

Exploration Stations

Day 1

Bible Point: God knows you.

Bible Story: God identifies David as the future king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Bible Verse: “O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.” (Psalm 139:1)

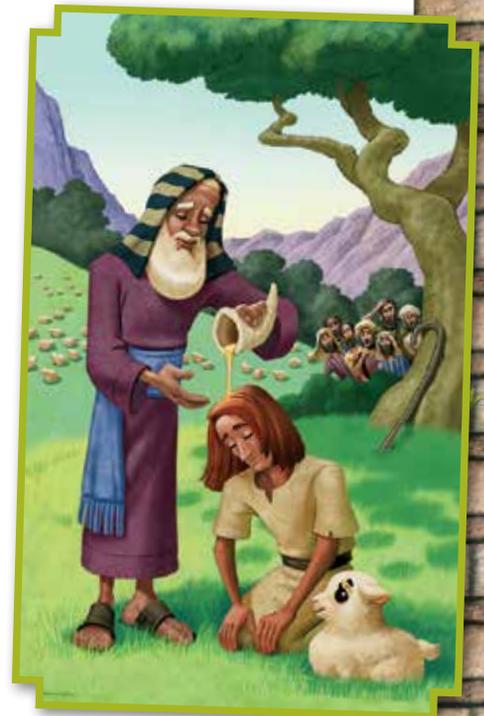
Consider This:

- ◆ Through the prophet Samuel, God warned his people of the hardships they’d endure at the hand of a king (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Yet their desire to be led by a human king—rather than by God—overtook Samuel’s candid cautions. So God gave them a king in Saul.
- ◆ King Saul’s initial humility soon transformed into hubris. He became rebellious and arrogant, leading God to choose a new leader for his people (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
- ◆ It’s unlikely that David’s family understood exactly the significance of Samuel’s anointing. For safety’s sake, Samuel wouldn’t have wanted to broadcast God’s designation of a new king while Saul still sat on the throne!
- ◆ Samuel showed his humanity when he evaluated each of Jesse’s sons based on outward appearance. God wasn’t interested in someone who *looked* like a king; God knew that David had the *heart* of a king!
- ◆ David ranked so low in his family that his father didn’t even invite him to the sacrifice with Samuel (1 Samuel 16:11). Instead, he tended the sheep—the job of a servant.
- ◆ Scholars estimate that David was about 10 to 15 years old when Samuel anointed him.

Why It Matters...

A recent survey found that more kids aspire to be a YouTube “star” than an astronaut, doctor, teacher, or musician. It’s no surprise that today’s kids crave fame and recognition. Yet as adults who love and lead kids, we need to ask “why?” *Why* do kids desperately desire to be known? What’s missing in their world? in their hearts?

In the technology-induced information overload, kids can feel invisible. Unimportant. Insignificant. That’s why today’s message brings hope! God, the creator of the universe, knows your heart. You can spark joy in kids as you affirm their value and visibility in God’s eyes. Kids don’t need to strive for celebrity when they discover that God knows and loves them.



Day 1 Exploration Stations

Supplies

- ◆ blanket/sheet
- ◆ dress-up clothes

Royal Runway

Make a “red carpet” with a blanket or sheet. Lay out the dress-up clothes.

Say: Use the dress-up clothes to dress up and walk on the red carpet like you’re a king or a queen.

Encourage kids to try on different outfits and walk the red carpet regally.

Say: You look like royalty with those clothes on, but **God knows you** on the inside. He knows who you love, what you like, and everything about you!



Supplies

- ◆ blocks

Build Your Home

Say: Today we’ll hear that God picked a boy named David to be king. That meant someday David would move into a new home—a castle! Make the home you live in.

Encourage kids to use the blocks to build their own homes and share with others about the homes they built.

Say: **God knows you.** That means he knows where you live now, and he knows the plans he has for your future.

