

David is Chosen to be King

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Scene Summary

David is chosen to be king presents the satisfying story of a young man who loves God and is chosen by Him for an important job. Scenes include: Samuel reproving King Saul for disobeying God...Samuel making trip to Bethlehem to anoint a new king...preparations for the sacrifice at Bethlehem...Samuel meeting Jesse's eight sons...Samuel anointing David...David returning to his sheep.

Scripture

(1 Sam 15:10-35 NIV) Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: {11} "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night. {12} Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal." {13} When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions." {14} But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" {15} Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." {16} "Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. {17} Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. {18} And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' {19} Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?" {20} "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. {21} The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal." {22} But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. {23} For rebellion is

like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." {24} Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the Lord's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. {25} Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD." {26} But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!" {27} As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. {28} Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors--to one better than you. {29} He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind." {30} Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God." {31} So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD. {32} Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites." Agag came to him confidently, thinking, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." {33} But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women." And Samuel put Agag to death before the LORD at Gilgal. {34} Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. {35} Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.

(1 Sam 16:1-13 NIV) 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." {2} But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and 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." {4} 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?" {5} 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. {6} When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the LORD." {7} 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 man looks at. Man looks 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 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, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." {12} So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he 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 upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

(1 Chr 2:13-15 NIV) Jesse was the father of Eliab his firstborn; the second son was Abinadab, the third Shimea, {14} the fourth Nethanel, the fifth Raddai, {15} the sixth Ozem and the seventh David.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Samuel** – This player will act and command authority of everyone.
- **Jesse** – David’s father should be played as an older person.
- **Jesse’s Sons** – Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Nethanel, Raddai, Ozem, David.
- **Person 1, 2** – These towns’ people are somewhat afraid of Samuel.
- **God** – Strong offstage voice.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- A shepherd’s staff and sling for David.

Script – David is Chosen to be King

Narrator: King Saul began to think that he was so important that he didn't have to obey God. Samuel went to remind Saul that he had done wrong. Finally God told Samuel that he did not want Saul to be king any more. Samuel was very sad. He wished that king Saul would obey God. One day God spoke to Samuel.

God: Samuel, go to Bethlehem and visit Jesse. I have chosen one of his sons to be the next king.

Samuel: If Saul hears about this, he will kill me.

God: Take a calf and go there to worship me. Then I will tell you what to do.

Narrator: Samuel obeyed God and got ready to go. [pause] When the leaders of the little town of Bethlehem saw Samuel they were very frightened.

Person 1: Why is the prophet coming here?

Person 2: What have we done wrong?

Person 1: [to Samuel] Do you come in peace?

Samuel: Yes. I come to worship God. Call the people together to come and worship with me.

Person 2: [smiling] We will call the people.

Narrator: The men hurried off to spread the news that the prophet Samuel had come to worship God.

Samuel: [specifically to Jesse] Be sure to call your sons.

Narrator: The men began to gather to worship God.

Samuel: [to himself] I need to find Jesse. [looking around] There he is. The men with him must be his sons.

Jesse: This is my oldest son, Eliab.

Samuel: [to himself, looking at Eliab] This is a tall, handsome young man. Surely this must be the one that God will appoint as king. [Samuel smiled at Eliab.]

God: [to Samuel] You can only see how handsome he is. You cannot see his thoughts or heart. This is not the one that I have chosen.

Narrator: Samuel smiled as Jesse introduced his next son.

Jesse: This is Abinadab.

God: [to Samuel] No, not this one.

Narrator: Samuel spoke kindly to the next son, Shammah.

God: [to Samuel] No, not this one either.

Narrator: Then Samuel met four younger sons.

Samuel: [to Jesse] These are all fine sons.

God: [to Samuel] I have not chosen anyone of these.

Narrator: Samuel looked around. He was puzzled.

Samuel: [to Jesse] Are these all of your sons?

Jesse: My youngest son is tending the sheep.

Samuel: Please send for him. We will wait for him.

Narrator: So Jesse sent for his young son David. [pause] Samuel turned as David arrived.

Samuel: [to himself] He is very handsome.

God: [to Samuel] This is the one.

Narrator: Samuel smiled. He took out his horn of oil and poured it on David's head. [pause] The people must have wondered why Samuel anointed David, but it wasn't time to tell them. David would not become king until Saul died. David felt very close to God. Often he thought about the meeting with Samuel. He wondered what God wanted him to do when he became a man. [pause] For now, he had a job to do: tending his father's sheep.

The End

Supplemental information

When the Israelites begged for a king, God chose a very handsome man named Saul. He was tall and looked like a king. Saul was courageous. At first he served God, but later he became disobedient and decided to do things his own way. Finally, God decided to choose another king for His people.

God chose a young man named David to be the next king. David was young, perhaps about 17 years old. He lived with his parents and his seven brothers in a little town called Bethlehem. He was the youngest son of Jesse and the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz. Many years later, Mary, the mother of Jesus, could say that David was one of her ancestors.

David tended his father's sheep. He was strong and in good physical shape. He was courageous and protected his father's sheep from bears, lions and wolves. While he was alone with the sheep, he had much time to think about God. When he looked at the blue sky and clouds, he remembered that God had made them. When he found good grassland and cool water for the sheep, he remembered that God had provided this for them. He knew God had great power and he knew that God was Good. He learned to love and trust him. Often he made up songs about God and sang them as his sheep ate or rested.

David's older brother Eliab was taller and more handsome than he was. When Samuel saw Eliab, he felt sure that God had chosen him to be the next king. Samuel met all of David's brothers and found that they were all fine men. No one thought that David was very important at all. His father Jesse did not think he was important enough to come to the special sacrifice called by Samuel when he came to Bethlehem. But God looked into David's heart. God knew that David loved and trusted him. He knew that David would be a good king.

Even though Samuel anointed David to be the next king, David was not ready yet to become the next king of Israel. He was young and had much to learn, so he went back to tending his father's sheep. It was about 13 years later when David became the second king over Israel.

Samuel, the man that anointed David to be king, was now an old man. Samuel's mother, Hanna, had prayed to God, asking for a son. Hanna promised to give the son back to God. When Samuel was a young boy, he went to live in God's house and serve Him. All of his life Samuel had loved and served God, he always tried to obey Him. God often spoke to Samuel and gave him messages for the king and the people. Years before, God had told Samuel to let the people have a king. God told Samuel to anoint Saul. To anoint a man Samuel would pour oil from an ox horn on the person's head. This was a symbol that God had chosen this person for a special purpose.

When David was anointed, he or his family may not have realized the significance of this event. The scriptures give no indication that David's brothers knew that he was going to be king.

Improvisation

Choose one child to be Samuel, one to be Jesse, and one to be David. Seven others (if you have a large class or if you plan this activity as a department group) may be the brothers. Girls may take part too. Give the main characters (if you like) headpieces. These may be a plain or striped headscarves, held on with a loop of cord or ribbon.

Explain to the children that they will act out the story as they remember it. If a child forgets his part, quietly and quickly queue him. But for the most part, children will act spontaneously. Seeing and hearing the story make a deep impressions on young minds. But role-playing helps children remember the action longer. It also helps children to see more clearly the reasons people acted as they did. It helps children to better understand the story.

Extra time

Let the children draw their impression of the story.

Help your students know that it is important for the leaders of our nation to follow God's direction. Lead your students in a prayer for our president, governor, congress, your mayor and other officials.