

# Choosing a King

**The Scene:** Jesse's home

**The Simple Setup:** You won't need any furnishings on the stage, just an open floor.

**For Extra Impact:** Give Samuel a clipboard so he can write notes as he evaluates each brother.

## Bible Story

Samuel Anoints David

## Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13

## The Characters

**Narrator:** a friendly storyteller

**Samuel:** a guy

**Jesse:** a guy

**David:** a guy

**Sons:** seven guys or girls to play David's brothers

**People of Israel:** a crowd who gives opinions on who should be the next king

## The Skit

*After you've assigned the roles of Samuel, Jesse, and David, choose up to seven children to play David's brothers. If you have a small class, allow them to double up as the judges. Instruct the judges to read their parts in unison.*

*As the skit begins, the stage is empty. Narrator may be offstage or standing on one side of the stage through the skit. Samuel will start on stage left, and Jesse, David, the Sons, and the People of Israel will be stage right.*

**narrator:** This is the account of how Israel got its second king. Saul was the FIRST king of Israel, but because he wouldn't follow God's way, God chose to replace him. God sent his prophet SAMUEL to Jesse's house to find another king.

**Samuel:** (Walks to center stage, talking as he walks.) OK, so I know I'll find the next king of Israel at Jesse's House. But Jesse has LOTS of sons! How am I supposed to know which ONE is supposed to be king? I'd flip a coin, but there's a hole in my cloak and I've lost all my money.

### Narrator:

When Samuel arrived at Jesse's house, he invited Jesse and his sons to worship God together. Everyone prepared their hearts and worshipped before God. See how they're all bowing their heads in PRAYER? See how they're raising their hands in PRAISE? After worshipping awhile, Samuel told Jesse why he was there.

### Samuel:

Jesse, GOD has sent me here to choose the next king of Israel. I know one of your sons will be king, but I DON'T know which son.

### Jesse:

King? One of MY sons? I can't BELIEVE it! Most of my sons can't keep their BEDROOMS picked up, let alone be KING.

### Samuel:

Well, you can START believing it, because I got the word from God. And there are HOUSECLEANERS at the palace, so keeping socks up off the floor won't be a problem. Now march your sons out here one at a time so I can figure out who'll be KING.



Start the "Samuel Anoints David" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD (track 15)*. Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

### Narrator:

Jesse brought his OLDEST son out so Samuel could examine the boy. Samuel told the boy to flex his muscles. Samuel was impressed by how tall, strong, and good-looking the boy was.

### Samuel:

This one HAS to be the king. The People of Israel will follow someone like HIM, no question about it!

### Narrator:

Samuel pictured the people of Israel in his head, encouraging him to choose the oldest son to be king.

**People of Israel:** THIS is the one. Choose HIM. We can follow someone like HIM!

### Narrator:

But God told Samuel that the tall, good-looking older brother wasn't the chosen one. God didn't look at people the way others did. People judge each other by OUTWARD appearances, but God looked at what was INSIDE of a person—their thoughts and attitudes.

**People of Israel:** WHAT? You've got to be KIDDING! This guy looked PERFECT for the job!

### Samuel:

Jesse, let me see ANOTHER son.

**narrator:** So Jesse marched out the SECOND-oldest son for Samuel to examine.  
**Samuel:** Hmm...ANOTHER strong, good-looking young man. He LOOKS like a king. We may have a WINNER!

**people of Israel:** Choose HIM! Choose HIM!

**narrator:** Samuel knew this young man was what the People of Israel were expecting. God spoke AGAIN, and AGAIN told Samuel that this son was not the chosen one. Samuel couldn't BELIEVE what he had to say...

**Samuel:** Even though this son is tall and strong, and he looks like kingly material, he's NOT God's choice to be king. Sorry.

**Jesse:** I'd like to remind you that it's the custom of our land for the oldest son to receive the most honor. But you've rejected BOTH my two oldest sons!

**Samuel:** I know, I know...you got any more sons?

**narrator:** Jesse fetched yet ANOTHER son for Samuel to inspect. But again, God told Samuel that this son was not to be the king.

**People of Israel:** Come ON, already! CHOOSE someone! You're running out of sons!  
**Samuel:** You guys know that you're IMAGINARY voices, right? So what's the HURRY? Pipe down and let me do my work.



**narrator:** Jesse paraded his remaining sons in front of Samuel. See how they're standing there looking as kingly as they can look? But each time Samuel's response was the same.

**Samuel:** Nope. Nada. Nyet! Jesse, don't you have ANOTHER son? NONE of these kids you brought to me are God's choice for king.

**Jesse:** There IS one left. But he's the YOUNGEST, a shepherd boy tending to the sheep.

**People of Israel:** A SHEPHERD? NO WAY! There's NO WAY a shepherd could be our king! Let's just call it a day!

**narrator:** Jesse found David and brought David before Samuel. Samuel smiled a big smile.

**Samuel:** This is the one! THIS is the one God has chosen to be king!

**People of Israel:** You're SURE about this?

**Samuel:** God looks at the heart—and this is his man.

**People of Israel:** And we don't get to take a VOTE or anything?

**Samuel:** THIS is the one!

**narrator:** So David bowed down before Samuel, and Samuel poured oil on David's head. The oil was an "anointing," a symbol that God's blessing was on David. And from that day on, GOD'S SPIRIT rested on David.



## To Talk About

- ◆ The Bible says that David was a good-looking youth also. If all of Jesse's sons were handsome, what do you think was different about David?
- ◆ God told Samuel he looked at what was *inside* someone instead of a person's appearance. In what ways do you judge people?
- ◆ What kind of leader do you like to follow? What do you think God looks for in a leader?

**Topical Tie-Ins:** Popularity, Listening to God, Seeing Others the Way God Sees Them