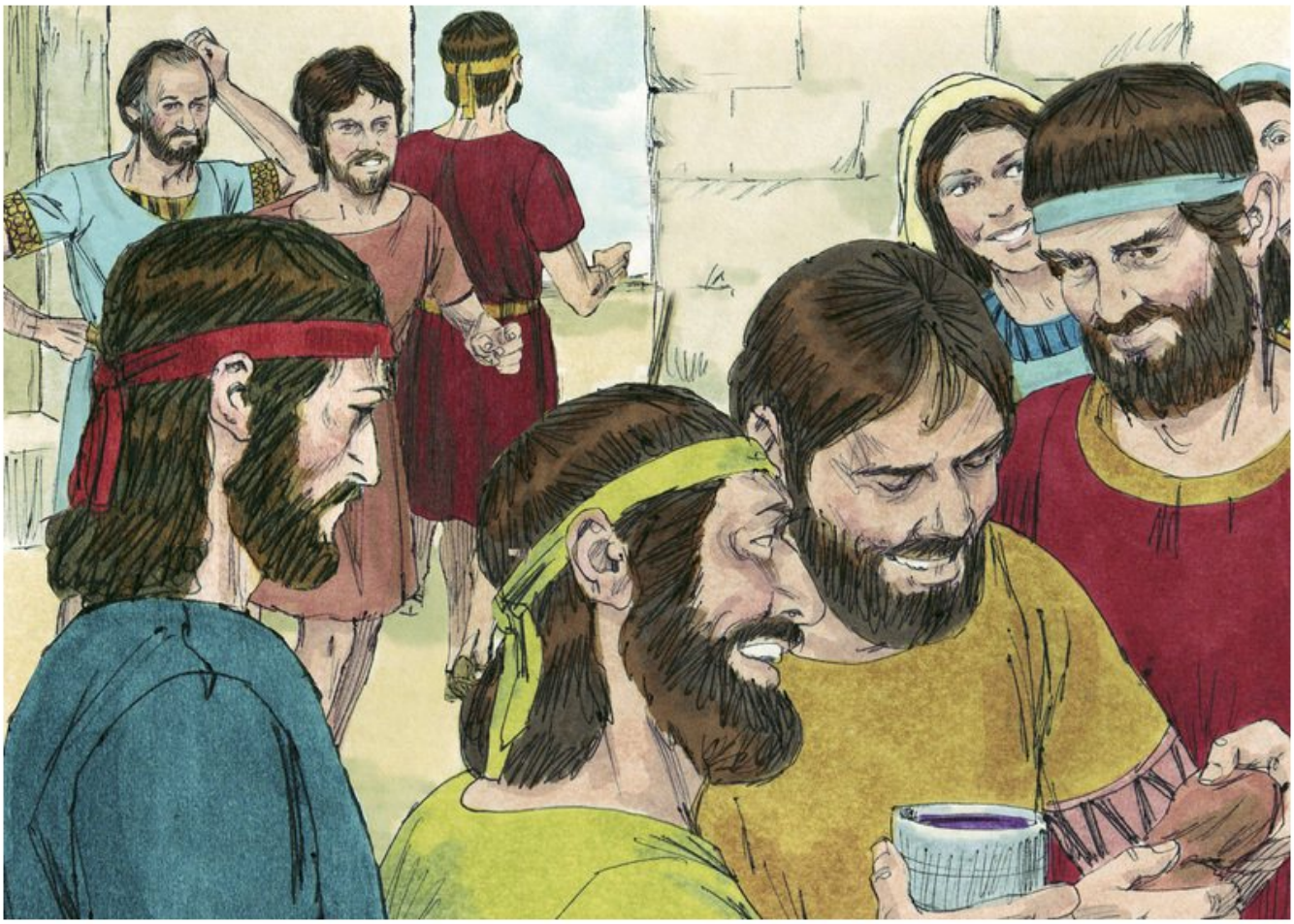
GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

God Chooses David

1 Samuel 16:1-13



YOUR BIBLE READING

God knows the heart beyond what people can see.

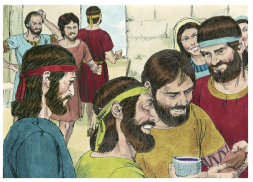
Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Samuel Goes to Jesse's Household

1 Samuel 16:1-13



Samuel was mourning for Saul when God told him to go to Bethlehem. God had rejected Saul as king and had chosen a king from among the sons of Jesse. Samuel was to fill his horn with oil and go. He was afraid that Saul would hear and kill him. The account begins with a difficult task for an older leader, not with Samuel confidently knowing which young man he would find.

God told Samuel to take a young cow and say that he had come to offer a sacrifice. He should invite Jesse, and God would show him what to do. Samuel was to anoint the one God named. Anointing meant marking someone with oil for a special role. Samuel had instructions for the visit, but the identity of the chosen son still had to be shown rather than guessed from an impressive appearance.

When Samuel reached Bethlehem, the elders came trembling to ask whether he had come peacefully. He said that he had and invited them to prepare for the sacrifice. He also prepared Jesse and his sons and invited them. The people gathered for worship. The visit's purpose included God's choice, but Samuel did not arrive with a public parade announcing that he had already found the next king before meeting Jesse's household.

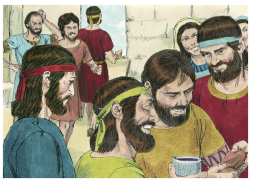
Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab and thought that this must be God's chosen one. Eliab's appearance and height made an impression. God corrected Samuel: he must not choose by the way a person looked. Human beings see outward appearance, but God sees the heart. Samuel's first judgment was not the answer. The visit required him to listen and continue rather than stop at the first person who looked suitable to him.

Remember: What is inside my heart matters to God.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Youngest Son Is Called In

1 Samuel 16:1-13



Jesse brought Abinadab before Samuel, but he was not chosen. Then Shammah came, and Samuel said that God had not chosen him either. Jesse presented seven sons in all, and none was the one God had named. The gathering had included several possible candidates without reaching the answer. Samuel did not decide that God's instruction must be wrong simply because the choice was not among the sons who had already passed before him.

Samuel asked whether all Jesse's sons were there. Jesse said that the youngest remained and was out keeping the sheep. Samuel told him to send for this son; they would not sit down until he came. David was carrying out a task away from the gathering. The account does not say that caring for sheep made him worthless or that his absence proved nobody loved him. It simply tells us where he was and that he was now summoned.

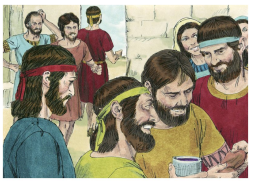
David came in. The passage describes him as healthy-looking and handsome, so the lesson is not that a chosen person must look unattractive. The important difference is who makes the choice and what that choice is based on. God told Samuel to rise and anoint him, identifying David as the one. The prophet's earlier impression of Eliab had been corrected, and the youngest son had now been brought from the flock into the gathering.

Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. God's Spirit came mightily upon him from that day forward. Samuel then returned to Ramah. This is where the passage ends. David does not receive a crown and begin ruling that afternoon within this scene. He is marked for the role God has chosen, while the later unfolding of that calling belongs to more of the story still to come.

Pause and think: What might you miss about a person if you decide who they are from their appearance alone?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Look Beyond a First Impression



Think about choosing partners for a task. A first impression might focus on height, loudness, clothing, or how quickly someone speaks. What else would help you know who can contribute? Listening, patience, reliability, and willingness to learn may become visible only over time. You cannot see another person's whole character at a glance, and people deserve respect before they have a chance to impress you.

David is keeping sheep when he is called. Ordinary work can involve care and responsibility even when it is not happening in front of a crowd. Name a quiet task someone does in your home or school. How does it help? You could thank the person or offer suitable help. A task does not become valuable only when it leads to public recognition.

Being chosen for a particular role does not make everyone else less worthy of care. In an ordinary class project, one person may read aloud while others create, organize, or check the work. Not receiving one role does not define your whole future. Discuss a time when you learned something through trying a different part or supporting someone who had a task you had hoped to receive.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

God corrects Samuel's first impression and chooses David, who is anointed before his brothers.

What might you miss about a person if you decide who they are from their appearance alone?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Where was David when Samuel first met Jesse's sons?

2. What did Samuel use to anoint David?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Samuel anointed David before his brothers.
- ☐ David was called in from caring for the sheep.
- ☐ God sent Samuel to Jesse's home.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw David arriving from the sheep while his family waits.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

What is inside my heart matters to God.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 1 Samuel 16:7

A thoughtful conversation

God's choice challenges judging by appearance; it does not mean that certain body types are bad. Anointing begins David's calling, while his reign comes later.

Activity answers

1. He was caring for the sheep.
2. Oil, as a sign of being chosen for God's purpose.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us care about kindness and honesty in our hearts. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 09_1Sa_16_07_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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