

Samuel anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

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.”

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” **9** Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel

Storyteller: Put a drop or two of scented oil on your fingers and rub them together. In the ancient world, sweet-smelling oil was used to show that someone was very special. When a man became king, a priest or prophet would pour oil on the man’s head to show that he would be king. This is called “anointing”.

Put down the oil, and pick up Samuel. After the People of God settled in the Promised Land, God told the prophet Samuel to anoint a man named Saul as king. But Saul disobeyed God and God rejected him as king.

Hold the Samuel figure out for the children to see.

God told Samuel, “Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” Samuel did as God said.

Since this story doesn’t use the desert bag, the figurines don’t have any sand to stand in, and will fall over if you try to stand them up. Instead, put the basket containing Jesse and his sons right in front of you, and stand Samuel up leaning against it.

When he arrived at Bethlehem, Jesse and his sons came to meet him. *Take the Jesse out of the basket and stand him up leaning against the basket.* Jesse had eight sons.

Stand the biggest son up next to Jesse. When Samuel saw the first son, Eliab, he thought “This must be the one God has chosen.” But God said, “He is not the one. You are looking at his outward appearance, but I look at the heart.”

Stand the second son up next to the first. Then Jesse called Abinadab. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one

Story Materials

Bottle of Essential Oil

Clay dolls:

- Samuel
- Jesse
- Eliab
- Abinadab
- Shammah
- Fourth son
- Fifth son
- Sixth son
- Seventh son
- David

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

either.”

said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” **10** Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” **11** So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

13 So Samuel took the 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. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Stand the third son up next to the second. Jesse then called Shammah, but Samuel said, “Nor has God chosen this one.”

Stand the fourth son up next to the second. Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel.

Stand the fifth son up next to the fourth, the sixth next to the fifth, and the seventh next to the sixth. Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.”

Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Pick up the smallest son, David, and hold him out to the children. So Jesse sent for David and had him brought in. Then God said, “Anoint him; this is the one.”

So Samuel took the 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.