Jonathan three times.

“Go hide far away, for my father is most determined. God will always be between us. Peace be with you.”
Questions

Younger Kids
1. Why was Samuel sad at the start of the story? Have you ever been disappointed by an outcome?
2. Why did God say to choose David?
3. What made David brave when facing Goliath?
4. Who is David’s good friend? What made him a good friend?

Middle Kids
1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1. Why is Samuel sad? Has something you wanted not turned out as expected? How did you handle it?
2. Why is David confident when facing Goliath? Read 1 Samuel 17:37, 45-47.
3. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-9. What is Saul’s response to David’s fame? How do you respond when you feel someone else got the credit you deserved?
4. Read 1 Samuel 18:22-24. What is David’s response to great honor? How do you respond when rewarded?
5. How did David respond when King Saul tried to kill him? Read 1 Samuel 18:10 and 11 and 19:10.

**Older Guys**

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:2. Is it okay to be afraid sometimes? Is God calling Samuel to lie?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:13. What happened when David was anointed?
3. Read 1 Samuel 16:18. How is David described? What attributes listed there do you want to strive for?
4. Read 1 Samuel 17:28. What is Eliab’s response to David? How have you responded when you were overshadowed by someone else?
5. Read 1 Samuel 17:48. How did David meet this challenge? Do you react that way?
6. Read 1 Samuel 18:8-9. At what point is jealousy sin?
7. Read 1 Samuel 18:12-13. Why is David successful? Can you see God’s hand in your life?
8. How can you disagree without fighting? Read 1 Samuel 20:3.
Activities
1. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. David is described as a man after God’s own heart. Draw what is important in your heart.
2. David calmed Saul by playing music. What calms you?
3. Weigh out Goliath’s armor and find comparisons to things you own (Find this in 1 Samuel 17:4-7). Then measure out how tall Goliath is and compare that to how tall you are.
4. David and Jonathan were good friends. Brainstorm together how you can be a good friend.
Online
1. David and Goliath bowling (if you want to do this, I’ve included a picture of Goliath we used):
   http://www.christiancrafters.com/game_goliath.html
2. Make a miniature bow and arrow like Jonathan had: http://thebroodinghen.blogspot.com/2010/06/tiny-bow-arrow.html
3. Best friends, David and Jonathan: