

# David Is Anointed King By Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1-13

## MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 16:7

“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Yarn (enough for several strips) and a bag (one that can't be seen through).

As many small prizes as the number of children in your class.

Red construction paper, brads (paper fasteners), markers and scissors.

Construction paper, crayons, dry pasta in a variety of shapes and glue.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### The Chance Game

People come up with many ways of choosing what or who is the best for something. But God does things very differently than we do. He goes beyond guessing and is very personal in the lives of those He chooses to do great things for Him. In today's lesson we are going to learn that **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

For this activity you will need yarn and a bag. Cut the yarn into several different sizes. Cut enough pieces so that there is one for each child. Make sure that there is only one of the longest pieces of yarn. Place all of the pieces into a bag and have each child pick one string. The one with the longest string wins. Give them a small prize.

Explain to the children that this person was selected by “chance.” No one looked at whether he deserved to be the winner, it simply happened. God doesn’t choose this way. He will always look at our hearts to see if He can use us. Next, pass out small prizes to the rest of the class for participating.

## LESSON TIME!

How many of us have looked at someone else and formed an opinion about them (good or bad) without really knowing them? Maybe you’ve seen someone and thought “they look like a doctor or a musician.” But you never really met them or got to know them, you only saw them. Well our story today is a really good lesson on how God looks at the heart and not the outward appearance.

David is often referred to as “a man after God’s own heart.” God didn’t choose David to be a king because he looked like a king or even acted “kingly”, He chose him rather because of his heart. David had a heart that longed for God and desired to serve Him. The Lord doesn’t look at these things the way we do. **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

We need to look at others in the same way. We shouldn’t make judgments based on what others look like. We shouldn’t make up our minds about other people based on whether they look good on the outside or not. The important thing to the Lord is the same thing that should be important to us. What is in our hearts? Let’s learn how God looks into our hearts!

### 1 SAMUEL 16:1

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons

This passage opens with Samuel mourning, or being sad over the Lord's rejection of Saul as king over Israel. The Lord spoke to Samuel and said to him, "How long will you mourn for Saul?" Then the Lord gave him an assignment. God tells Samuel that he has provided a king for Israel among the sons of Jesse. He tells Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to the House of Israel.

God had rejected Saul as king because he refused to repent, he would not confess his sin and turn back to God. God had used Samuel to confront Saul with his sin, but Saul would not make a heart change. Samuel was grieved at seeing Saul fail. Saul was a leader chosen by God and yet he had hardened his heart against the Lord. **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

In the midst of Samuel's mourning over Saul, the Lord gave Samuel more to do. In essence God was saying, "Samuel, I've rejected Saul but I'm not through yet." The Lord wanted to keep Samuel busy serving Him and focused on what He was going to do next.

**1 SAMUEL 16:2, 3**

**And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'**

**"Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."**

Samuel asks "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." Notice that Samuel doesn't respond right away in obedience to go. He was concerned with the danger or risk involved if Saul were to find out. He was worried that Saul would kill him. But the Lord promised to lead Samuel through the difficult situation and that He would show him what to do.

God never asks us to do something that He won't lead us through. Sometimes it may seem like what He is asking us to do is really difficult (just like Samuel) but God promises Samuel and us that He will be with us and show us what to do. The Bible promises that He will never leave us or forsake us. We can rest in that, no matter what we are asked to do.

### 1 SAMUEL 16:4, 5

So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

Samuel did what the Lord said and he went to Bethlehem. The Lord had given Samuel a legitimate reason for going so that he would not attract attention. He told Samuel to go and make a sacrifice and invite Jesse to the sacrifice and the Lord would show Samuel whom to anoint.

Samuel was a well known prophet and so it was probably a concern for him that he would attract attention and people may question why he was in Bethlehem. It says that the elders of the town trembled at his coming. It was a heavy thing when Samuel came into town.

### 1 SAMUEL 16:6, 7

So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man

sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Samuel looked at Eliab (David's older brother) and said to himself, "Surely this must be the Lord's anointed one." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature because I have refused him."

When Samuel saw Eliab he was must have been very "kingly looking" and Samuel thought he must be the one. He chose him based upon his outward appearance. He had his own idea of what a leader should look like and yet he overlooked the heart. Samuel was spiritually mature and yet he made a mistake. God corrected Samuel's mistake and tells him, "Don't look at his outward appearance." **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

## Inside The Heart

You will need red construction paper for this craft. Allow each child to do the following. Fold two pieces of red construction paper in half. Cut out 2 large hearts. Take 1 heart, fold and cut in 1/2. On the whole heart, write the memory verse. Take the heart that is cut in half and set the two halves on top of the whole heart. Punch a hole at the bottom, and use a brad (paper fastener) to hold the pieces in place. Have the children write their name on the outside pieces. Explain that God can see inside of our hearts. Talk about some things that they would like the Lord to see inside of their heart. What kinds of things do they think was in David's heart?

Remind the children that God looks at our hearts. No matter how we or someone else acts on the outside, the most important thing is what is in our hearts.

## 1 SAMUEL 16:8-11

So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

After Eliab was rejected, Jesse called each of his sons to pass before Samuel and each time one passed by Samuel said, "neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel but none of them was the one that God had chosen. Then Samuel asked Jesse "Are these all of your sons?" Jesse answered Samuel by telling him that there still remained his youngest son who was out keeping his sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to send for him and he even said, "We will not sit down until he comes."

You would think that after all of Jesse's sons had passed by Samuel and he had not anointed any of them that Jesse would speak up and say, "Oh, well it must be David." But he doesn't. In fact, it's Samuel who breaks the silence and asks Jesse if there is another son. Maybe Jesse never figured that his son David could be a king because he was young, or not as talented as his brothers.

It is interesting to study the people that God chooses. He rarely chooses the powerful, the beautiful, or the naturally talented ones.

He often chooses the weak and the outcast to do amazing things for Him. He even chooses young boys and girls who have a heart to serve Him and are willing to obey Him. **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

1 SAMUEL 16:12,13

So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

When David was brought before Samuel the Lord told Samuel that he was the one and to anoint him, so Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day on.

David was considered just a little shepherd but God saw his heart. David had been faithful with the little things appointed to him, the sheep. And God gave him more; He made him a ruler over His people. David may have been just a shepherd and a boy, but he did his very best with what was entrusted to him. The two things that made David a great king were 1) his heart was right before God, and 2) he was filled with the Holy Spirit. **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

## Pasta People

For this craft you will need construction paper, crayons, dry pasta in a variety of shapes and glue. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Allow the children to draw a person on their paper. Then glue different shapes of pasta on his figure to make clothes, hair, arms, legs, feet and so on.



After each child has made their “Pasta Person” talk about the following. Who made people? Who were the people in our story? What happened? Tell some ways in which people look different. Sometimes we decide what a person is like by looking at the outside. What does God look at? How are you like other people in your family? How are you different?

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to search their own hearts to make sure that they are right before the Lord and when they look at others, to make sure to look at the heart and not at outward appearances. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.