

David the Shepherd

King Saul may have been Israel's first king, but he didn't live like an **"anointed one"** of God. So, the LORD told Samuel:

"Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the _____, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." (1 Sam 16:1)

Jesse's seven oldest sons passed before Samuel, but neither one was *the* one.

Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the _____." (1 Sam 16:11)

David was a **shepherd**. We get a sense of what challenging work this would have been just before David squared off with the Philistine giant Goliath.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and _____ it out of his mouth." (1 Sam 17:34-35)



It's no wonder, then, that David would be the sort of man God could use to write something as beautiful as Psalm 23:

The _____ is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes _____ lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. (Psa 23:1-2)

But what does this have to do with our search for our King? Of all the places for our King to be born? "The city of _____, which is called Bethlehem" (Luke 2:4). And to whom was the announcement of Jesus' birth first made? "In the same region there were _____ out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ We heard about God rejecting Saul as king in 1 Samuel 16:1. What had Saul done that led to that rejection?
- ▶ How would you describe the scene in 1 Samuel 17 prior to David's arrival?
- ▶ How was David received by his oldest brother (1 Sam 17:28)? Why do you think that was?
- ▶ How had David's work as a shepherd prepared him for his showdown with Goliath?
- ▶ How had David's work as a shepherd prepared him to write something like Psalm 23?
- ▶ Jesus' life is filled with references to him as a shepherd. What can we learn from:
 - Matthew 2:1-6?
 - Matthew 9:35-36?
 - John 10:1-18?
 - Matthew 25:31-46?