

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOD HAS A JOB FOR LITTLE OL' ME!

1 Samuel 16 The Anointing of David

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

Please see the Introduction document and the COGS programme for leader's notes and further information/ideas.

Each child will need:

- Pens and paper
- Any dressing-up clothes of kings and/or queens (optional)

Start It

Play a choices game with your group. Give the children a choice between two objects/activities/ideas etc and instruct them on how they should let you know what they choose. For example, they could stand up / sit down; thumbs up / thumbs down; hold up a piece of paper with either A or B written on it (which you will have to ask them to prepare). Or you could use the chat function and have each person type in their answer.

You could use the whiteboard to keep a visual tally.

Some examples of choices could be:

- Chocolate or sweets
- Crisps or popcorn
- Red or blue
- School or no school
- Cats or dogs
- Skateboard or bike
- Movies or books

You can adapt these according to the age of your group.

Say: In our story today, God makes an unusual choice, something that no one expected!

Ask the children if they know of any famous Davids (for example, David Attenborough, David Tennant, David de Gea, David Beckham, David Walliams). Then explain that while we know a little bit about these people - because they play sports; they care about the environment; they star on TV - we don't know everything about them.

Ask the children if they know of any Davids in the Bible and to share what they know about the story.

Explain that we might know a little about the story of David and Goliath or may have heard of a small boy defeating a giant, but that there is lots more of the story to know.

Say: David was only able to defeat Goliath because God had put him there and prepared him for the task. Today we are going to find out how God chose David and gave him a special job to do.

Sing It

Sing along and let us always remember that God knows our name.

'Not Forgotten'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9h4WoS9_jfY

or

Can you clap in time with this lively song?

'Man Looks on The Outside'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoQwSChEhtU>

Tell It

Read 1 Samuel 16, in a translation most suited to the members of your group.

Using objects as you tell the story could help to engage the children's thinking. Hiding the objects in boxes or bags can build intrigue and suspense. Objects could include:

- An animal horn or a picture of one (this held the oil for anointing)
- A baby doll or a small child figure (indicating that David was the youngest)
- Binoculars (symbolising Samuel's search for the new king)
- A crown (kings wear crowns - David was anointed king)
- A dirty sock (David didn't have time to clean up before coming inside)
- A family picture with lots of children (eight would be perfect - for David and his brothers)
- A picture of a heart (God looks on the heart)
- Index card with the Bible memory verse written on it
- A picture of a dove or flames (Holy Spirit came upon David when he was anointed)
- Index card with 'Old Testament' written on it (where this story is found)
- A picture of a shepherd or small shepherd's crook (David was a shepherd)
- A small bottle of oil (Samuel anointed David with oil)
- A small stuffed sheep (David cared for his father's sheep)
- A picture of praying hands (Samuel prayed to God)

(Adapted from <https://www.rotation.org/topic/wt-david-gods-chosen-king---games-1>)

You could finish up your story-telling with this short video clip.

Superbook David's anointing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9Obyj-BPWE>

🗨️ **Say:** Samuel's first reaction to God's command was to choose the oldest, most handsome of all of Jesse's sons, but God said no. God's choice was David, the youngest, most insignificant child in the family. David may have expected to be the last person in the family to be chosen by God to become the future King of Israel; he was probably used to being the last to be picked for anything with seven bigger, better-looking brothers than him in the family! It took 15 years until David actually became the King, and then he went on to become one of the greatest kings of Israel ever!

Share a picture of David's anointing (there is an example below, or choose your own via an internet image search) and leave the picture visible as you ask any of the following 'I wonder' questions:

- I wonder why Samuel thought Jesse's oldest son would be the new king.
- I wonder why God chose David to be a king even though he was the youngest.
- I wonder how David responded to being chosen by God.
- I wonder how David's brothers felt about David being picked.
- I wonder why David continued to be a shepherd for his father.
- I wonder what work God has chosen for you to do for him.
- I wonder how God will show you what he has chosen you to do.

Action It

Show the group some pictures of kings and/or crowns (there is an example below or choose your own via an internet image search). If any of the children have bought dressing-up clothes, they could put them on now too!

● **Say:** Imagine you are a royal king or a queen. How would you feel? What would you do?

Allow time for response and discussion. You could use one of the pictures that you have shown the children and annotate the children's answers on to it.

● **Say:** Kings and queens are really important people. Do people have to be grown up to be important to Jesus? How did our story today highlight this?

Allow time for response and discussion.

● **Say:** To God, we are all as important as kings or queens and he has a job for each one of us to do. David's first job was being a good shepherd. Through this job God was preparing him for a bigger job - to be the King of Israel. David worked hard to be a good shepherd, and then to be a good king. We can each do our best to do a good job at whatever God chooses us to do. We are all different, but God has a plan for each of us - whatever our size, wherever we're from, whatever we've done.

Pray It

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 (ICB)

'God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

● **Say:** Adults sometimes use the phrase 'What's on your heart?' meaning 'What do you care about?' Today we learned that God looks at our heart, not what we look like on the outside. God knows what we care about, our thoughts and our feelings.

What is on your heart? What do you care about and want God to know?

Play some music and invite the children to use this time to share their thoughts with God, by drawing a heart on a piece of paper and writing their ideas around the heart.

Say a prayer for your group, thanking God that he knows each one of us on the inside, and that he has a special job lined up for each of us to do for him.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.

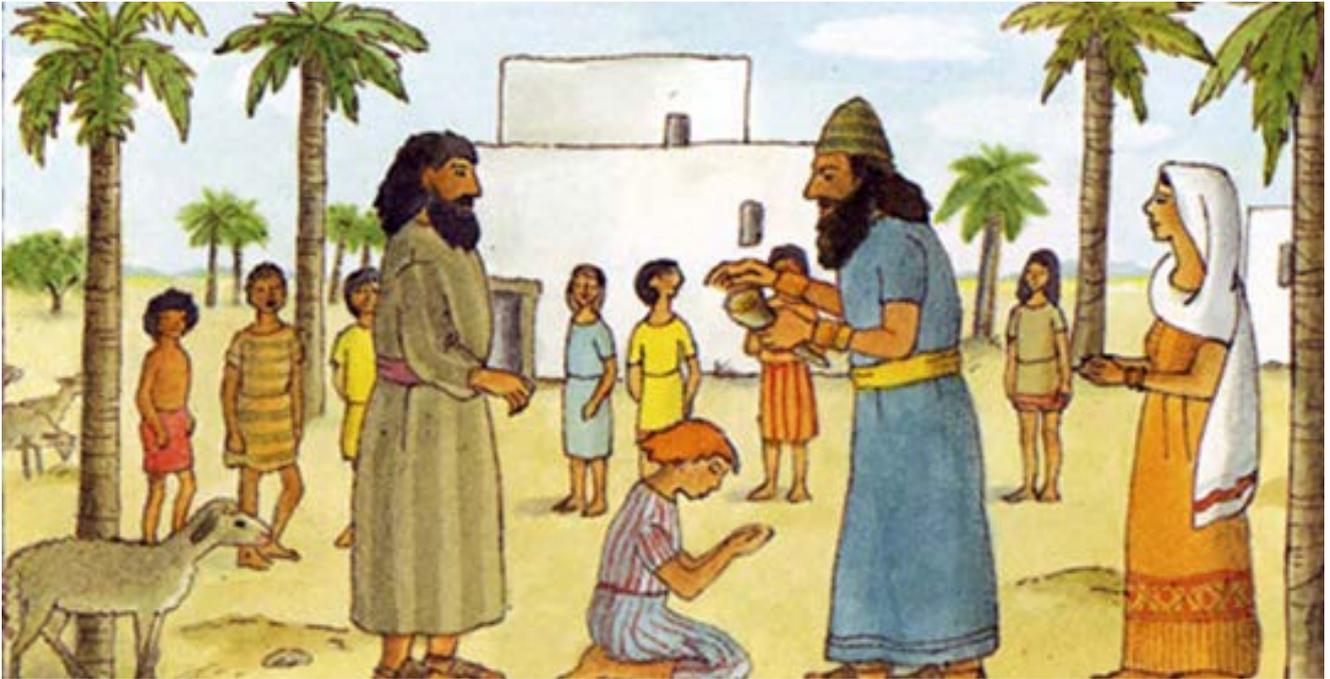


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