

## Visions and Voices: Resources for Intergenerational Worship June 17 Pentecost 4 Year B

### Bible: On the inside



**What this is:** Bible Engagement



**Where it's used:** In any intergenerational gathering, Bible Reading; Early Word



**Time:** 4 minutes



**Bible focus/theme:** 1 Samuel 16:1-14



**What's needed:**

- Copy of text on screen or printed with blue and orange words highlighted
- Large print out poster of Chris Booth's Art images 'Anointing Who' and 'David Turns up'
- 17 empty 2 litre soft drink bottles and 1 empty 250 ml bottle, labels removed, lids on..
- Wrap 1 of these large bottles in some cloth scraps tied on with some string. Using a thick black permanent marker, draw large faces on the top sections of the bottles. Add some wool for hair - black or brown or grey. Inside the large bottles place a few tablespoons of sand or sawdust or dust or small stones. Inside the small bottle (David) place a few table spoons of extra virgin olive oil. Wrap one large bottle in a piece of paper decorated with cow splodges, and draw a cow face on the round end.
- Label each bottle with one of the following character names tied on with a tag.

Samuel  
King  
heifer cow  
Eliab  
Shammah  
David

Saul  
Elders of the city(x3)  
Jesse the Bethlehemite  
Abinabad  
son#4, son#5, son#6,s on#7,

- Tray
- Glass

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer cow with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’

Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”

Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’S anointed is now before the LORD.”

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as humans see; humans look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## Instructions

*Invite 16 people to hold up one bottle each. Make sure they know which character their bottle is. Ask the volunteers to hold their bottles in front of their chests. Explain that whenever their **character** is mentioned in the text, they should lift their bottle up and forwards, then bring it back in front of their chest again. Provide about a dozen other people with long blue streamers to circle over their heads whenever **The Lord** is mentioned in the text, reminding people that throughout these weeks we have used the strands of blue as symbols of the voice of the Lord.*

*Invite everyone to read along and join in on the words in **Orange** or **Blue**. At the end of the reading invite each person with a bottle to empty it out on to the tray, observing the sand/rocks/sawdust in the large bottles. Good stuff. The stuff of earth. Useful stuff. Then empty the oil from the smallest bottle 'David' into a glass. Explain that the oil represents God's special choosing for a task. Oil was poured on David's head to show this. Let the surprise of what was inside the big bottles and the small bottle take impact. Who knows what is inside each of us? God does.*

## Conclusion

I wonder what you have noticed during our reading? *(Take a few comments)*

Perhaps you've noticed there are no females in this story.  
This reminds us that there are things in the story that have been intentionally left out - and helps us wonder what all those things might be, and why.

Perhaps you've noticed how many people are in this story apart from David.  
We might think of it as a story about David being chosen.  
But maybe it is also very much a story about a whole community and the way that stories and realities are written by many voices in communities, not just as stories of one person - one hero - one main character. We are all part of each others story, and in God's great story together.

## Suggested follow up Song

Jesus knows all about me  
(see Visions and Voices music folder for using this song)

Use these images in your gathering space to help the visualisation of the text throughout your time together

