



Session 10
Fall 2015
Middler

Samuel anoints David

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

prepare

PRAYER

God, you have given me the opportunity to influence these wonderful children who are becoming what you have made them to be. Thank you for trusting me with this privilege. Amen.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To know that God sees what we can do

STORY SUMMARY

When Saul's kingship took a turn for the worse, God instructed Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king. Jesse brought seven of his sons one at a time, but none of them was God's choice. Jesse said that his youngest son, David, was out with the sheep. David was the chosen one, so Samuel anointed him as the next king. God's spirit came upon David.



teaching tips for middler

Like last week, today's Bible story tells about God calling an unlikely person for an important role. Young David may have seemed like an unlikely king, but God paid attention to the state of his heart and chose him as the new leader. As middle schoolers head into preteen years, they are inclined to pay more and more attention outward appearances, in themselves and others. Use this session to help them remember that it is what is inside that really matters.

Decide which Explore activities you will do. For Create, you may want to make a sample "art wax window" ahead of time. See the list with Create for supplies needed. For Retell, you will need a stamp pad. Check Supplies and To do throughout the session to see what needs to be prepared.

Choosing another king

After God's rejection of Saul as king, God tells Samuel to anoint one of the sons of Jesse as Saul's replacement. Samuel has been grieving over Saul, but God will not allow him to remain in this state. God instructs Samuel to journey to the small village of Bethlehem, to the house of Jesse, so that God can reveal to Samuel which of the sons will become the new king.

When Samuel sees Jesse's firstborn, he feels certain that Eliab is God's choice. God, however, rebukes Samuel, warning him not to consider appearance or height. These are the attributes that made Saul seem like a good choice for king.¹ God tells Samuel that "the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Finally, after Samuel has seen and rejected seven of Jesse's sons, David is brought before him. There seems to be some confusion in the biblical tradition about whether David has seven brothers, as it says here, or whether he was the seventh son, as it says in 1 Chronicles 2:13–15. In any case, David is the youngest and the one ignored in the original call to come before the prophet.

Biblical texts tend to resist the tradition of primogeniture, in which the firstborn son receives the most, best, or all the family inheritance. The book of Genesis has several famous examples of this overturning of tradition: Ishmael and Isaac; Jacob and Esau; Reuben and Joseph; Ephraim and Manasseh. This pattern continues in the selection of David and later in that of Solomon, David's son.

Choosing a shepherd

Shepherding was commonly used as a metaphor for kingship throughout the ancient world. The shepherd/king must lead the sheep/people, care for them—especially for the weak and powerless—and put himself in danger to protect them. This understanding was common throughout Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Greece, and other ancient civilizations as well.

So it is not surprising that a king should be compared to shepherd. What may be surprising is that a shepherd



would actually become a king. From this humble beginning will come one of the most influential figures in the entire Old Testament.

The text then sets up a contrast between David and Saul. At this point the spirit of the Lord comes on David while it departs from Saul. God's presence will now follow the young shepherd rather than the current monarch.

The condition of the heart

The condition of the heart is a recurring theme in the books of Samuel and the books of Kings, as in many other biblical texts. David becomes known as one after God's own heart.² He will be the standard by which the books of Kings evaluate all subsequent kings of Israel and Judah. Even though David, like Saul, will commit some grievous sins and make terrible mistakes, God does not abandon David. Why the two kings are treated so differently is never stated. In this passage, David is selected by God; we are not given any indication why. The reasons for God choosing certain individuals are often not revealed in the Bible: see, for example, the calls to Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Jeremiah, and the apostle Paul.

We often have mistakenly thought that inner spirituality is a concern of only the New Testament; that the Old Testament emphasizes only physical manifestations of spirituality and devotion. This view, as with many of our ideas about differences between the Old and New Testaments, does not reflect what the texts actually say. Many of the Hebrew scriptures, including most of the Prophets, Psalms, Chronicles, and Deuteronomy, celebrate the condition of the heart and the one who seeks God. Jesus clearly builds on this part of the tradition and makes it a priority in his understanding of what it means to follow after God.

1. 1 Samuel 9:2; 10:23.

2. 1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Kings 3:6; 9:4; 11:4; 14:8; 15:3.

gather

supplies

- *Shine Songbook and CD*
- *Year Two Songbooks* (optional)
- CD player
- Memory game cards (from Additional resources)
- Paper
- Crayons or colored pencils

poster pack

- Bible memory poster (Psalm 25)

to do

- Copy and cut apart the Memory game cards from pages 92–93. Copy one set for each group of three or four children.

media connections

- *Jesse Presents His Sons to Samuel* art by James Tissot
- Wikipedia's page on "holy anointing oil"
- Internet search for a timeline of the kings of Israel
- "Colorful World" by CeCe Winans, from *Purified* album

BUILD COMMUNITY

Welcome the children as they arrive. Connect with each other by playing a short game. In groups of three or four, the children can play memory using the game cards from pages 92–93 of this guide. Each group should place the cards face down and take turns turning over two cards, trying to find a match. Encourage the children to read the facts on the cards out loud as they find matches.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Sing "Come and See" (track 3; *Year Two Songbook*, page 8). Song lyrics are also at the back of *Glow*.

Pray:

Great God, thank you for choosing surprising people to do your work. Thank you for calling us to see who you are and share that with others. Amen.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Praying for others is an important way to show care for one another and trust in God. Children can try different ways of praying for each other in the next few sessions.

For today, gather in a circle and invite the children to share something they are worried about, either for themselves or someone they know. Tell the children to especially pay attention to what the person to their right shares. After everyone has shared, lead the children in prayer. Go around in a circle, having everyone pray for the person to their right. If children are uncertain about what to pray, they can simply say, "God, please help ____ this week." Close the prayer by saying "Amen."

Encourage the children to keep praying for the things that were shared throughout the coming week.

Bible memory

Have each child choose a different phrase from the Bible memory passage to illustrate with a picture or fancy lettering. When they are finished, recite the Bible memory passage together with the children holding up their artwork when their phrase is spoken.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

—Psalm 25:4–5

experience

SHARE THE STORY

Review the session 9 story with children. (The people wanted a king, so God told Samuel to anoint Saul as king.) Tell the children that Saul did not continue to be a good leader, and that today's story tells about what God did next.

Point out the "Who's in charge?" poster. Ask the children to think about who was really in charge as they listen to today's story.

Turn to page 86 in *Shine On* and read or tell the Bible story. Also have children find 1 Samuel 16 in their Bibles either before or after the story.

WONDER AND REFLECT

Reflect on the Bible story together. Welcome thoughts and questions from the children as well.

- I wonder why Jesse did not call David in with his other sons.
- I wonder how David felt about being chosen.
- I wonder what good things God sees in you.
- I wonder when you have felt small or unimportant.
- I wonder what David's brothers thought when they heard David would be king.

PEACE NOTES

In a truly peaceful society, everyone is valued for their gifts, no matter how unimportant they seem. Look closely at the "Small things" poster together. Have each child choose one thing and think about what difference it would make in the world if that thing did not exist.

Invite the children to each think of a gift or skill they have that could help make the world a better place. Play "God's Light Shines," track 8 on the Shine CD, while children each light a candle to represent their light shining in world. (Children can sing along using the *Year Two Songbook*, page 14; lyrics are also at the back of *Glow*.)



Samuel anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

supplies

- Bibles
- *Shine On: A Story Bible*
- *Shine Songbook and CD*
- *Year Two Songbooks* (optional)
- CD player
- Candles (regular or battery-operated, one for each child)
- Matches or lighter (if needed)

poster pack

- "Who's in charge?" poster
- "Small things" poster

to do

- Become familiar with today's story in *Shine On*.

explore

CREATE

Use the instructions on page 30 of *Glow* to make “Art wax windows.” When they see the sun shining through their artwork, children can think about letting God’s light shine through them.

supplies

- *Glow* magazines
- Newspapers
- Wax paper
- Old birthday candles or crayons
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners
- Iron
- Scissors
- Ribbon

MOVE

David was a shepherd who protected his sheep from wild animals. Play “Wolf and sheep tag.” Put children into pairs (one shepherd and one sheep), except for one person who is the wolf. The wolf tries to tag the sheep. The shepherd circles around trying to keep the sheep safe. The wolf can only tag a sheep from an unprotected side; the wolf may not reach over, under, or around the shepherd. When the wolf tags the sheep, players switch roles. Larger groups with adequate space could have two shepherds protecting each sheep, or two groups playing at once.

RETELL

Have the children make a comic book retelling of David’s anointing on page 31 of *Glow*. The story is started for them; they can continue making the characters with their fingerprints. Provide wet wipes or rags to clean fingertips.

supplies

- *Glow* magazines
- Stamp pads
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Wet wipes or rags

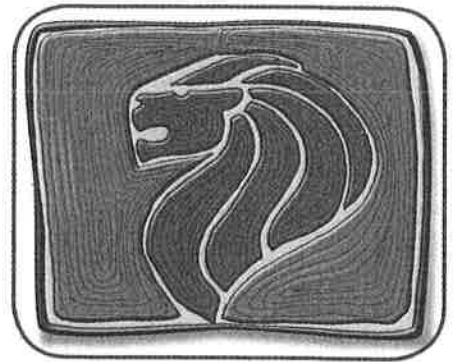
GLOW

Invite the children to do the “Who got the call?” activity on page 32, which reviews calls from God in this quarter’s Bible stories.

On the same page, children can read about olive oil and how it was used in Bible times. You may want to pour some olive oil on a small plate for the children to dip bread into and taste.

supplies

- *Glow* magazines
- Pencils or pens
- Olive oil and bread (optional)



other ideas

- Talk about people in our world who are admired because of their outward appearance, and others you admire because of who they are inside.
- Have the children pick characters from the story and pretend to be interviewed about their perspective on today’s story.
- Decorate small jars filled with scented oil to remind children of Samuel’s anointing oil.

bles

PRAY

Gather the children and pray together. Thank God for the children and ask God's Spirit to guide them this week.

Sing "God's Light Shines" from the Shine CD, track 8. Words and music are on page 14 of *Year Two Songbook*; words are also at the back of *Glow*.

SEND

Point out the "God calls David" Remembrance rock or cut it out to add to your display. Tell the children that David was a musician as well as a shepherd. David's name accompanies many of the psalms in the Bible that we still use in our worship today.

Bless the children with these words based on Psalm 23, a well-known psalm of David:

The Lord is our Shepherd. God cares for you and leads you. God is with you and comforts you. Stay in God's house of goodness and mercy for your whole life long!

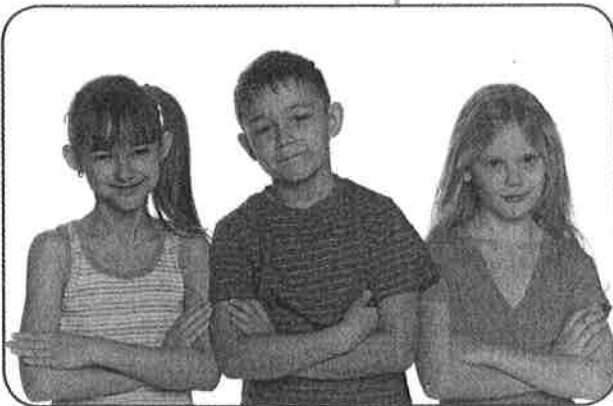
Encourage the children to take time to pray for each other this week.

supplies

- *Shine Songbook and CD*
- *Year Two Songbooks* (optional)
- CD player

poster pack

- Remembrance rocks poster ("God calls David" rock)



Prepare your plan well enough that you can teach the point through unplanned conversations and rabbit trails.

—Craig Strasbaugh
Orrville, Ohio

looking ahead

Save the Memory game cards to use again in upcoming sessions.

leader's closing prayer

God, I'm glad that you can see what I can do. I know that I don't always see that in myself. With your help, I can go boldly wherever you lead me. Amen.