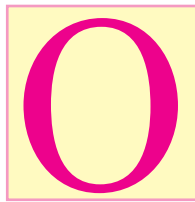


LESSON 1

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 637-642.

Just a Shepherd Boy?

Are you important to God? What about your parents, or your friend next door? God thinks all people are important. Even a young shepherd boy named David.



One fine morning the Lord spoke to His prophet Samuel. “Go to Bethlehem,” He said. “Find a man named Jesse who lives there. I have chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be the next king. Fill your container with olive oil, and go.”



Memory Verse

“People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 SAMUEL 16:7, ICB.

The Message

God’s people think everyone is valuable and important.

Samuel filled a container with olive oil just as the Lord had told him to. When Samuel reached Bethlehem and found out which one of Jesse’s sons was chosen to be the next king, he would pour some of the oil on him.

When he arrived in Bethlehem, Samuel soon found Jesse. Then he got ready to make a sacrifice to the Lord. He invited the town leaders to come to the sacrifice, and he invited Jesse and his sons too.

Jesse called seven of his sons to go with him. Samuel looked at the boys and smiled. The oldest of Jesse's sons, Eliab, was tall and handsome. *This is surely the man the Lord has chosen to be the next king*, Samuel thought to himself.

But the Lord spoke to Samuel. "Don't look at how tall and handsome that man is," He said. "I have not chosen him to be the king." Then the Lord told Samuel something very important. "God does not see the same way people do. People see only the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at people's hearts."

Jesse introduced another of his sons to Samuel. Samuel looked at him. "The Lord has not chosen this man either," he said.

Jesse introduced a third son to Samuel. Samuel looked at him and shook his head. Each one of Jesse's seven sons was presented to Samuel. Samuel was puzzled. "The Lord has not chosen any of these men," he said, then he turned to Jesse. "Are these all your sons?" he asked.

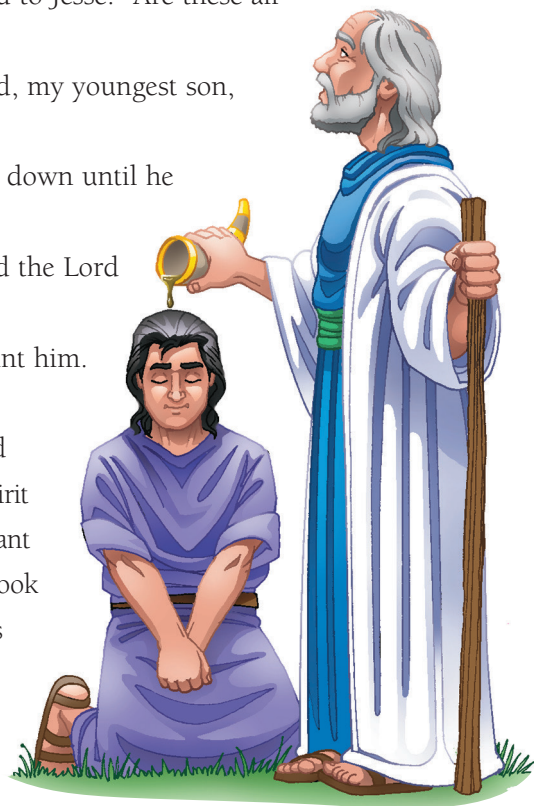
"Well," Jesse said, "I do have one more. David, my youngest son, is in the field caring for the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel said. "We will not sit down until he gets here."

David soon arrived. David loved the Lord and the Lord loved him.

"That's the one," the Lord told Samuel. "Anoint him. He is the one who will be king."

So Samuel took out his container of olive oil and poured some oil on David's head. And the Lord's Spirit blessed David and gave him power to do the important work that God had planned for him. God does not look at just the strongest, tallest, or the oldest; everyone is important to God. Even a shepherd boy.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

People Palms down, rotate hands.

look Put hand above eyes and “look” from side to side.

at the outside of a person, . . . Palms down, move hands downward from chest.

but the Lord Point upward.

looks Put hand above eyes and “look” from side to side.

at the heart. Point to your heart.

1 Samuel 16:7 . . . Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Read portions of 1 Samuel 16:1-13 together. Ask: Why did Samuel think one of David’s brothers would be the one God chose? Why did God choose David?

Help your child give the sheep made in Sabbath School to someone while telling them about David. (Or help them draw an outline of a sheep, and glue cotton balls on it.)



MONDAY

With your child, look for little things around your house that are important.

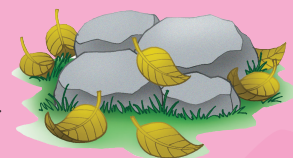
Ask Jesus to help your child know they are important to Him.

TUESDAY

With your child, look for things in

nature (small rocks, leaves, feathers, seeds).

Talk about how they are important.



Show your child a picture of a very important person in your country and talk about who they are. Ask: Do you think this person is more important to God than you? than Grandma? Why?

WEDNESDAY

Help your child count the other children in your family (or their friends). Ask: How many brothers did David have? Was he the oldest, middle, or youngest? What are you in your family? What is good about being the oldest? middle? youngest? What is not so good? Practice your memory verse.

THURSDAY

Let your child help you prepare a family member’s favorite food. Ask your child to serve the food. Tell them they are important to you and to God.

Help your child “read” the lesson pictures. Ask: What would a shepherd do for their sheep? Was David a good shepherd? How do you know?

FRIDAY

For worship, help your child act out the story with family members.

Let your child smell and feel some olive oil. Talk about why Samuel anointed David with oil.

Sing favorite songs about Jesus before praying.