

LENT 2023



1 Samuel 16:1-13

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

In this part of the story, we read that God chooses David to be king. God has rejected Saul and commands Samuel to go to Bethlehem and to go to the house of Jesse and God will tell Samuel who the next King of Israel will be.

- **Big Idea:** The God who sees us, helps us to see more clearly.

Starter

Evidence of Grace

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

Discussion:

- Have you ever been in the car when your parents were driving through fog or a dust storm? What was it like when you could barely see where you were going?

Sing Together

Story

In the book of 1 Samuel we read a story about the nation of Israel wanting a human king.

Israel wanted a human king. They wanted a physical human to lead them into battle, to represent them to the rest of the world, and to be like all of the other nations of the world that had human kings. Before this time they were dependent on God to lead, guide, direct, and they were His representatives. They didn't want to live like this anymore. They cried out to God through His prophet Samuel. They told Samuel that they wanted a human king and Samuel took that request to God. God said that he had heard their cries and decided to give them what they wanted. He warned them that a human king was going to demand their sons and daughters to serve him in his army and in his kingdom. The people didn't care and demanded a human king.

God chose Saul to be the first human king of Israel. Saul trusted and followed God for a while when he was king, but towards the end, Saul no longer trusted and obeyed what God said to do. God could not trust Saul any longer to lead the people of Israel to be a nation of royal priests that would show the rest of the world what God was like because Saul himself was tempted by the riches and power like all of the other nations. God decided to find a new king for Israel. Saul's heart no longer

God told the prophet Samuel to go to Bethlehem and go to the house of Jesse. God told Samuel that he was going to choose the new king from one of the sons of this household. Samuel did as he was instructed and when he got to Jesse's house, Samuel told him to bring all of his sons before him because God was going to choose a new king. Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel to see if God was going to choose one of them to be king. Samuel saw one of the sons name Eliab who looked kingly and he thought surely he was going to be the one that God would pick. But the Lord said to Samuel, "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 the heart."

Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel and God did not choose any of them. Samuel asked Jesse if these were all of his sons. Jesse said, "Well there is my youngest son, but he is tending the sheep." Samuel told Jesse to go get him. When David walked in the house the Bible says that God told Samuel, "'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.'" So Samuel took a horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David."

God's love for us, His invitation to join Him on His mission to reconcile all of creation, is not dependent on how we look. God sees our heart. God invites us to trust Him with our hearts. When our allegiance is to God and His kingdom, which was shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, then God sends his Spirit to live in our hearts. It is now the beauty of God's Spirit at work within us that affirms that we are seen and know by God Himself and also allows us to see others how God sees them.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why did God decide to find a new king for Israel?
- Why do you think Jesse didn't even ask David to be a part of the initial showing of his sons, but had him keep working with the sheep?
- When God was choosing a new king why do you think he chose David, who was the youngest son and out tending the sheep?
- If you have decided to trust Jesus with your life and heart, how does God see you? (Gal 3:26, "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...")
- If we believe that we are truly seen by God, how does that make you feel?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshipping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshipping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me to think of my community this week and how I can love them well so that they might know you more.

Craft:

The kids can color the picture below.

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the Speak rhythm. Maybe as you go to school, go to the store with your parent, go to your sports game or after-school activity, or even in your own home and think about who you might be able to speak the good news that the kingdom of God has come to earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Samuel anointed a boy named David to be king after Saul, who had become too proud and had forgotten to give all the glory to God. - **1 Samuel 16**