

## POINT WE LISTEN TO GOD.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16, and show children the words. **SAY: Let's read from God's special book, the Bible. The Bible tells us that Samuel listened to God and then told other people what God said.**

**God told Samuel to help him find a Mighty Mini who would be the new king. God knew a man named Jesse who had eight sons. God told Samuel to go to Jesse's house. Let's count to eight.** Lead kids in counting. **Samuel went to Jesse's house and asked to meet his sons. Jesse brought out seven sons.**

Have one child be "Samuel" and stand off to the side. Direct seven children to stand in a line, ready to walk one by one in front of Samuel. If you have a smaller group, let children go twice until you've counted seven sons. If you have additional children, they can stand near Samuel and cup their hands around their ears and whisper loudly, "We listen to God," just before each candidate for king walks by.

**SAY: Presenting Son #1!** Direct any extra children to whisper, "We listen to God," as the first child walks by. Direct everyone to shake their heads.

Repeat this exchange until all seven of the candidates for king have passed by Samuel.

**SAY: Samuel asked Jesse, "Are there any more sons?" Jesse said he had one more son who was in the field watching the sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to call him in.** Have another child walk in front of Samuel.

**SAY: Presenting Son #8, David!** Direct Samuel to say, "David loves God. David will be the king!"

**ASK: God helped Samuel make the right choice. What good choices do you need to ask God to help you make?**

**How do you know what's a good choice?**

**SAY: Some of the sons that came before David seemed like good choices for kings. David didn't look like a very good choice. But Samuel listened to God and found out that David was the one God wanted to be king. God didn't care what the king looked like, but he wanted a king who loved him. Like Samuel,**  
** WE LISTEN TO GOD.**



**POINT** ➔ **WE LISTEN  
TO GOD.**

**SAY:** Let's listen to a song to remind us that ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.** While we listen, let's sculpt some hearts using our *Rainbow Clay*.

Distribute a small lump of *Rainbow Clay* to each child. Play ● "The Lord Looks at the Heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b) (track 22) on the *CD*. Help kids sculpt as needed. When kids have finished their hearts, have them hold the hearts in the air and move them to the beat of the music.

**SING:**

**When we look at each other,  
We can only see the outside.  
When we look at each other,  
We can only see the outside.  
But the Lord can see past all that—  
So much more, as a matter of fact.**

*(Chorus)*

**The Lord does not look at the  
things man looks at;  
The Lord looks at the heart.  
Man looks at the outward  
appearance;  
The Lord looks at the heart.  
The Lord looks at the heart.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

*(Repeat chorus.)*

**The Lord looks at the heart.  
The Lord looks at the heart.**

"The Lord Looks at the Heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b)  
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**ASK:** What can God see inside  
your heart?

**How can you listen to God  
about what kinds of things  
to love?**

**SAY:** Jesse had a lot of sons who  
looked like kings on the outside.  
But David was the only one who  
loved God in his heart. That's what  
matters most to God. Samuel lis-  
tened to God to find out what was  
important. When ➔ **WE LISTEN TO  
GOD**, we can love the things that  
are important to him and have  
hearts like David's.

Collect the *Rainbow Clay*.

**POINT** ➔ **WE LISTEN  
TO GOD.**

Have kids sit in a circle. SAY: **We need to choose a king to help us. Let's use our *Bounce Ball* and play a game to choose a king. Listen carefully to the words in this song while we pass the ball around our circle. Let's keep the ball moving while the music plays. When the music stops, we'll stop passing the ball.**

Play ● "The Lord Looks at the Heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b) (track 22) on the *CD*. Have children pass the ball around. Stop the music at any point, and announce that the child holding the ball is your king. Play several times.

ASK: **What did you like about being chosen as king?**

**How can God help us make good choices?**

SAY: **When Samuel had to make a tough choice of who should be king, he got help from God. When you need to make a choice, remember that ➔ WE LISTEN TO GOD.**

**POINT** ➔ **WE LISTEN  
TO GOD.**

Have kids stand in a circle. SAY: **Samuel listened to God when he chose a king. ➔ WE LISTEN TO GOD. TOO.**

**We're going to play a game where we pretend to be Jesse's sons and Samuel who has to choose who will be a king. We'll hold hands and move around in a circle with Samuel in the middle. I'll whisper to the pretend Samuel how to choose the king.**

Select a child to be the first Samuel. Sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

SING:

**Samuel listened to God,  
Samuel listened to God  
Hi-ho, the derry-o, Samuel chose a  
king.**

Then whisper in Samuel's ear, "Anyone wearing green can be a king," and have the child repeat it aloud. Anyone wearing green will stand up tall like a king and go around the circle giving everyone high fives.

Select a different child to be Samuel.

Each time a new Samuel goes into the center of the circle, whisper a new criteria for the selection, including color of clothes, kind of shoes, or color of socks. All of the requirements should be based on what kids are wearing.

Repeat the song and the actions until everyone has had a chance to be Samuel or a king.

ASK: **What did you think about being chosen as king based on what you look like?**

**What are some things about you that people can't see on the outside?**

SAY: **In our game, we chose people to be king because of outside things—our clothes. Samuel chose David because of what was inside his heart. He listened to God. We can show our love for God when** ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.**

**POINT** ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.**

**ASK:** If you could choose someone to be a king, what kinds of qualities would you look for?

**SAY:** Samuel learned that ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.** Samuel listened to God and chose a king. We're going to play a game where we have to make a choice.

Give children each some *Rainbow Clay*, and direct them to make a "person" with the clay. (To make a simple person, have kids just make two balls and put one on the other as head and body, like a small snowman.) Set all of the clay people next to each other, side by side. Have kids walk over to the other side of the room and face the wall. Secretly place one of the *Mini Bears* inside one of the clay people.

Have kids come back over to where the clay people are.

**SAY:** God wanted Samuel to choose a king based on what was inside the person's heart. I put something inside one of these clay people. Which one do you think has a treasure inside? Give clues to help the children select the right one.

Allow them to feel the clay people to help guide their choices.

**ASK:** How could you tell which clay person had the treasure inside?

**How can you tell if someone loves God?**

**SAY:** The person who looked the biggest and strongest might've looked like the best choice for king. But Samuel listened to God to find out who had the treasure inside—a love for God. When ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD** to make good choices, we've got the treasure in us!

Collect the *Rainbow Clay* and the *Mini Bear*.