

## Bible background

1 Samuel 16:1-13.

## Aim of lesson

To show that God can see what we are like inside and chooses those who are loving as he is.

## Preparation required

You will need a piece of paper to roll into a horn or cone shape.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the class of David. Tell them that while David was looking after his sheep, God had decided to choose a new king. Saul, the present king had forgotten about God and did not care what God wanted. So God sent Samuel, who had grown up serving God, and was now an old man, to find the new king God had chosen. Talk about Samuel's fears and of his going to Bethlehem.
2. Use the singing game to teach about the choice of David. Introduce the characters and fill in the narrative as it progresses.
3. At the end of the story, roll a piece of paper into a horn or cone shape to show how David was anointed king.
4. Discuss who the children think would be a good king and why David was chosen. Stress that God wanted a ruler who was fair and kind and would care for the people he ruled as God himself cares for them.
5. Though David did not receive a crown at that time, the children can make one for him from the activity sheet as a reminder that God had promised he would be king one day.

## Alternative activities

1. Cut out a string of paper people for each child to draw faces on and decorate. They can decide which one is David and perhaps give him a crown of gold or silver foil.
2. Play some silly choosing games e.g. If you're wearing something blue, stand up. If you've got shoes with laces, brown hair etc. You can repeat this idea with different actions and different criteria as many times as you wish. Make sure each child is included in one or other of the categories. Use the games as an opportunity to re-emphasize the fact that God doesn't judge or choose us by outward appearance etc.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Explain that the children can be best to God not by being the richest, the tallest, or the fastest amongst the children, but by being the kindest and the one who cares about what God thinks.

## Prayer

Ask how David might have prayed after being anointed.

## Verse

'Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' 1 Samuel 16:7.

## Song

### Who Will Be The King (Tune: The Farmer's Is In His Den)



The children stand in a circle, holding hands. Choose a child to be Samuel. He stands in the middle and the children walk round as they sing. The teacher could take the part of Samuel if the class are not keen on acting.

v.1 Who will be the king?  
Who will be the king?  
Tell us, tell us,  
Who will be the king?

Tell how Samuel considered choosing one of Jesse's sons who was big and strong. Get your 'Samuel' to choose someone who is the strongest who then joins him in the circle.

v.2 This one's very strong  
This one's very strong  
Is it this one?  
This one's very strong.

Ask the children if God chose the strongest of Jesse's sons.

v.3 The strongest won't be king  
The strongest won't be king  
You see the outside  
But God can see within.

The 'strongest' returns to the circle.

Repeat this procedure with the tallest, the fastest, the smartest, the richest, as you wish. In order to conclude, after verse one, ask whom God did choose. Have someone play the part of David and stand in the middle while you all sing.

v.4 David will be king  
David will be king  
He thinks like God thinks  
David will be king.

*Music: Traditional.*