



Session 12

Fall 2015

Early Childhood 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

Samuel anoints David

prepare

PRAYER

God, you are not concerned with outward appearance but what is in the heart. I want to look at others the way you do. Amen.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To ponder stories of God's call

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 early childhood

Similar to the stories of Gideon and Saul, God chose another unlikely person to do great things. A shepherd boy who was the youngest son in a large family was not the obvious choice to be the next king. Yet God saw David's heart.

As you work with the children today, aim to see them as God sees them. Look for unique qualities that you never noticed before. Listen carefully to their words and notice their interests. Imagine the ways God will use each child to bring light into the world.

Make copies of Retell the Bible stories from page 93 in this guide. Insert one copy inside each Story folder from the Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet so parents can help children retell the stories at home.

Decide which Explore activities you will do, and check Supplies and To do throughout the session to see what needs to be prepared. Go to www.ShineCurriculum.com/Extras to find tips for working with younger children.

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, and Greece, and other ancient civilizations as well.

1 SAMUEL 16:1–13



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 Early Childhood Music CD*
- CD player

resource pack

- Bible memory poster (Psalm 25)

BUILD COMMUNITY

Welcome the children. Sing “Called You by Name” from the *Shine Early Childhood Music CD*, track 7. Lyrics are at the back of this guide. As you sing, clap and fill in the children’s names as indicated in the lyrics.

Ask about the children’s families. Are they the oldest in the family, the youngest, or in between? What things do they do to help at home? What do their brothers and sisters or other family members do? Explain that in today’s story they will hear about a big family with lots of brothers.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Ask if children remember what a shepherd does. Shepherds make sure the sheep have food, water, and a safe place to rest. The children will hear a story about a shepherd today.

Sing “The Lord Is My Shepherd” from the *Shine Early Childhood Music CD*, track 20. Lyrics are at the back of this guide.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Lead the children in a prayer. Speak slowly so children can repeat each line. Demonstrate the motions. Some children may remember the prayer from earlier in the quarter. Pray:

God, you know me. (*Touch forehead.*)

God, you are with me. (*Place both hands over heart.*)

God, you love me. (*Cross arms over chest.*) **Amen.**

media connections

- *Me I Am!* by Jack Prelutsky
- *The One, the Only Magnificent Me!* by Dan Haseltine
- YouTube search for “Anointing of David” by Blue Squid Productions
- Internet search for *Choosing a King* printable Bible story booklet by Jill Kemp

Bible memory

Say the memory verse as “tall and small.” The first time, tell the group to stretch their arms up high and stand on their toes to be tall while they say the verse. The second time, crouch down to be small. Refer to the Bible memory poster.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
—Psalm 25:4

experience

SHARE THE STORY

Lay out a Story folder from a Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet and have the Saul and David story puppets from the bonus leaflet ready. Use the Brothers foldout from page 92 in this guide. Tell the Bible story, which is found on the back of the story picture in the resource pack. Follow the instructions there for movement of the props.

WONDER AND REFLECT

Share some or all of these wondering questions, allowing time for children to think and respond.

- I wonder which part of the story you like best.
- I wonder why God chose David and not one of the older brothers.
- I wonder what it was like to be chosen.
- I wonder if you have ever been asked to do a special job.

PEACE NOTES

Peaceful relationships are fostered when people share responsibilities and work together. One way David helped his family was by caring for the sheep.

Look at the “Family helpers” poster from the resource pack, particularly at the picture of the child caring for an animal. Provide time for children to share experiences of caring for animals, or helping around the house.

Sing the following words to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:

**I can be a kind helper every day,
hugging, sharing, singing, caring,
helping every day.**



Samuel anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1–13

storytelling props

- Story folder (from Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet)
- Saul and David story-puppets (from Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet)
- Brothers foldout (from Additional resources)

resource pack

- Story picture
- “Family helpers” poster

to do

- Gather all the storytelling props, following preparation instructions on pages 88 and 92 in this guide as well as on the Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet. The Brothers foldout is also available at www.ShineCurriculum.com/Extras.
- Practice telling the Bible story using the props.

explore

CREATE

Provide a variety of art supplies so children can make a picture in response to the story. Set out the story picture for reference. Encourage children to create any part of the story that they want, such as people, sheep, oil, and so on. Children could also connect the story to their own life in some way, such as by drawing a picture of their own family.

supplies

- Story picture (from resource pack)
- Art supplies such as paper, crayons, markers, paint
- Sticky notes, pen (optional)

MOVE

Play the movement game described on page 3 of the Early Childhood leaflet. Each child will need a coin, button, or small stone. If there are two adults present, divide the group of children in half. Each small group will need a leaflet.

supplies

- Early Childhood leaflets
- Coins, buttons, or small stones (one per child)

RETELL

Lay the Bible backdrop from the resource pack on a table. Children can use the backdrop and additional suggested props to retell today's story.

supplies

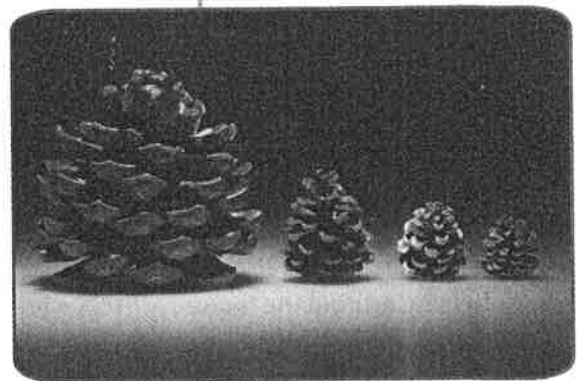
- Bible backdrop (from resource pack)
- David story puppet (from Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet)
- Cotton balls (sheep)
- Brothers foldout (from Additional resources) or wooden story figures

DISCOVER

Set out nature objects of varying sizes. Let children experiment with arranging the objects in order of size—from smallest to largest or largest to smallest. Remind them that David was the youngest and smallest in his family.

supplies

- Place mats
- Nature items of varying sizes (rocks, leaves, seashells, pinecones, etc.)



other ideas

- Play a variation of "Duck, duck, goose" by saying "Brother, brother, David." Younger children can say, "No, no, yes."
- Shuffle the Matching cards from the resource pack. Lay the cards facedown in a grid. Play memory by turning two cards over to see if they match.
- Sing the song on page 2 of the Early Childhood leaflet to the tune of "Skip to My Lou."

bles

PRAY

Gather in a circle. Sing the first verse of “Prayer of Peace” from the *Shine Early Childhood Music CD*, track 22. Lyrics are at the back of this guide.

SEND

Touch each child’s hand with some olive oil and say, “You are special to God. God is with you.”

Make sure to send leaflets home with the children. Send home the Story folder and puppets from the Bonus Early Childhood Leaflets. Include a copy of Retell the Bible stories from page 93 in this guide so parents and children can enjoy the stories together.

supplies

- Early Childhood leaflets
- *Shine Early Childhood Music CD*
- CD player
- Bowl of olive oil
- Story folders and puppets (from Bonus Early Childhood Leaflet)
- Copies of Retell the Bible stories (from Additional resources)

teaching tip

Some children will not want to be touched with the oil. Respect their choice. Repeat the verbal blessing for each child, even those who do not want the oil on their hands.



As Sunday school teachers, we need to trust that God loves our students even more than we do. God wants to speak to them through our words and example.

—Jill Emmelhainz
Grove City, Ohio

leader’s closing prayer

Where do you see yourself in this Bible story? Like David, have you experienced a call from God that you weren’t expecting? Like the seven older brothers, have you ever felt passed over? No matter where you find yourself today, imagine God saying, “I have chosen you!”

God, in the tasks of daily life and when you call me to do something completely new, help me use my skills and abilities to honor you. Amen.