

Lesson And Discussion

God Chooses David 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Set the Bible in your lap. Say: **Today's Bible story comes from the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 16. God's people, Israel, were not happy with God as their king. They saw how other nations around them had human kings—and they wanted one. So they asked God over and over to give them a human king so they could be like everyone else. The first king God gave them was Saul, and he didn't obey God. He didn't follow God with his whole heart. So God sent Samuel to find a new king for his people.**

Samuel was a prophet—that means a person who speaks God's words to God's people. Today, we will see that prophets are still human. They have to listen to God to make wise choices. Sometimes God's choices are a surprise to us.

So God told Samuel to go to a man named Jesse's house to find the new king God had chosen. Jesse had eight sons. Eight! When Samuel saw the first son, Eliab, he said, "This must be the one!" He was tall and strong and handsome. What do you think God said? Let the children respond. You're right. God surprised Samuel and said, "Not this one." Then God said, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at what is in the heart" (v. 7).

So they kept going. Jesse paraded seven of his sons before Samuel. They all looked good to Samuel, but God kept saying, "No." Finally, Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons. Does anyone remember what Jesse said to Samuel? Let the children respond.

Yes, Jesse probably shrugged his shoulders as he said, "My youngest son is taking care of the sheep" (v. 11). Samuel remembered what God had said to him. He remembered that God's choice is often a surprise. "Bring him here," Samuel said to Jesse. When Samuel saw David, he heard God tell him that this was the one! Young David would be the next king of Israel. I bet not only were Samuel and Jesse surprised, but all David's big brothers! Little David—a king? Like I said, sometimes God's choices are surprising.

Samuel poured oil on David's head as a symbol of his kingship—that's called anointing. God chose David not because he was the strongest,

smartest, oldest, or the best, but because God saw his heart and knew that it was a heart that wanted to please God. God chose to make him king.

The Bible says that, from that day on, the “Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David” (v. 13b). David had this special gift of God’s Spirit not because he had earned it or worked hard for it, but because God chose him for a special purpose. What’s even neater is that God chose David to be one of Jesus’s ancestors. David would be part of the family tree of Jesus! And after Jesus’s death, resurrection, and ascension, God sent his Spirit to live inside every believer—and this includes us!

Discussion

-Who was Israel’s first king? (Saul)

-Who did God send to anoint Israel’s next king? (Samuel, the prophet)

-What is a prophet? (A person who speaks God’s words to God’s people)

-What did God tell Samuel to do? (Go to Jesse’s house and anoint the new king)

-How are God’s choices different from our own? (We are not perfect. We often make choices based on what we need. God is perfect; he doesn’t need anything from anyone. He makes decisions based on his wisdom and love.)

-What happened to David after Samuel anointed him? (God’s Spirit came upon him powerfully.)

-Do we need a prophet to anoint us so that God’s Spirit will be with us? (No. God gives us his Holy Spirit to live in us when we become his child through faith in Jesus.)

Confession

(During lent, I've started the practice of giving the kids a chance to think of what they need forgiveness for and then saying this prayer provided by the curriculum...)

Leader: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us your Word so that we can understand your will and grow closer to you. Right now, we ask you to forgive us for our sin. We are sorry and we are willing to change. We also ask you to help us forgive those who have done unkind things to us. We forgive them. Thank you, Lord, for loving us so much! We pray in Jesus's holy name. Amen. Closing

Say: As we finish our time together, let's thank God that he has chosen us in Jesus, not because of what we have done, but because of his grace. Let's ask that he make us quick to be kind and forgiving to others because we know that we have been forgiven in Jesus. Close in prayer.