

Week 42 Samuel anoints David [1 Samuel 16]

Series: **David**

Application: **God sees what you are like on the inside.**

Memory Verse: **“The Lord is King for ever and ever.” Psalm 10:16.**

Preparation Notes

Samuel mourned for Saul as God had rejected him as king. But God told Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem, because he was to anoint one of Jesse’s sons. (Remind the children that Jesse was Ruth and Boaz’ grandson – see Ruth 4:18-22).

The route from Ramah (where Samuel was staying) to Bethlehem passed through Gibeah (Saul’s royal court), so Samuel was afraid to make the journey. Saul knew that God had already chosen someone to be the new king and so would be on the look out for Samuel on his way to anoint someone! God told Samuel to take a heifer and say that he was on his way to sacrifice to the Lord.

When he arrived in Bethlehem, he invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice.

When Samuel saw Jesse’s eldest son, Eliab, he thought that he must be the one that God would anoint as king because he was tall and strong. But God told Samuel not to look at his appearance or height. He said, “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Jesse called his other sons. Seven of Jesse’s sons passed before Samuel, but each time God told him that this was not the one He’d chosen to be the future king. Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons. Jesse replied that there was the youngest, who was tending the sheep. So David was sent for. The Lord said to Samuel “Arise and anoint him for he is the one!”

Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

Samuel returned to Ramah.

The Spirit of the Lord had left Saul and God let him be tormented by an evil Spirit as a punishment for his disobedience. Saul’s attendants suggested that they look for someone who could play the harp to him to sooth him in his suffering. Saul agreed. The attendants heard about David and his ability as a musician, so he was sent for. Saul liked what he played. Whenever the evil spirit tormented him, David would play and Saul would be comforted.

Learning Points (Discoverers 1)

- God chose a new king for Israel.
- God didn't look at the outside, God looked at the heart.

Learning Points (Discoverers 2&3)

- God chose a new king for Israel.
- God didn't look at the outside, He looked at the heart.
- God provided a way for David to work in the royal court.

Discoverers 1

Bible Bit.

Use the cardboard figures in DWK42:1 to illustrate the choice God made.

Activity.

Discoverers 2

Bible Bit.

Collect some different sweet boxes, some obviously nicer than others. Fill them all, except for a small plain looking one, with small pebbles or pasta. Fill the small plain one with real sweets. Ask the children to choose which box they would prefer then open all the boxes. Use this illustration to explain that although we may be attracted by how someone looks, what matters to God is what's on the inside – what's in our hearts.

Activity.

Using DWK 42:2, make the David pictures.

Discoverers 3

Bible Bit.

Bring in a selection of wrapped foodstuffs from the supermarket that you think the children are likely to enjoy and also some simply or plainly wrapped equivalents. Ask how many of the children enjoy each of the foods best. Talk about how the wrapping influences our decisions on what foods we eat. In the same way we tend to look at the outward appearance first, of the people we choose to have as friends. Explain that God is not influenced at all by the way we look, because he looks at the heart. Use this illustration to explain the story and how David would not have been Samuel's first choice.

Activity.

Make the decorated sweet boxes. DWK 42:3.

Talk time.

- In what ways do we judge people by how they look?

Prayer.