

God Chose David to be King

1 Samuel 16

God is:
Kind

Summer Sunday Verse:

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
-1 Samuel 16:7

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading 1 Samuel 16. Note your observations about God's character and how you see God working so you can share them with the kids.

David became king after King Saul. The people of Israel demanded a king, so the Lord gave them King Saul. Saul sinned against the Lord and was rejected. Now, we will see how God appointed Samuel to anoint David as the next king.

In our passage today, we see that *David was chosen by God*. God saw that David was a man who loved the Lord. We also learn that *David was anointed by Samuel*. God told Samuel to anoint David as a way of setting him apart to be the next king. Additionally, we see that *David served the king*. Though David knew that he would take the throne someday, he humbly served Saul.



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

None

Ask the class: *What do you think a king should look like?*

We might think a king should wear nice clothes or look very strong, but the heart of a king matters more. In today's Bible story, we will see how God looks at the heart.

Summarize 1 Samuel 16 and then discuss the following questions in table groups or together as a class:

Why should we not judge others based on what they look like? Discuss how God told Samuel not to look at David's appearance. God told Samuel that He sees the heart. We should not judge people based on what they look like because this is not what God does. Someone can be tall, cool, and wear awesome shoes, but what is most important is if he loves and obeys God.

What does it mean that the Spirit of the Lord was with David? Remind kids that Samuel anointed David with oil and the Spirit of the Lord was with David. Samuel's oil didn't actually do anything for David. It was just an outward sign of the Spirit dwelling inside of David. The Spirit was guiding him to make wise decisions and lead the people of Israel well. The Spirit of the Lord guides us in the same way when we believe in Jesus.

How does David remind you of Jesus? Review how David did not look like a king. He was a lowly shepherd. But God chose David to be the king of Israel and lead His people. In a similar way, Jesus did not look like a king. He was born in a lowly stable and was raised in the home of a carpenter. But Jesus loved God and perfectly obeyed Him. God chose Jesus to rescue His people from their sin.



ACTIVITY:

Heart Magnifying Glass

Magnifying glass worksheet, markers, colored pencils, plastic wrap, glue

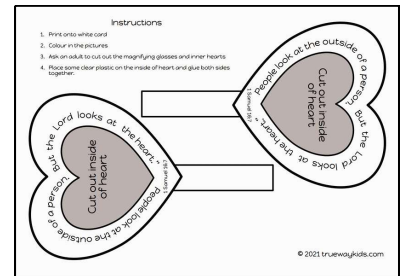
Pass out two magnifying glasses to each child. Have them color in their magnifying glasses and handle. (It will already be cut out for them).

Have them put glue on the blank side of one of their hearts and then a shepherd can place a small piece of clear plastic wrap on top of the heart and glue.

Then, have them put glue on the other half and press the two together with the plastic wrap secured in the middle.

Option: If the class is large, or you are running out of time, feel free to skip the plastic wrap in the middle.

SAY: God chose David to be king over Israel. God didn't judge David by what he looked like. After all, David was the youngest of his brothers and a shepherd boy. But God saw how David was a man after God's own heart. David wanted to please God. We can ask God to give us hearts that want to please Him by faith. When we trust in God and obey Him, we have hearts that please God.



MEMORY VERSE GAME

Index Card Memory Challenge

Key Passage Poster, index cards with words from verse, masking tape

Practice 1 Samuel 16:7 together a few times.

Divide the class into four teams. Give each team a pile of the words (all mixed up) next to a line of masking tape on the floor.

Kids will need to put the index cards in order from beginning to the end along the masking tape line.

