

Samuel Anoints David

Bible story: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you continue to feel sorry for Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. Fill your container with olive oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse who lives in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

2But Samuel said, "If I go, Saul will hear the news. And he will try to kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a young calf with you. Say, 'I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.'

3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must appoint the one I show you."

4Samuel did what the Lord told him to do. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of Bethlehem shook with fear. They met him and asked, "Are you coming in peace?"

5Samuel answered, "Yes, I come in peace. I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Make yourselves holy for the Lord and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he made Jesse and his sons holy for the Lord. And he invited them to come to the sacrifice.

6When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab. Samuel thought, "Surely the Lord has appointed this person standing here before him."

7But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome Eliab is. Don't look at how tall he is. I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8Then Jesse called Abinadab and told him to pass by Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this man either." 9Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "No, the Lord has not chosen this one." 10Jesse had seven of his sons pass by Samuel. But Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

11Then he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

Jesse answered, "I still have the youngest son. He is out taking care of the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him. We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

12So Jesse sent and had his youngest son brought in. He was a fine boy, tanned and handsome.

The Lord said to Samuel, "Go! Appoint him. He is the one."

13So Samuel took the container of olive oil. Then he poured oil on Jesse's youngest son to appoint him in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Lord's Spirit entered David with power. Samuel then went back to Ramah.

Questions to ask:

Who did God send to anoint a new king?

Where did Samuel find the future king?

What did Samuel use to anoint David?

How do you think David felt when he heard he would be king?

I wonder what the hardest part of being a king is?

Why is this important?

This story shows that God cares about what is on the inside, not what's on the outside.

Almost everyone, including kids, love to talk about their families. Enjoy this opportunity to let kids share stories about their families. Remind them that God created families of all sizes. God loves every member of every family and has plans to use each family member in an important way.

Lent is the season of preparing for Jesus to be revealed as king. In this text David is also coming into the role God has chosen for him, but it looks far different from what anyone would have anticipated—much like Jesus' kingship does.

Remind kids we have many different ways we can share God's love.

Interactive Lesson:

(Have different containers ready. You could use tupperware, shoe boxes, suitcase etc.)

David was a boy. God looked inside his heart to see if he would be a good king. God knows what's inside our hearts too. These containers are used to hold things. Let's take turns choosing a container and telling what we think is inside. Let's imagine a story about what's inside. Give everyone a chance to share. We are kind of like these containers, what they look like on the outside is not important, it's what's inside that matters.

Art ideas:

Today we heard a Bible story about a time when God looked into the heart of a boy named David. God knows all about us too. Draw a heart and color /draw what you think God sees in your heart to remind you that God knows what's in your heart.

Or

God helped Samuel choose David to be the new king. Of all of Jesse's sons, God chose David, even though he was the youngest. God looked in David's heart and knew that he would be the best king. Let's make crowns to remind us that God cares about what's on the inside!