

**LESSON AIM:** To illustrate through the life of David, that God chooses and anoints individuals for special service by what He sees on the inside, not by what man sees on the outside.

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** I Samuel 16 – 17

**REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1) What was the name of woman who protected and hid the spies?
- 2) What did she hang out of her window?
- 3) What happened to Rahab and her family?
- 4) Review last week’s verse; have the students explain it in their own words.

**INTRODUCTION:**

- The emphasis in this lesson is on what the Bible calls the 'inner man'.
- Ask the students, what do you think makes someone popular? (*Various answers*)
- Do you think all those things you said are the most important things about a person?
- What do you think that God cares about?

**LESSON:**

The children of Israel were a very special people to God. It was God's desire that they would worship Him with all their heart, mind and strength. Their devotion and obedience to God would bring God's blessing as He ruled over them. But the people were not content to have God rule over them, they wanted a human king--like the other nations had. God allowed them to have what they wanted. The first King, whose name was Saul, looked like He would be an excellent king. He was tall, handsome, and very popular with the people. But he wasn't always obedient to God and ultimately because of his disobedience, King Saul lost his crown and his life. But while Saul was still king, God chose a man after His own heart—one who would one day become the greatest king of Israel. God didn't choose him because he was handsome or had big muscles; God looked at his *heart*, the “inner man”.

Our story begins in **I Samuel 16**. God has sent the prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. (Ask students, what do you think a prophet is? *Someone who hears from God, then speaks to the people on behalf of God.*) There Samuel will anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the future king of Israel. In Israel, God would anoint people who would hold the office of prophet, priest or king. When someone was anointed, a special holy oil would be poured over their head. For someone to be anointed meant that God was separating and equipping them for special service. (*Read verses 6 through 13*)

Samuel was very impressed with Jesse's oldest son Eliab. As soon as Samuel saw Eliab he thought that he was the one he should anoint. But God doesn't just look at the outward appearance. God looks at our hearts. Each one of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel but none of them was God's choice. Samuel asks, “are these all the sons you have?” Jesse explains that his youngest son is out in the fields taking care of the family's sheep. Samuel tells Jesse to send for him right away! When he brought before Samuel, God immediately speaks to Samuel's heart and says: *Stand up and anoint him, he's the one!*

Who was this young man that Samuel anointed to be the future king of Israel? His name was David. *What was it that God saw in David?* The Word of God tells us that David was a man after God's own heart. As a shepherd, David spent many hours by himself far away from home. As sheep would graze, David, while keeping a watchful eye over the flocks, would talk to the Lord. Sometimes he would play his harp and sing to the Lord. David knew God better than most people know their closest earthly friend. He loved the Lord and trusted Him completely. When a lion or a bear would try to kill one of the sheep, David, bold in the Lord, would protect the sheep even if it meant killing the lion or the bear. In **I Samuel 17:34-36** we read that David did, in fact, kill a bear and even snatched a lamb out of a lion's mouth before killing the lion. David knew what it was to be a shepherd and the Lord was His Shepherd as we read Psalm 23 his shepherds psalm.

*Think of one thing God wants you to do. Does He want you to be kind to someone? Does He want you to stand up for someone? Does He want you to obey your parents without complaining? It doesn't matter how young you are, God will help you to do it, ask Him. God loved David because of how much David loved God!*

**Read I Samuel 17:1-10.** Israel had enemies that wanted to destroy them. Every day for 40 days, Goliath, a giant from the enemy side, shouted ugly things at the Israelites. But Saul, the King and his soldiers were frightened; no one wanted to fight Goliath! One day Jesse sent David with some food to check on his brothers who were soldiers. When David heard Goliath's shouting and saw how frightened the Israelites were, he was angry that no one was standing up to this guy who was insulting their God! He told King Saul, "I would like to fight Goliath". King Saul laughed a bit and said, "But you're only a boy! You can't fight this giant!" David replied, "Yes I can! Once I killed a Lion who was attacking my sheep. Another time I killed a bear with my bare hands! God will help me kill this bad giant just like he helped me kill the lion and the bear." So David took his shepherds stick and his sling, and went down to the stream. There he picked up 5 smooth stones, and came into the valley to fight Goliath.

**Read vs 42-45.** David was telling Goliath his enemy, "You trust in your sword and your armor, but I trust in the Lord God!"

**Read vs 49-51.** No one would have imagined that this young boy could kill a fierce warrior giant! David saw him as one who was a mocker and enemy of the God of Israel. David knew that physical size does not matter to God. What matters to God is that you know Him and trust Him completely. God can do anything, and is way bigger than giants!

So let's review, what does God look at? (*Our heart; our inner-man*). Who did God send to anoint the next King? (*The prophet Samuel*). Who were the enemies of Israel in this story? (*The Philistines*) Why were the Israelite soldiers so afraid? And why wasn't David afraid? Discuss. Are there situations in your life that seem to big to do anything about? Nothing is too big for God!

## MEMORY VERSE:

*(Every year):*

***"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7b***