

Samuel Anoints David

PreK-
K

HEART • LENT 4 • YEAR A

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13



4

What's happening in this story?

This story recounts the process by which the prophet Samuel, at God's command, anointed David to be king of Israel after Saul. Before Saul, Israel had judges rather than kings, but the people of Israel desired a king in order to be like neighboring nations, so God had granted their wish. The narrative of 1 Samuel is the story of Saul's rise to leadership, and then his fall from that position. Although 1 Samuel 16 is understated in its approach, this is a major moment in the history of Israel. David will be Israel's second king—and there is no king like him in the history of Israel.

What does this story mean for kids?

This story has a long arc, with a lot of loose ends going back to earlier portions that kids won't have read. As a result, they might have questions. Though reading through the larger story is a great idea, it is sufficient and will be helpful to highlight that what is on the inside, not the outside, is what really matters to God.

What is the Lectionary Connection?

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.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Almost everyone, including kids, loves 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.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Clear tape

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Stuffed animals
- Deck of playing cards
- Heart stickers (at least 3 per kid)

WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL STORY BIBLES • DVD • FLOOR MAT • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Invite kids to take care of stuffed animals.
David was a young shepherd boy whose job was to take care of his family's sheep. He probably had to count them and care for them when they were sick or scared. Let's take care of stuffed animals like David took care of his sheep.

Invite kids to sit around the Floor Mat.

Point out the season (Lent), color (purple), and icon (bread and wine). Leave the backing on the heart stickers and place them on the Floor Mat in the Lent section. **Today we'll hear a Bible story about a time when God looked into the heart of a boy named David. God knows all about us too. Take a heart sticker and put it on your shirt to remind you that God knows what's in your heart.**

Show kids how to make the shape of the letter *L* with their left pointer finger and thumb. ***L* is the first letter in the word *Lent*. *L* is also the first letter in the word *look*. Let's put our letter *L*s over our hearts. Say together, "God looks into our hearts."**

Pass out leaflets.

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. The leaflet shows different

containers 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. Collect their leaflets until Respond.

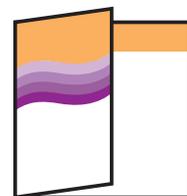
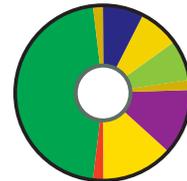
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Anointing is part of the ceremony of being chosen for an important job, like being a king. Let's all say the word *anoint*. In the video, Victor decides he wants to be anointed, even if he has to trick someone. Let's watch together to see how his plan works.

View Episode 4, "Anointing Ploy," on the Whirl Year A Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

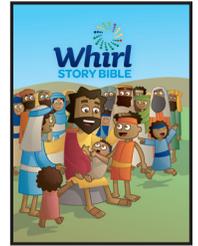
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **How did Victor get a barrel of vegetable oil?**
- **Who does Victor plan to have anoint him?**
- **Why do you think he wants to be anointed?**
- **How does Clara explain the way God chose David? Where did God look?**
- **I wonder what it feels like to be anointed.**



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story for today! Help kids find "God Chooses a New King" on page 98. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the bread and wine in the purple circle for the season of Lent. Before you read, invite kids to look for all of David's brothers.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Whom 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.

Play together!

Choose someone to be Samuel. Show everyone the king of hearts card so that kids know which one it is. Return that card to the deck. Pass a card to everyone except for Samuel, making sure to include the king of hearts. **Don't tell what your card is. The king of hearts is David.** Say this rhyme together:

**Everybody, shout and sing. We want a new king!
God will look into our hearts to see who is the king.**

Samuel is going to point to someone and ask if they are king. That person shows their card. If it's not David, Samuel keeps guessing. When David is found, give a group cheer. Choose another Samuel, redistribute the cards, and play again. **We have to guess who has the king card, but God didn't have to guess. God looked into David's heart and knew he would be king.**

BIBLE BIT

- A Bethlehemite is someone from Bethlehem. Jesse and David are from Bethlehem. So is Jesus. This is an important connection between David and Jesus.

WATCH IT AGAIN

- If you watch the video again, invite kids to raise their hands at the point where the plan doesn't sound like a good idea.

OUR CHURCH

- Invite someone from your church's governing board to talk with kids about how they were chosen. What gifts and talents are needed for board members?

TODAY'S READINGS 1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, scissors, and glue sticks.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. The sign in the center says, “We show love!” God sees love in our hearts. The other signs that the kids are holding say “Serve,” “Pray,” “Share,” and “Care.”
2. The small pictures on the leaflet panel show things we can use to show love. Use scissors to cut the small pictures apart.
3. The green square says “Serve.” To serve means to work to make things better for others. Find one or two of the small pictures of something you could use to serve others. Tell us about the pictures you chose. Give kids time to share their ideas. Use glue sticks to attach the pictures to the green square for “serve.”
4. Repeat with the yellow, red, and blue squares. Some of the pictures could go in more than one place. Your leaflet might look different than someone else’s.
5. Invite kids to share their ideas about all the pictures. Let’s glue the rest of the pictures onto the leaflet.
6. We have many wonderful ways to share God’s love.

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

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. What does God see in your heart? Take time to hear kids’ responses.

Pass out leaflet panels, scissors, clear tape, and heart stickers.

Let’s make crowns to remember David, the boy God chose to be king. Cut on the straight, dark blue lines. Add a few heart stickers to the crown pieces to remember that God cares about what’s inside your heart. Help kids tape the two crown pieces end to end and tape the crown closed, adjusting the size to fit kids’ heads.

Send kids out.

Have kids make the letter *L* with their left hand again. The letter *L* stands for *Lent* and *look*. Let’s hold our letter *L*s on our heart and say together, “God looks into our hearts.”

Pray together: **Dear God, help us remember that you have a plan for everyone and that everyone is important—kids and grown-ups. Amen.**

Thank kids for being good listeners and learners today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.