

David chosen to be king

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Aim: to understand that God chooses people who love him to do important jobs for him, even though they might not be big, strong, clever or powerful



SpT2B



Samuel, dedicated to the Lord as a very young child, grew into a significant Old Testament character. He became a prophet, speaking the word of the Lord to those around him. He was the judge over Israel and, also, in time he became a priest. Priestly duties included finding kings. Samuel had already had the job of finding the very first king of Israel: Saul. Unfortunately, that appointment hadn't worked out so well, even though on paper Saul had the credentials, right down to his looks. We don't know for sure if Samuel was leaning too much on outward appearance when he sought out the next king, but we do know that he checked out each of 6 older tall strapping brothers for the role before God finally said 'Yes' to the seventh youngest brother; shepherd boy David. Samuel was an important judge in the land, but God's judgement is wiser. With God it's what is on the inside that counts.



Have a range of toys (including a small toy sheep or lamb) of varying sizes jumbled together, in front of the children. Ask them to help you sort them by size.

Thank you so much for helping me sort my things. Now I wonder what I will choose to play with today? Something big? No, today this will be the best! Pick up the small toy sheep/lamb.

This reminds me of a story of a boy who looked after his daddy's sheep!



Have 7 male play figures, ranging from tallest to smallest, keeping the smallest from the children's sight ready for displaying during the story. Count the 6 brothers out slowly and pronouncedly as you hover your hand over the head of each one.

These are 6 strong brothers. In today's story Samuel is all grown up. His special job is to find the new king. He has lots to choose from. I wonder who he will pick?

Read the story David the shepherd boy, pg. 62. Bring out 'David' and the sheep during the story.



- *I wonder what it was about David that God liked so much*
- *David was chosen for a special job. I wonder what special job God has for you*



Watch a short clip of the story

[Samuel Anoints David | Bible Stories Read Aloud - YouTube](#)



- Invite the children to replay the story using the figures used in your story time.
- Offer size sorting activities and/or timed challenges or toys which fit inside one another for comparing and exploring
- Musical sizes - Play music. Children move around the area. Stop randomly and show a picture (or shout out the name) of a little or big thing. Children use Makaton signs for 'small' and 'Big' to show which it is, then continue moving
- Decorate a cardboard crown (See template) with coloured scraps, finger paints or stickers
- God sees my heart craft: prepare sheets of white card by drawing hearts on them using white wax crayons. Be sure to press on hard. Offer watery poster paints and sponges or cotton buds. Help the children to paint over the card. The wax will resist the paint and will reveal the hearts. Explain:
We didn't notice the hearts before the paint was added. God always sees what people are like on the inside and that's what really counts the most to him.



Practise making bodies
'big' (stand), 'bigger' (stand on tip toes)
and 'little' (crouch into a tight ball)
or teach use Makaton signs
[small, big, bigger - Makaton -](#)

[YouTube](#)

Repeat this instruction getting faster.

Say the prayer below encouraging everyone to join in with the actions for 'big' 'bigger' and 'little'

*Father God, you are a great **BIG** God.*

*You know all about **LITTLE** me.*

*Even though I'm not **BIG** yet,*

*Your plans for me are **BIGGER** than I know.*

*Some days I feel a **LITTLE** bit sad or angry*

But, when I remember how much you love me

*It gives me a great **BIG** smile on my face.*

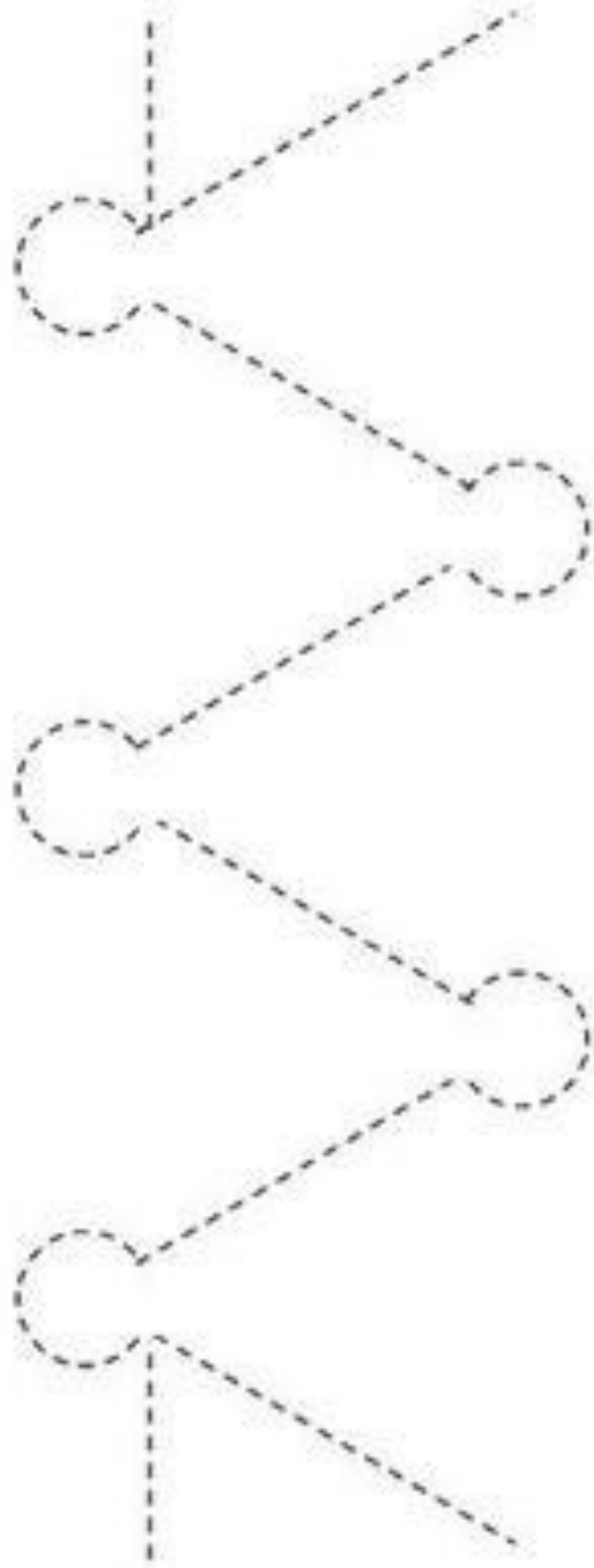
Thank you God!



- Big thumbs tough
- Our God is a Great Big God
- My God is so Big



Encourage families to make 'About meboards' at home. Each day during the week focus on something unique about each child in the family. Illustrate it with photographs, paintings by the child, words from chats together, etc. Focus on positive characteristics i.e. kind, listener, helper, friend, loving etc.



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