



DAVID ANOINTED KING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Memory Verse

“People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.”
1 Samuel 16: 7

Context/Background

The events take place in ancient Israel around 1000 BCE. It was a period of political and religious transformation as the Israelites looked to consolidate their leadership under a monarchy rather than judges.

Samuel was a prophet, priest, and judge in Israel. He played a pivotal role in anointing both Saul and David as kings, making him a key intermediary between God and the people.

Prior to David's anointing, Saul was the first king of Israel, chosen by God. However, his disobedience to God's commands led to God's rejection of him as king.

David, at the time of his anointing, was a young shepherd. His humble occupation and youth contrast with the older and more established sons of Jesse, who were initially considered for the kingship.

Summary

The prophet Samuel is instructed by God to visit the house of Jesse in Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the future king of Israel, as King Saul had fallen out of favour with God. Jesse presents his sons before Samuel, but none of them are chosen by God. When Samuel inquires if there are any more sons, Jesse mentions David, who is tending to the sheep in the fields. David is called, and upon his arrival, Samuel is divinely guided to anoint him with oil. From that moment, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon David, signifying his selection as the future king.

Relevance/Application **Themes: Service, Humility, Quality**

Younger students:

- God Chooses the Unlikely: Like David, God uses ordinary people like you and me to carry out his special work.
- Inner Qualities Matter Most: God places much more importance on how we care for and love others, rather than how strong or impressive we might be or look. Sadly our hearts aren't always loving. That's why God knew his people needed an even greater king – Jesus.
- Patience and God's Timing: even though David was anointed as king, he didn't become king right away. He had to wait and go through many experiences before becoming a great leader.

Older students:

Catechism
Connections

The Lord's Prayer - THE SECOND PETITION

Thy Kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

We ask God to give us a believing heart like David's, so that we trust, love and believe in God. That's how God's kingdom comes to us, and how we can help spread God's kingdom to others.

Discussion/Wondering
Questions:

Early Years

- What does a king look like?
- What made David special?
- Why are you so special to God?

Primary

- David was just a young shepherd when he was anointed as king. What do you think this story teaches us about not underestimating someone because of their age or size?
- Why is it important to have a good heart and make kind choices, just like David did? Can you think of a time when being kind made a difference?
- Have you ever had to wait for something you really wanted? How did it feel? What can we learn from David's patience while waiting to become king?
- Samuel listened to God's voice when choosing David. How can we listen to God in our own lives? What are some ways we can hear His voice?

Secondary

- Sometimes, we might not look like the strongest or smartest person, but God looks at our hearts. How can we show love, kindness, and faith in our hearts?
 - David was chosen to lead his people. What qualities did David have that made him a good leader? What qualities make a good leader today?
 - How might God be calling you to serve?
 - How often do we get caught up in our outward appearance (or other people's)? Listening to this text, do you think that's what matters to God?
-

Images or objects to
spark discussion

- **A jar of oil:** Show a small vial of anointing oil or olive oil. Ask students what they think it means to be anointed and why oil was used in the Bible for this purpose. Discuss the symbolism of anointing with oil and how it signifies God's chosen ones.
 - **Crown:** Show an image or a simple paper crown. Ask students what they think it means to be a king or queen. How do they imagine David felt when he was anointed as the future king?
 - **A Picture of Bethlehem:** Show a picture of Bethlehem, the place where David was anointed. Discuss the significance of Bethlehem in the Bible and how God can choose people from unexpected places for important roles.
-

Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

Picture Books

The Jesus Storybook – 'The Teeny, Weenie . . . True King'

Other Resources

GROW Ministries [Woven Together](#) Devotions focusing on key people pointing to Jesus. Our Bible stories per month. 'God shows Samuel who the King is' features in May.

Audio Stories/Podcasts

[Bible.is](#) - Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. Searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Early Years/Junior Primary

[Crossroads Kids' Club](#) – Samuel Anoints David

Middle-Upper Primary

[The teenie weenie true king – Jesus Story Book Bible](#)

Secondary/Staff:

[Retelling the events of Samuel anointing David through art \(Hillsong Kids\)](#)

[The meaning and purpose of anointing in the Bible – Bible Project](#)

Invocation

We gather here with open hearts to worship and reflect on a story from the Bible, a story of a young shepherd named David and a wise prophet named Samuel.

In the name of the Father, who loves us unconditionally,
In the name of the Son, who leads us in truth and grace,
And in the name of the Holy Spirit, who guides and comforts us in every step we take. Amen

Each of us has a unique purpose and calling in our lives. May our time together today remind us to have open hearts, to listen to God's voice, and to follow His path with courage and trust, just as David did so long ago.

Prayers

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for this special time when we can talk to you. Today, we have learnt about Samuel anointing David, a special moment when you chose David to be a king.

Thank you for Samuel, who listened to you and followed your instructions. Help us to listen to you too, just like Samuel did.

We learn from this story that you see what's in our hearts, even when others may not. Help us to have kind and loving hearts, just like David did.

Help us to remember that you have special plans for each of us. Guide us and show us the right path to follow, just like you guided David.

Thank you, God, for being with us and for loving us.

In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

OR

Dear God, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to us so that we believe in Jesus and want to obey him. Help us to love God and to be kind to people. We pray in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

OR

Dear Jesus, we know that you love each one of us, no matter what we look like. Please help us to love you, too. **Amen**

Mealtime Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for happy hearts, for rain and sunny weather.
We thank you, Lord, for this our food, and that we are together. Amen.

Blessing

May God bless you and make your heart shine,
Just like Samuel anointed David, divine.
May His love guide you each and every day,
As you walk in His path along life's way.

May your heart be kind, filled with love and care,
Like David, chosen by God, with a heart so rare.
May you trust in His plans, and His strength you'll find,
Knowing that God's blessings are always kind.

In all that you do, may God's grace be near,
Bringing you joy, peace, and lots of cheer.
May you be a light to others, like David, so true,
And may God's love and blessings shine through you.

Amen

OR

Ask participants to bless each other:
[Name], may God's love and blessings shine through you.

Music

With the theme of God's calling and choosing unlikely candidates for roles...

[Here I am Lord \(I the Lord of sea and sky\)](#)
[I will trust in you by Lauren Daigle](#)
[Who you say I am by Hillsong Worship](#)

With the theme of Jesus as our ultimate king...

[Who is the king of the jungle](#)
[Jesus is the king](#)

LH 113 Crown him with many crowns

Contemporary versions:

[Crown Him With Many Crowns by Emu Music](#)
[Crown Him - Norton Hall Band](#)
[Crown Him with Many Crowns - Enfield](#)

Activities

Early Years:

- Make paper crowns and write the children's names on them. Remind children that even though they are little, God chooses them to be part of his kingdom.

Primary:

- Make an inside/outside book. On the front, ask students to draw a self-portrait under the title "People look at the outside", and then on the inside page/s, glue in a heart under the title "God looks at what's in my heart". Students could draw pictures/write about what God likes to see in our hearts (being kind, listening to him, being brave to do the right thing etc).

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Do some creative journalling around the themes of this story.
-