

**2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10**

**All coming together: David's story**

The people of Israel come to David and ask that he fulfil his God-given destiny. David is therefore anointed as king and makes a covenant with his people. Shortly after, he takes the city of Jerusalem and makes it his own. With God's help, David continues to grow in power and greatness.



**DRAW**



How many languages can you say the word 'Hello' in? Draw these on a poster-size piece of paper. Perhaps learn some new ones and add these to the poster and place it in your window.

**ACT**

It's great to get people together. Invite friends or family around for food – it could be buns, takeaway, a BBQ or a picnic. Could you invite someone who isn't often included?

**FIND OUT**

Find out how different groups of animals work together. Which tribe of animals make the best team?

**Bible notes**



Following Saul's death there was war for seven years between David, ruling the southern area of Judah, and Saul's sons who held the northern area of Israel. David's forces gradually gained the upper hand, and the war ended with the death of Saul's last son, Ishbaal. David was already well known among the

Israelites of the north as a military leader from Saul's time, and so they were ready to accept him as their king, travelling south to his headquarters at Hebron to acclaim and anoint him. It is possible that this unanimous agreement on the transition of power is deliberately shaped to emphasise David's legitimacy as king of the whole nation.

The Israelite tribes picked up on imagery from David's past, and Israel's future, when they named him as 'shepherd of my people' (v.2). David had been a shepherd in his boyhood and had learnt the skills of caring for the sheep, skills that he was now able to use as king. In Israel's tradition, the shepherd king would become an image for the leaders of the people (Ezekiel 34), echoing God's role as the good shepherd.

David's kingship over Israel was held within a covenant between himself and the Israelites. This follows an Old Testament pattern for articulating relationships of trust. The key covenant, between God and the people, was mediated through Moses (Exodus 19–20). God promised to be their God and they would be his people. This is paralleled by covenants with Noah (Genesis 9) and Abraham (Genesis 17), and by God's covenant promises to David (2 Samuel 8). The covenant expresses mutual responsibility, not just a relationship of power or dominance. In order to provide a focus of unity for the twelve tribes now coming together, David made the strategic decision to build a new capital city to be home for people from both Judah and Israel. The town of Jebus, home of the Jebusites, was neutral territory, not associated with any of the tribes. The hilltop town was captured by a daring raid in which David and his soldiers climbed up its water-shaft. He then began expanding the city that would eventually be known by at least three names: the city of David, Zion, and Jerusalem.

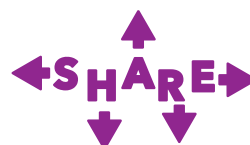
**First impressions**

- What skills does a shepherd need?
- Have you ever had to resolve a conflict between warring parties? What worked?
- How is God like a shepherd to us?



**A sending out prayer**

Lead us, Lord, when we lose sight of you. Lead us, Lord, through darkness to your light. Lead us through disappointment and failure to a place of new calling. Lead us though we often struggle and sometimes do not listen to your voice. Lead us, Lord, deeper into your love for us. Amen.



Social media can be a divisive place. Spend the week sharing positive news/posts/Bible verses that encourage people to see our shared worth and value.