Preschool–Grade 6

Samuel Anoints David

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God sees my heart, and I matter to God.
Bible passage: 1 Samuel 16. Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "the LORD looketh on the heart" *1 Samuel 16:7 (KJV)*. The old word **looketh** means looks.
You need: a Bible, paper sheep or cotton balls to hide, a paper towel tube or rolled-up paper cone (Samuel's horn), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: hide the paper sheep or cotton balls around the room. Put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 16.

1. Opening game: Find the Sheep (5 minutes)

Kids hunt for the hidden sheep and bring them back to you. Count them together. Say: "You took good care of the sheep! Today we will hear a true story about a boy who kept the sheep, and God chose him."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 16. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God said to Samuel, "Fill thine horn with oil, and go" (1 Samuel 16:1). *(Hold up the paper horn.)*

God told Samuel to go to Jesse. God had a king among Jesse's sons (16:1). *(Walk in place.)*

Jesse's son Eliab came. He was tall (16:6–7). *(Stand on tiptoe and stretch up.)*

But God said no to this one (16:7). *(Shake your head.)*

God said, "the LORD looketh on the heart" (16:7). *(Put your hand on your heart.)*

Say it with me: "God looks at my heart!"

Seven sons came by. God had not chosen these (16:10). *(Hold up seven fingers.)*

Samuel asked if these were all of Jesse's children (16:11). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*

The youngest was with the sheep (16:11). *(Say, "Baa!")*

Samuel said to go and get him (16:11). *(Wave your arm: come here!)*

The LORD said, "This is he" (16:12). *(Point.)*

Samuel poured oil on David's head (16:13). *(Pour from the paper horn over your own head.)*

Say it with me: "God chose David!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Samuel put in his horn? *(Oil, 1 Samuel 16:1)*
2. What does God look at? *(The heart, 16:7)*
3. What was David taking care of? *(The sheep, 16:11)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'the LORD looketh on the heart.' **Looketh** means looks." Teach the motion: point up on "the LORD," put your hand over your eyes on "looketh," and put your hand on your heart on "the heart." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Samuel 16:7" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! God sees your heart. Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Heart Picture (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big heart and color it red. Then they draw David and a sheep inside the heart. While they color, ask: "What does God look at? Who did God choose?" Kids who finish early can hide the sheep again for a friend to find.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for seeing my heart.
Help my heart love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child pour "oil" from the paper horn. If they get wiggly, do the tall-and-tiptoe and seven-fingers motions again. Leave out the rest of the chapter (16:14–23, King Saul and the evil spirit); that part is for older kids. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks why David was chosen: say, "God looks at the heart (16:7). God knows each of us, big or little."

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