

Saul and David

1 Samuel 16

Teacher Preparation

- Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*
<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-09-the-anointing-of-david.pdf>

Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

Read and Discuss

1. Ask the kids if they know what kind of king Saul has been. Remind them of how he disobeyed Samuel by offering a sacrifice when he shouldn't, and he made other mistakes as well. He started off as a good king, but before too long he began to just trust his own judgement instead of turning to the Lord for help.
2. Read *1 Samuel 16*.
3. Today we heard about how the Lord told Samuel to anoint David as the next king. And even though Saul anointed David, David didn't become the king for many years, because he did need to wait until Saul died before he could be crowned as king.
4. Samuel had never met David or his family before, so how did he know who was the correct son of Jesse to be anointed? (the Lord told him) What sort of son was Samuel *expecting* to be chosen? (somebody who was older, or stronger)
5. Saul was a tall, handsome king, and Samuel was still expecting the man that the Lord was going to choose to really look like a king on the outside. But in this story we have an important quote that is very useful to remember: "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (*1 SAM 16:7*) Ask each student what they think this quote means.
6. A very important lesson that we can get from this is to remember that what things look like on the outside are not nearly as important as what's on the inside. Have you ever heard the expression "Don't judge a book by its cover"? It's all the same thing, whether you're talking about books or people (but obviously people are far more important). I'm sure you've had the experience of meeting someone and thinking that they look kind of funny or different, and then finding out that they are really nice people. Or maybe you meet someone who is very handsome or pretty, and then you find out that they are not very kind. And which do you think is more important, how someone is on the outside or the inside? Of course it's the inside. When it's time for us to die and go to the other world, do you think that only the handsome and pretty people go to Heaven?! The Lord will look at our hearts to see if we love to be kind and helpful, or if we would rather be selfish and mean, and then we know whether Heaven or Hell is our right place.

Read and Discuss (continued)

7. You could also discuss sins that are committed in the heart even though they don't "show" on the outside (hate, jealousy, coveting, etc.). Are they any less evil than doing something obvious?
8. Another important lesson is that we shouldn't judge ideas by whether or not they look good to us. Are we supposed to help everybody, or are we supposed to just help people to do good things?
9. For the older kids: We also know that the bigger difference between the two kings, Saul and David, is connected to this same idea. Saul was essentially a good man, but he judged things by common sense or appearances. Common sense is good, but it isn't always the best way to make a decision. Common sense would seem to say that if Samuel wasn't there yet, and it was time to go to battle, that it would be okay for him to do the sacrifice himself. But it wasn't okay, because he was disobeying the Lord's instruction. David represents the kind of wisdom that is better than common sense, a deeper, more full kind of wisdom. He represents a love to the Lord that looks to the Him instead of just his own common sense, and this was why he was the better king.

Activities and Project

- Show the kids the optical illusions. Can we believe these things even though our eyes seem to be telling us a message that is different from what our brain knows is true? This is just a very basic example of just because we think something is true doesn't make it true—we can't judge by appearances.
- Have the younger kids do the "How David Became King" page, and the older kids can do the coded message. When they are done these they can colour a picture, if there is time.

Supplies

- Copy of the Word—plus several extra copies for the kids' use.
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of these pictures illustrating the story from:
<https://newlifennarrabri.wordpress.com/2017/03/21/reflection-on-1-samuel-161-13-2/>
- Optical illusions – print out some, or show the kids digitally print out some, or show the kids digitally print out some, or show the kids digitally <https://www.optics4kids.org/illusions>
- Worksheets/pages to colour – print out enough for the students
<http://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/how-david-became.php> (for younger kids)
<http://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/the-shepherd-boy.php> (for older kids)
<http://www.supercoloring.com/pages/samuel-anoints-david-as-king>
- Pencils, crayons and markers