Preschool–Grade 6

# Samuel Anoints David

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

**Main point:** God looks on the heart, and everyone matters to Him.
**Bible passage:** 1 Samuel 16. Read it before class.
**Memory verse:** "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." *1 Samuel 16:7 (KJV)*
**You need:** a Bible, 7 paper hearts, a marker, tape, a paper towel tube or rolled-up paper cone (Samuel's horn), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** write the memory verse on the 7 paper hearts (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 16.

## 1. Opening game: Who Is Missing? (5 minutes)

Kids sit in a circle and close their eyes. Tap one child on the shoulder. That child hides quietly behind a chair or a door. Everyone opens their eyes and guesses who is missing. Play a few times. Say: "Today we will hear about a man who asked a dad, 'Are here all thy children?' Someone was missing, and God had chosen him!"

## 2. Bible story: God Chooses David (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 16, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Israel had a king named Saul. But Saul did not obey the word of the LORD, so God said Saul would not be king anymore (1 Samuel 15:23; 16:1). God said to the prophet **Samuel**, "Fill thine horn with oil, and go" (16:1). The horn was an animal's horn, hollow inside, that could hold oil. God sent Samuel to a man named **Jesse** in the town of **Bethlehem**. God said, "I have provided me a king among his sons" (16:1). That means God had picked one of Jesse's sons to be the next king.

Samuel was afraid that King Saul would kill him (16:2). God told him to take a young cow, called a **heifer**, and offer a sacrifice to the LORD (16:2). So Samuel did what the LORD said and went to Bethlehem (16:4). He called Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice (16:5).

Jesse's son **Eliab** came. Samuel looked at him and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him" (16:6). That means, "This must be the one God chose!" But God said no. **Read 1 Samuel 16:7 from your Bible:** "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." Say: "**Countenance** means face. **Stature** means how tall someone is. God said, 'Don't look at his face or how tall he is. People look at the outside, but I look at the heart.'"


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*The story continues:* Then Jesse called his son **Abinadab**. God had not chosen him (16:8). Then came **Shammah**. God had not chosen him either (16:9). Seven of Jesse's sons passed by Samuel, and Samuel said, "The LORD hath not chosen these" (16:10).

Samuel asked Jesse, "Are here all thy children?" That means, "Are these all your children?" Jesse said there was one more, the youngest, and "behold, he keepeth the sheep" (16:11). He was out taking care of the sheep! Samuel said, "Send and fetch him," which means go and get him. "We will not sit down till he come" (16:11).

So Jesse sent for him and brought him in. He was **ruddy**, which means his face was rosy and healthy, and he was good-looking (16:12). And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he" (16:12). Samuel took the horn of oil and **anointed** him in front of his brothers (16:13). To anoint means to pour oil on someone's head to show that God chose him for a special job. The youngest son's name was **David**. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day on (16:13). One day David would be king!

Say: "David was not even there. He was out with the sheep. But God chose him! God sees the heart, and everyone matters to Him."

## 3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who did God send to Jesse in Bethlehem? *(Samuel the prophet, 1 Samuel 16:1)*
2. What did God tell Samuel to fill with oil? *(His horn, 16:1)*
3. What does the LORD look on? *(The heart, 16:7)*
4. How many of Jesse's sons passed by Samuel before David came? *(Seven, 16:10)*
5. What was David doing when Samuel asked for him? *(Keeping the sheep, 16:11)*

## 4. Memory verse: Heart Verse game (5 minutes)

Tape the 7 hearts up in order: *But the LORD said unto Samuel, / Look not on his countenance, / or on the height of his stature; / because I have refused him: / for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; / for man looketh on the outward appearance, / but the LORD looketh on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7.* Explain the old words: **countenance** means face; **stature** means how tall someone is; **refused** means did not choose; **seeth** means sees; **looketh** means looks; the **outward appearance** is what someone looks like on the outside. Read the verse together. Then take one heart away and read it again. Keep taking hearts away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.


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## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God looked at David's heart. God sees your heart too, and God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. The LORD who sees every heart came to earth as a man, Jesus (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.*
**This week:** look at people the way God does. Be kind to someone who gets left out.

## 6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Samuel anoints David word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/david-anointed-word-search), the Samuel anoints David crossword, maze, coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/david-anointed), or **Send and Fetch Him:** act out the story. Choose a Samuel (give him the paper horn), a Jesse, seven sons in a line, and a David who sits off in a corner "keeping the sheep." Each son walks past Samuel, and the class says, "Neither hath the LORD chosen this" (16:8). After the seventh, Samuel asks, "Are here all thy children?" Jesse says, "There remaineth yet the youngest" (16:11). The class says, "Send and fetch him!" David comes, and Samuel pretends to pour oil from the horn. Switch parts and play again.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You look on the heart. Help us have hearts that love You, and help us see every person the way You do. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Left out on purpose:** the rest of the chapter (1 Samuel 16:14–23), where the Spirit of the LORD left Saul, an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him, and David played the harp for him. Keep it for older kids. If a child asks why God chose a new king, say: "Saul did not obey God's word (15:23)." If they ask what David did next, say: "Later David played the harp for King Saul, and Saul felt better (16:23)."


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