

General Church Education



David Is Anointed

1 Samuel 16

Lesson 10

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is Our King

For ages 10-11

David Is Anointed

1 Samuel 16

Teacher Background

After Saul disobeyed the Lord, the Lord told Samuel to look for a new king of Israel. He sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse where he would offer a sacrifice. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the feast. Jesse called seven of his sons to walk before Samuel, but Samuel said none of them were to be the next king. Then Jesse called David, his youngest son, and David was chosen. So Samuel anointed him king. Although only a boy, David was called to court to play the harp and soothe Saul's troubled spirit. Saul quickly came to love David and asked David's father if he could come and stay at court.

David, Israel's second king, represents the Lord as Divine Truth, unlike Saul, who represents truth that is applied according to outward appearances. The anointing of David represents a new state of spiritual understanding of truth that comes into power in our thinking. It is an understanding that deals with thought and motive and is not misled by appearances. When this truth rules in our lives we can recognize our weaknesses and our need of the Lord's guidance.

Focus Points

- Samuel was sent to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king of Israel.
- After rejecting the older sons Samuel called David in from the field and anointed him.
- The spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and as he was tormented David was brought to play the harp and soothe his spirit.

Readings from the Writings

"Divine Truth itself is at the root of the Lord's being called 'the King'. The reason why kings were anointed and consequently called the anointed was that 'the oil' with which they were anointed meant good. Also the truth, meant by 'king', was derived from good and was accordingly truth grounded in good, so that the kingly office with them represented the Lord as regards Divine Truth which is derived from Divine Good, and so represented the Divine marriage of good within truth, whereas the priestly function represented the Divine marriage of truth within good." *Arcana Coelestia* 3009

"David ... represents the Lord's kingship or Divine Truth." *Arcana Coelestia* 4594

"Because the harp used to correspond to confession of the Lord, and evil spirits do not endure that [confession], therefore David by means of a harp drove an evil spirit away from Saul. *Apocalypse Revealed* 276

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

“For the Lord does not see as man sees;
For man looks at the outward appearance,
But the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Projects and Activities (see back of lesson for answers)

David Is Anointed Fill in the Blanks

Complete sentences by choosing an answer from the box.

David's Special Gifts and Abilities

We can sometimes feel jealous of another person's gifts or abilities. Identify David's special gifts that would help him to be a good king. Then think about the people you know and what special qualities the Lord has given them.

Additional Project and Activity Choices

Looking at the Heart

It is not unusual to judge strangers by what they are wearing, their size or their looks. Samuel did this when he saw the eldest of Jesse's sons. Eliab looked like a king, so Samuel thought that he would be the Lord's chosen. Encourage students to notice when they are judging someone by their appearance. For example, a tall person must be a good basketball player, or beautiful people are nice. Encourage them to resist such thoughts and try to appreciate the person's qualities more than the way they look.

Discussion: The Power of Music (video)

Encourage students to notice the persuasive power of music. Watch a video at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-power-of-music/> Discuss how different types of music make them feel as they watch the same scene. How might the spirits with us influence the ways we are thinking, as different kinds of music play on our feelings?

The Anointing of David Crossword

Complete a crossword about Samuel anointing David king at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-the-anointing-of-david-crossword-1samuel16.pdf>

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Vocabulary

heifer—a young cow

anoint—to pour oil on a person as a sign of the Lord’s power

armorbearer—a person who carries a warrior’s spear and shield

The Lord Visits Samuel Again

Saul disobeyed the Lord, and Samuel never went to see him again. Samuel was very sad. After a while, the Lord came to him and told him to stop being sad. He had an important mission for him. He was sending Samuel to find the next king of Israel! The Lord said,

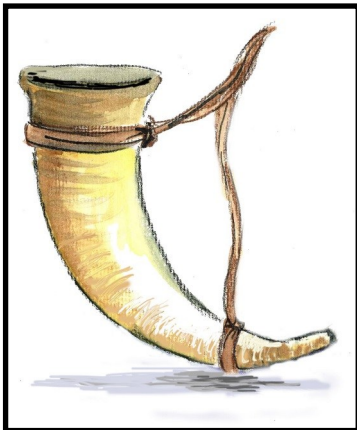
“Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided myself a king among his sons.” (1 Samuel 16:1)

Samuel Goes to Bethlehem

The Lord told him exactly what to do. He was to go the house of Jesse in the town of Bethlehem. He would take a heifer with him and announce that he was coming to sacrifice to the Lord. You may recognize the name Bethlehem from the Christmas story. The Lord was born there. The shepherds were watching their sheep in the fields around Bethlehem when the angel appeared to them. Bethlehem was called “the city of David.”

Samuel was to invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. Then the Lord would show Samuel which son He had chosen.

“I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.” (1 Samuel 16:3)



Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice and feast. First came the oldest son, a tall and handsome young man. Surely this must be the chosen one! But the Lord told Samuel not to be impressed by his appearance.

“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

The Lord knows that the way a person is on the outside does not show what he or she is like on the inside. Have you ever bitten

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into an apple that looks delicious and discovered it is rotten? You cannot know for sure if an apple is good just by the way it looks. In the same way, you can't know if a person is good on the inside by looking at them. But the Lord sees into a person's mind and heart. He knows what a person is thinking and feeling. That is why He could tell which son would be the best to rule Israel.

David Is Chosen and Anointed

Jesse called seven of his sons to walk in front of Samuel. After each one passed by, Samuel said to Jesse,

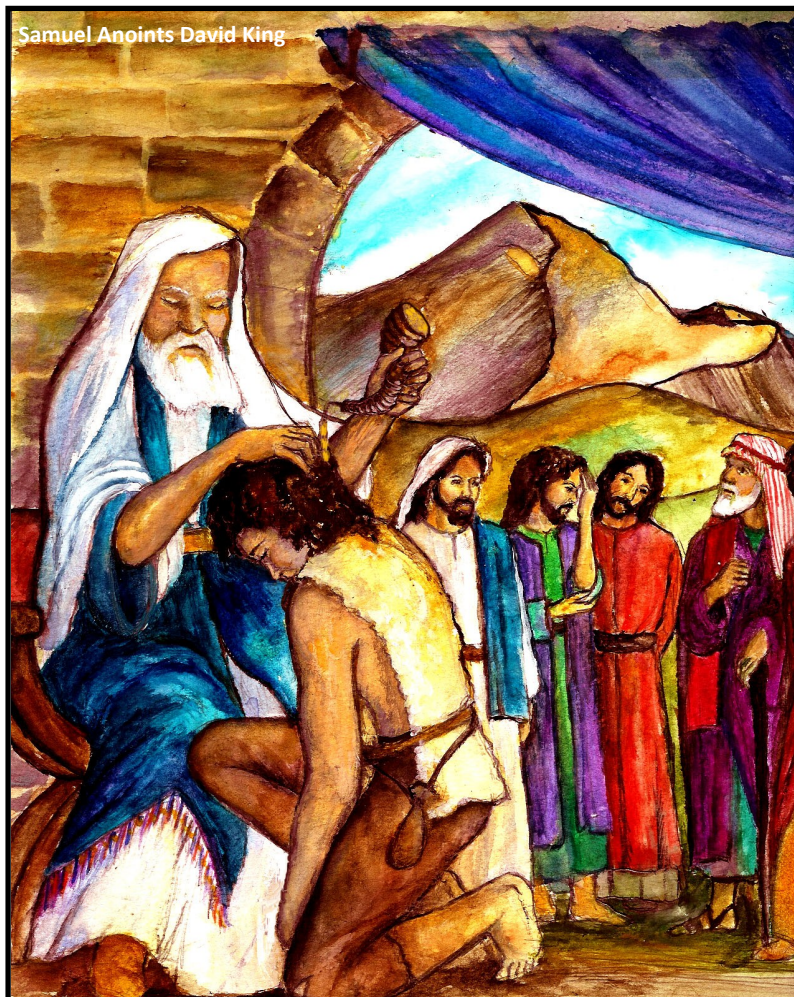
“The Lord has not chosen these.” (1 Samuel 16:10)

How could this be? Samuel asked if he had seen all the sons of Jesse, and he replied,

“There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” (1 Samuel 16:11)

Everybody waited while Jesse sent for David to come in from the fields. Jesse's youngest son was bright-eyed and good-looking. As he walked into the feast the Lord said,

“Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!” (1 Samuel 16:12)



Jesse and his sons must have been astounded! The youngest son had been chosen to be the next king of Israel.

So Samuel anointed David with oil from his horn.

The oil that Samuel poured on David's head was a sign that he would be king. The oil was a symbol of the love that the king should have for his people. Only someone who loves and follows the Lord can be a truly good king.

David Goes to Saul's Court

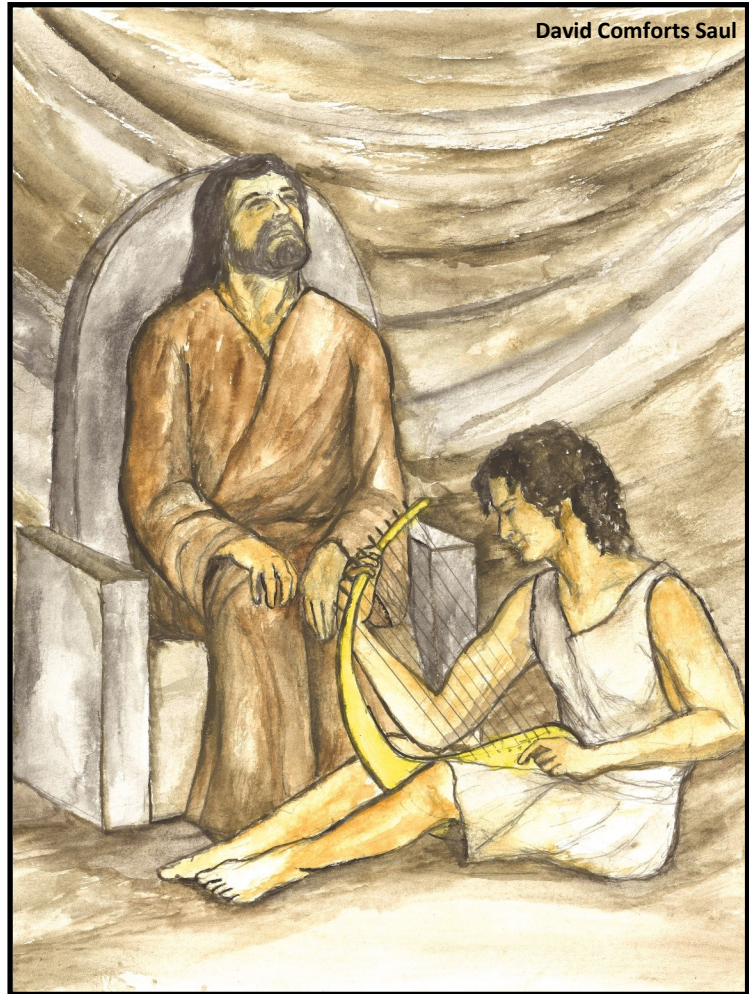
Even though David had been anointed, he was still a boy and would not be king for many years. The Lord needed to prepare him to be a king. David spent much of this preparation time at King Saul's court, where

he would have the chance to learn a great deal about the duties he would have when he became king.

How did this simple shepherd come to live at the king's court? The Word tells us that after David was anointed that "the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul" (1 Samuel 16:14). Remember, Saul did not know that Samuel had anointed another king. Saul started to feel sad and got upset easily. He was troubled by evil spirits.

Saul Comes to Love David

Saul's servants thought that perhaps hearing lovely music on the harp would calm his troubled spirit. One of the servants knew someone who was skillful at playing the harp. He was a strong and courageous young man. So Saul sent messengers to Jesse asking him to send his son David to his house. And so, David came to live at the royal court.



Whenever Saul was troubled, David played soothing music for him on the harp. Then Saul would feel better and his sad feelings would go away.

Saul quickly came to love David, whose beautiful music could calm his troubled spirit. The songs he sang were often Psalms. Many of them are in the book of the Word called Psalms. Saul also made David his armorbearer. He sent a message to David's father.

"Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." (1 Samuel 16:22)

A psalm is a song of praise or thanks. David wrote more than a hundred songs like this. He was "the sweet psalmist of Israel." The words for these psalms really came from the Lord to be included in the Word as Divine Revelation. David explained,

"The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue." (Psalm 23:2)

The Lord's words can help you too when you have angry, sad, or selfish feelings. You will learn to hear the Lord's words more and more if you read His Word and speak to Him in prayer.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“For the Lord does not see as man sees;
For man looks at the outward appearance,
But the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Projects and Activities (answers are at the back of this lesson)

Choose one or two.

David Is Anointed Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences by choosing an answer from the box.

David's Special Gifts and Abilities

We might sometimes feel jealous of another person's gifts or abilities. Identify the special gifts that David had which would help him be a good king. Then think about the people you know and what special qualities the Lord has given them.

David Is Anointed King Fill in the Blanks

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Use the phrases box to fill in the blanks for questions 1-8. Answer questions 9 and 10 on your own.

the spirit of the Lord departed from him
among the sons of Jesse
bread and wine
refreshed and well

on outward appearance
to soothe him with music
made him his armor-bearer
keeping the sheep

1. The Lord told Samuel the next king would be chosen from _____.
2. The Lord does not judge _____ but looks at the heart.
3. David was not present before Samuel because he was _____.
4. Saul was troubled because _____.
5. David was called to the court of Saul _____.
6. Jesse sent his son to Saul with a donkey laden with _____.
7. Because Saul loved David, he _____ as well as his musician.
8. Saul became _____ when David played.

Make up your own answers for the following questions:

9. How did Samuel know that David was the chosen one?
10. What is in our heart more important than what we look like? Explain why.

King David's Special Gifts and Abilities

1 Samuel 16

How do you think David's older brothers felt about him being anointed king instead of themselves? We can sometimes feel jealous of another person's gifts or abilities. What special things about David would help him to be a good king one day? Look at 1 Samuel 16:18 if you would like help answering this question.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

The truth is that the Lord gives every person special abilities that make them better at some jobs than others. Imagine if everyone in the world was good at the same job! No other jobs would get done! Think of the people in your family. What special gifts and abilities has the Lord given to each person? Write at least one thing for each person. Include yourself in the chart if you wish.

Person's Name	Relationship to you (mother, cousin, etc.)	Special abilities

Answers

Lesson 10

David Is Anointed Fill in the Blanks

1. among the sons of Jesse, 2. an outward appearance, 3. keeping the sheep, 4. the spirit of the Lord departed from him, 5. to soothe him with music, 6. bread and wine, 7. made him his own armor-bearer, 8. refreshed and well.