

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: *Imagine you are in charge of choosing the next leader of your country. What would be important to you? Would you want him or her to look or act a certain way?*

Today, we will learn what God saw as important when He chose the future king of Israel.

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

Why does God often choose to use unexpected, unqualified, or ordinary people? Point out that God displays His power when He works through ordinary people. God does not look at how talented, qualified, or attractive a person is, He looks at that person's character. When God uses ordinary people, we can clearly see that it is God alone at work in their lives equipping them to do extraordinary things.

What does it mean that God sees every person's heart? Remind kids that God values what is inside a person more than his or her outward appearance. God is all-knowing and knows the intentions, thoughts, and motives behind every person's actions.

If your heart is not where it should be, what can you do? Discuss how the Bible tells us that we are all sinners and that our hearts, by nature, are wicked. This is why we need the perfect King, Jesus, who came to save us from the sin and provide us with new life in Him. Encourage kids to accept God's free gift of salvation. God wants to give us new life in Him.



ACTIVITY:

Heart Magnifying Glass

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

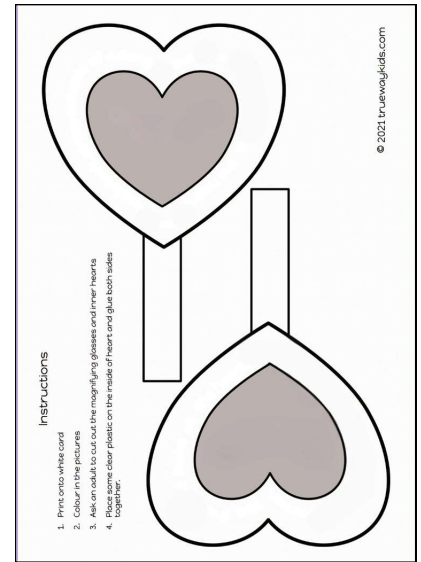
Pass out two magnifying glasses to each child. Have them write the verse from 1 Samuel 16:7 around the edges of the heart. Then they can color in their magnifying glass and handle.

Have them put glue on one of their hearts and then you can place a 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.

