

1 Samuel 16-David's

Anointing

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Based on NLT

Introduction

We know that the world is not perfect. But God cares about the people in the world. Long ago, he made a special people group just for himself. He gave them a king, but their first king disobeyed God. So God chose a new king to lead his people, one after his own heart. This is his story...

1 Samuel 16:1-5

One day, God said to...his spokesman, "...go to Bethlehem. Find a certain man...who lives there, because I have selected one of his sons to be my new king...Invite him to worship* me, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint* for me." So the spokesman did as God instructed him...and invited them...*

1 Samuel 16:6-7

When they arrived, God's spokesman took one look at the first son and thought, "Surely this is the one God wants as king!" But God said to him, "...I have rejected him. I do not make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but God looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."

1 Samuel 16:10-13

...All seven of the sons were presented to God's spokesman. But the spokesman said..."God has not chosen any of these." Then he asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," the father replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep." When this son was brought in, God told his spokesman, "This is the one I choose." So as David stood there among his brothers, the spokesman anointed his head with oil. And the Spirit of God came on David.*

Why This Story?

This story has been a powerful first story in a David mini-set that can be used alone or as part of a longer story set. This story has been used effectively in a *Purpose* story set. It has also been used in another version in a *Restored Relationship (ST4T)* story set.

This story shows that God had a purpose for David from the very beginning, and that his purpose was based on the fact that David had a heart that was ready to follow him—not on his talents, physical prowess, or station in life. This story also sets up the foundation for the rest of the David stories---his rise to power, his sin, and his reconciliation to God.

This story shows that God reveals himself and his will, talks to people, knows the thoughts and intentions of people, makes decisions differently than people do, calls out individuals for his purposes, and that his Spirit comes upon people to help them do the task he's given them.

Story Crafting

We omitted some names for ease of remembering and retelling, but if you find that it is too difficult to say 'God's spokesman' throughout this story, you may include Samuel's name. We simplified the reason for Samuel going to Bethlehem as **to worship** in order for the story to be easier to remember and retell, and to avoid detracting from the main plotline.

We simplified the section of the story in which all seven of the sons were presented to Samuel. If it is helpful to include this portion as a storytelling device, i.e. your audience really likes repetition and hearing that each son, in turn, was rejected,

then you can include that section in your story.

Words/Phrases to

Consider

God's Spirit*

You can translate this term directly as *God's Spirit*. The specific meaning here is that David was possessed suddenly and fully by God's Spirit. In other words, God 'qualified him to be governor of his people, by infusing such graces as wisdom, prudence, counsel, courage, liberality, and magnanimity' (Adam Clarke's commentary). The Hebrew *ruach* [spirit] can have the physical meanings 'wind' or 'breath.' It can also mean 'power' or 'authority' that God gives to someone to do extraordinary things.

In the audio version of the Indian *Purpose* stories, we have chosen to say that *God was with David* because we believe that a non-believing audience will better understand that terminology at this early point in the story set.

Spokesperson*

Choose a term for prophet that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet: receives a call from God; takes God's message to men because he has been given it by God himself; has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men. We chose 'spokesman' because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted connotation of a fortune-teller. If you use a religious term, be sure that the average hearer will understand it.

Worship*

Worship's foundation is the idea of 'service,' shown through showing awe and wonder to God (*IVP New Bible Dictionary*). Patriarchs thought this worship could take place anywhere God had revealed himself. The Old Testament sets up a complicated sacrificial system in the Temple. Jesus made it clear that this sacrificial system of worship was no longer necessary, and that our worship was based on our love for God. Different cultures and languages have different words for worship, some of which refer only to certain ceremonies or rituals one must do. In every story in this story set where 'worship' is used, it implies more than just performing rituals; it includes the heart of love, awe and wonder of the worshiper for God. Be sure that the word or combination of words you choose for worship includes this idea.

Anoint*

Anointing in the Old Testament signified an act of God in which someone received divine favor or appointment to a special place, service or function in the purpose of God (especially for kingship). It often is associated with God's Spirit being given. In this case, a man appointed by God performed the act. He filled his horn (a ram's horn) with oil and poured the oil on David's head. If the people in your area have a similar ceremony (with an appropriate word to go along with it) to appoint someone to a special task, you could use the phrase 'anointed his head (with oil).' If they don't, you could say something like, 'He poured oil on his head to appoint him/show him as the next king.'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use consistent terms for **God's Spirit, Anoint, Worship, and Spokesman**. If this is the first story in your story set, you may use the transition given here. If this is not the first story, you need to transition appropriately from the previous story.

Worldview

In this biblical culture, more importance was placed on the oldest son in a family. It is not surprising that Samuel, and perhaps the rest of the family, would have been confused that God chose the youngest son to be the next king.

Story Set Themes

Purpose

Relationship/Restored

Relationship

Leadership

Holy Spirit/God's Spirit

King/Kingdom

Obedience

Family