

Heroes and Heroines: Francis David (pronounced *Da-veed*) (RR)

Materials: 5 or more wall pieces 3 houses of Worship
King piece Francis David Piece
Underlay Basket for pieces

Presentation:

Take out the underlay and shake it out and drop on the floor.

Hmm... what could this be? It could be a..... (*Encourage answers from the children.*) Yes, it could be grass. Or dirt. Or.....

Place one section of wall in the storytelling area. Try setting it up different ways finally setting it up so it stands like a long section of wall. As you do this say . . .

What do we have here? If we stood it up it might be a column. If we laid it flat it could be a bridge. Maybe we need another piece?

Place a second section of wall beside the first and try moving the pieces in different positions while saying something like . . .

Maybe it *is* a column? And now we have two. Maybe it's a tall tower we need to put together? If we put them beside each other like this we have a hallway or corridor. Maybe people walk through here?

Begin removing the remaining wall pieces and line them up so that they form a square with a small gap facing the children.

There are a lot of things that we could make out of these shapes but I think what we have here is a wall. And our wall has an opening, a gate for people to come and go.

Trace your finger along the top of the wall.

This is a wall around a city. It is an important city.

Remove the king figure and place him in the center of the city.

One reason this city was so important was because a king lived in this city. The king had many important decisions to make. He decided who could come into the city and do business there.

Motion the comings and goings with your finger, in and out of the gate.

The king made decisions about the crops that were grown outside the city walls

Place your hand palm down in a few spots outside the walls to show where the fields are. Then point inside the walls and say.

The king had to make laws to protect the people in the city and help them to be happy.

One by one remove the three houses of worship and line them up close to you at the top of the story telling field as you say...

It was an exciting time. There were many churches and religions in the king's country. They shared many ideas about God but they also disagreed about how God spoke to people and cared for them and how people could best show God that they loved God. Sometimes people fought about those differences. Sometimes people from one church would hurt or even kill people from another church. They wanted the king to decide which religion was the right religion and which church was the right church.

Place your hand on the king's head and say . . .

The king knew that the fighting couldn't go on. And he knew that people expected him to decide which was the right church with the right ideas. He also knew that he couldn't decide without help from others, so he invited ministers from three churches to come and help him decide.

Hold up the first church with one hand and hold the king with your other.

The king asked the first minister how he would have the cities throughout the kingdom look. And the minister from that church answered that he would have it look like this. . .

Place the first church inside the walls of the city and leave the remaining houses of worship where they are.

“MY church would be in your cities, O King! My church has the best ideas” The king thought about what the first minister said.

Return the first church to the top of the underlay. Then place one hand on the king’s head and use your other hand to hold up the second church.

The king asked the second minister how he would have the cities throughout the kingdom look. The minister from the second church answered that he would have them look like this. .

Place the second church inside the city walls.

“MY church would be in your cities, O King! Not that other church! NO! No! NO! Only mine. My church has the best ideas.” The king thought about what the second minister said.

Return the church to the underlay. Place one hand on the king’s head and with the other put the Frances David piece inside the city walls.

Then the king asked the third minister how he thought the cities throughout the kingdom should look. This third minister was a Unitarian named Francis David. Francis David told the king that he thought all of the cities should look like this . . .

Take the third house of worship and place it inside the city walls.

“My church would be in your cities, O King!” But kept talking and said, “I think they should also look like this . . .

Take the first house of worship and place it inside the city walls.

Then he said, “I think they should also look like this . . .

Take the second house of worship and place it inside the city walls

“This, your majesty is how your cities should look if you love your people and would have peace. All churches have good ideas and the only way to decide which is best it to be able to visit all of them and meet their people. If you love all your people, you will let them all have the church they want. If you want peace, you won’t pick only one and make the others angry.”

Place your hand on the king piece.

The king liked what this third minister, this Unitarian had to say. The king declared that not only would his cities look like this . . .

Motion in a circle around the whole city.

But that his church, the king’s church would be that of the third minister. He liked Francis David’s Unitarian ideas. King John was the first and only Unitarian king.

Place the king in front of the third house of worship.

It didn’t stay this way for long. The king died (*take the king and put him away*) and the people who didn’t like this idea of including other churches had Francis David put in jail (*take Francis David, put him away*). It was sad, but Francis David would not take back his idea of including all the churches. He was proud that the King had heard and trusted him. He would rather be in jail than have only one church.

Wondering Questions:

I wonder what part of the story you liked the best?

I wonder what part is most important?

I wonder where you are in the story?

I wonder if there is any part of the story that we can leave out and still have all the story we need?