

David Chosen by God

Teacher Background and Preparation Sheet

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LESSON IDENTIFICATION

Week and Date	Week 26 June 28, 2026
Lesson Title	David Chosen by God
Primary Scripture	1 Samuel 16
Supporting Scripture	Psalms 78:70 to 72; Acts 13:22; Isaiah 11:1
Memory Verse	1 Samuel 16:7
Timeline Placement	This comes right after God rejects Saul as king for his disobedience in 1 Samuel 15. The throne now needs a new man. This quiet anointing in a small town sets in motion everything that follows, from David and Goliath to the royal line that leads all the way to Jesus, the Son of David.

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CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bethlehem was a small, easily overlooked town in the hill country of Judah, about six miles south of Jerusalem. It carried no political weight and no royal reputation. That God would reach into such an ordinary place to choose a king is the whole point. Centuries later God would reach into the same small town to bring the world its Savior (Micah 5:2).

Anointing meant pouring olive oil over a person's head to mark them as set apart for God's purpose. Kings and priests were anointed this way. The oil was a visible sign of an invisible truth: God Himself had chosen and would equip this person. The word we translate as Messiah, and the Greek word Christ, both mean the Anointed One. Every anointing in the Old Testament points forward to the one true Anointed King.

Samuel was the last of Israel's judges and a prophet who spoke God's words to the nation. He had already anointed Saul, and now he carried the grief of watching that first king fail. His fear in this chapter is real. If Saul heard that Samuel was anointing a rival, it could mean death. God meets that fear honestly and gives Samuel a true and worshipful reason for the trip, a sacrifice in Bethlehem. God does not ask Samuel to lie. He gives him a real act of worship to carry out along the way.

In that culture the firstborn son held the place of honor and expectation. Tending sheep, by contrast, was lowly work often handed to the youngest. So when Jesse lined up his sons, leaving the youngest out in the field with the flock, he was simply following the custom of his day. Nobody thought to call David in. Everybody expected the tall and impressive eldest to be the chosen one. God had other plans, as He so often does throughout Scripture.

God tells Samuel to stop grieving over Saul and to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem, to the house of a man named Jesse. One of Jesse's sons will be the new king. Samuel obeys, even while afraid, trusting the worship God gave him to carry out.

Jesse presents his sons one by one. Eliab comes first, tall and striking, and Samuel is sure this must be the one. But God stops him with the heart of the whole story: the LORD does not see the way people see. People look at the outside. God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

Seven sons pass before Samuel, and God chooses none of them. Samuel is puzzled and asks Jesse if these are all his sons. There is one more, Jesse says, the youngest, out keeping the sheep. Samuel says they will not sit down until he is brought in.

David arrives, healthy and bright eyed. God says plainly, Arise and anoint him, this is the one. Samuel pours the oil over David in front of his brothers, and from that day the Spirit of the LORD rushes powerfully upon David. The shepherd boy is now the anointed king, though years will pass before he wears a crown.

The chapter closes with a sobering contrast. The Spirit of the LORD has left Saul, and he is tormented. David, the new anointed one, is brought to play the harp and bring relief. The boy God chose begins quietly serving the very king he will one day replace.

What this reveals about God. God sees what no one else can see. He is not impressed by height, looks, strength, or status. He weighs the heart, and He chooses by His own grace and purpose, not by what dazzles us (1 Samuel 16:7).

What this reveals about people. We are easily fooled by appearances. Even Samuel, a faithful prophet, judged by the outside and almost anointed the wrong man. We need God to give us His eyes and a heart shaped by Him (Proverbs 16:2).

How this points to Jesus. David was the overlooked shepherd, anointed in little Bethlehem and filled with the Spirit. He points straight to Jesus, the true Shepherd King, born in that same Bethlehem, anointed by the Spirit at His baptism, and despised by the world He came to save (Isaiah 11:1; Acts 13:22).

This passage gently exposes a lie we are all tempted to believe: that we must make ourselves impressive enough, good looking enough, or strong enough to earn God's favor. David earned nothing. He was simply out with the sheep when grace came looking for him. God chooses by love, not by appearance, and He does the choosing first. The gospel is that we cannot scrub our hearts clean on our own. So God sent Jesus, the true Anointed King, to die for us and to give us a new heart we could never make ourselves. The God who looks at the heart is the very God who offers to make that heart new.

Simple Gospel Sentence: God does not choose us because we are good enough. He chooses us because He loves us, and He sent Jesus to make our hearts brand new.

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QUESTIONS CHILDREN WILL ASK

Why did God pass over the big, strong brother? Because God does not measure people the way we do. He looks at who a person really is on the inside, not at how tall or strong or good looking they are.

Was it wrong for Samuel to be afraid of Saul? No. Being afraid is not a sin. Samuel was honestly scared, and he obeyed God anyway. God helped him take the next step even with fear in his heart.

What does anoint mean? It means pouring oil on someone to show that God has chosen them for a special job. It was a sign that said, God picked this person.

Does God still choose people today? Yes. God still calls people to follow Him and serve Him. And He often picks the very ones the world forgets or thinks are too small.

Did David become king right away? No. David was anointed as a boy, but he did not take the throne for many years. God's promises are always sure, even when they take a long time to come true.

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TEACHER SUMMARY

Big Idea	God looks at the heart and chooses the people the world overlooks.
What God Did	God passed over the impressive brothers and chose David, the forgotten shepherd, then filled him with His Spirit.
Points to Jesus	David the anointed shepherd king points to Jesus, the true Anointed One and Good Shepherd, born in the same Bethlehem.
Error to Avoid	Do not turn this into try harder to have a good heart so God will pick you. God chooses by grace and gives the new heart Himself.
Hope to Emphasize	No child is too small, too overlooked, or too ordinary for God to see, love, and use.