

St. James Episcopal Church  
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!  
MARCH 26, 2017—THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
GOD CHOOSES DAVID



God wanted to choose a new king for Israel, so he sent Samuel to Bethlehem, to choose from one of Jesse's sons. Seven of Jesse's sons stood before Samuel. They all looked tall and strong and Samuel thought surely one of these men must be chosen.

But God said "Don't look at how tall they are, how handsome or how strong. The Lord does not see as people see; people look on the outward appearance, but God sees the heart, the goodness, the inside of the person."

God didn't choose any of tall, grown-up sons of Jesse. But David, the youngest son, wasn't there because he was out tending the sheep. Jesse sent for David, who was just a boy. He was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "He is the one."

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed David the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

## THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

### HOW GOD LOOKS AT US

Samuel listened to God, and went to Bethlehem to find the new King. Jesse's older sons looked tall, strong and "king-like". But God didn't count their outward appearance; he looked at their hearts—at their inward goodness. David was just a boy, the youngest son, but God saw that he was good, brave and had a kind heart. That's how God looks at us, and how we should look at each other—at who we are, what we say and do, and not what we look like outside.

### GOD CHOOSES DAVID MATCH-UP

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Samuel put this on David's head to anoint him as king. | A. Prophet       |
| 2. He was send by God to find the new king.               | B. Old Testament |
| 3. He had eight sons.                                     | C. Grown up      |
| 4. The town where Jesse lived.                            | D. Shepherd      |
| 5. David's job.   | E. Horn          |
| 6. Samuel was a _____.                                    | F. Bethlehem     |
| 7. We find the story of Samuel and David in the _____.    | G. Jesse         |
| 8. Jesse's seven older sons were _____.                   | H. Boy           |
| 9. David was a _____.                                     | I. Oil           |
| 10. Samuel carried oil in this.                           | J. Samuel        |

## BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

It's human nature to judge people, places, and things by outward appearance. Gender, race, health, height, strength, prosperity, social class—they all come to mind quickly, without even a conscious thought. We can't help it. *BUT—we can help what we do next.* We see with our eyes and we see with our hearts. Kids are natural explorers. They look, see, wonder, feel and ponder. Encourage them to look at people from the inside out. Talk to them about experiencing how a person ACTS and THINKS and RESPONDS is different from just considering what they look like. Talk to them about how you have learned to respect, like or admire a particular person based on learning more about them.

### ***Dinner Table Conversations:***

*What is your outward appearance?*

*How are you the same and different from your family, your friends, and other people around you?*

*Did God make everyone to look the same? Why?*

*What is your inward appearance? How do you think and act in loving ways?*

*How do you judge people by outward appearance?*

*How should we look at the "inside person"?*