

God Calls David



The call of young David and his encounter with Goliath are found in 1 Samuel 16-17. David is shown as a shepherd, a musician, and a warrior. Yet he is also clearly just a young boy. David's achievements make sense only when we see the big picture. The message is that when we have God on our side, nothing can defeat us!

As you read through David's story, spend some time pointing out how David is full of hidden talents. Though a small and simple shepherd, he can comfort King Saul with his music and defeat Goliath with a few stones. There are such seeds in all of us, whatever our age, that are just waiting for God's love and our faith to bring into blossom. Remind yourself and your young people that God sees all our goodness, even if others miss it.

1

Before you begin, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

2

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

3

Getting started. Mirrors only tell part of the story, our visible side. Discuss together: Who shows you what is inside you? Who is your "personal mirror"?

Have one family member read the text below out loud. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

A long, long, long time ago, there was a boy named David, the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse. David was often in charge of the sheep, and he did a great job. He cared for them and protected them, and his father knew that he could depend on David. Even so, Jesse was surprised when he discovered just how special his David was.

A wise man, a prophet of the Hebrew people named Samuel, came to visit Jesse in Bethlehem. Samuel spoke as God's messenger and often warned people that they needed to live more justly and compassionately.

Saying this made Samuel seem very harsh to some and very frightening to others. But Samuel didn't worry about what people thought of him. He only worried about doing God's will.

It was God who sent Samuel to Jesse. God had told Samuel that the next king of Israel would be one of Jesse's sons. Samuel had come to anoint with oil whichever son God had chosen.

Samuel inspected Jesse's sons. The oldest boy, Eliab, was strong and tall. "This is the one, isn't it Lord?" Samuel asked. "Oh Samuel," God responded, "don't see through the eyes of people, for people only look at the outside. I am God, and I see what is inside, what is in the heart. This one is not the son I have chosen."

The second son, Abinadab, also came forward. "No," Samuel said after brief reflection, "God has not chosen this one either." Five more sons came forward, and five more were sent away by Samuel. Confused, Samuel asked Jesse, "Since the LORD has not chosen any of these boys, do you have any other sons I haven't met?"

"There is my youngest son, but he is out tending the sheep," Jesse replied.

Samuel told Jesse to bring this youngest son to him. David came as his father ordered.



When Samuel saw David walking toward him, he could not help but smile. What a handsome youth! David had rich dark skin from his work under the sun and beautiful eyes that reflected his compassion and strength. But David was still so young and small!

God told Samuel, “Yes, this is the one. Stand up now and anoint him. David is the one I have chosen.” Samuel took out his oil and, in front of the surprised Jesse and his sons, anointed David. David stood with a straight back and raised his face, feeling more loved and cherished by God than he had ever felt before.

God didn’t wait long to start David on his many adventures. The man who was then king of Israel, Saul, had stopped listening to the messages of the LORD. Whether the words came from Samuel or from Saul’s own heart, they no longer mattered to the king.

Saul fell ill and suffered greatly. Saul heard that Jesse had a son so full of God’s presence that he could play healing songs on his lyre and sing evil away with his voice. So David came to sing and play for Saul, and the king felt better whenever David was there.

King Saul had much to worry about. His army was at war against the Philistines, a powerful nation. The Philistines had a champion, a fighter who had already won many battles. This was Goliath, a huge man who dressed in heavy armor and carried impressive weapons. Goliath laughed at the Israelite army of King Saul. “Instead of a war, just send out one Hebrew to fight me,” Goliath boasted. “If your man wins, we will be your servants. If I win, you will be servants to us. Go ahead, choose anyone.”

David was coming, as he usually did, to cheer Saul with his music. He was also bringing some food from his father, Jesse, for his three oldest brothers, who had joined King Saul’s army. David heard Goliath ridicule the Israelite army. Goliath was the largest man he had ever seen, and he saw that the Hebrews were all afraid to fight him. So when David went into Saul, he said, “I will go fight this giant.”

Saul immediately refused to allow this. “David, you are just a boy and Goliath is a warrior. You cannot fight him.”

Saul was only looking at the outside, but David knew what was inside him, the Spirit of God. “I have often protected my sheep from animals that would have killed them and me. The LORD has saved me so far, and the LORD will be with me now,” David assured Saul. Saul tried to dress David in the king’s own armor, but little



David couldn't even move when he had it on.

So David went out to meet the Philistine giant with only his courage, his faith, and five smooth stones for his sling. Goliath was amazed. After 40 mornings of challenging the Hebrews to send someone to fight him, was this slight boy all they could manage to send? Goliath threw his head back and roared, "Am I a dog that you come to me with that stick in your hand? Come forward, and I will soon be the winner in this battle."

David stood his ground and answered with a calm voice. "You think that your weapons and your size will win for you. But I have God on my side, so I do not need weapons or power. God is my power, the same God you have made fun of so many mornings."

With that, the two charged at each other. David put a stone into his sling. With just one shot, David struck Goliath in the forehead and brought down the giant. David heard the Israelite army cheer for him, but he knew better. It was God who had supported the young David, and the boy was grateful.

David grew up, and all that Samuel had predicted came to pass. When Saul died, David became the next king. David never forgot that his true strength was in God.

God spoke to David as God still speaks to us today. "People see what is on the outside and use that to decide what someone can do or not do, be or not be. This is not the way it is with me. I see the courage and humility in the hearts of people. I know what you can really be."

1

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. What most struck you in the story? Why?
2. Have you ever felt like David facing Goliath? When? Why?
3. David had five smooth stones that he used to defeat Goliath. Can you name five "stones" in your life—that is, five things that help you overcome challenges?

2

Get your child started on the activity on the next page, making sure they understand the instructions.

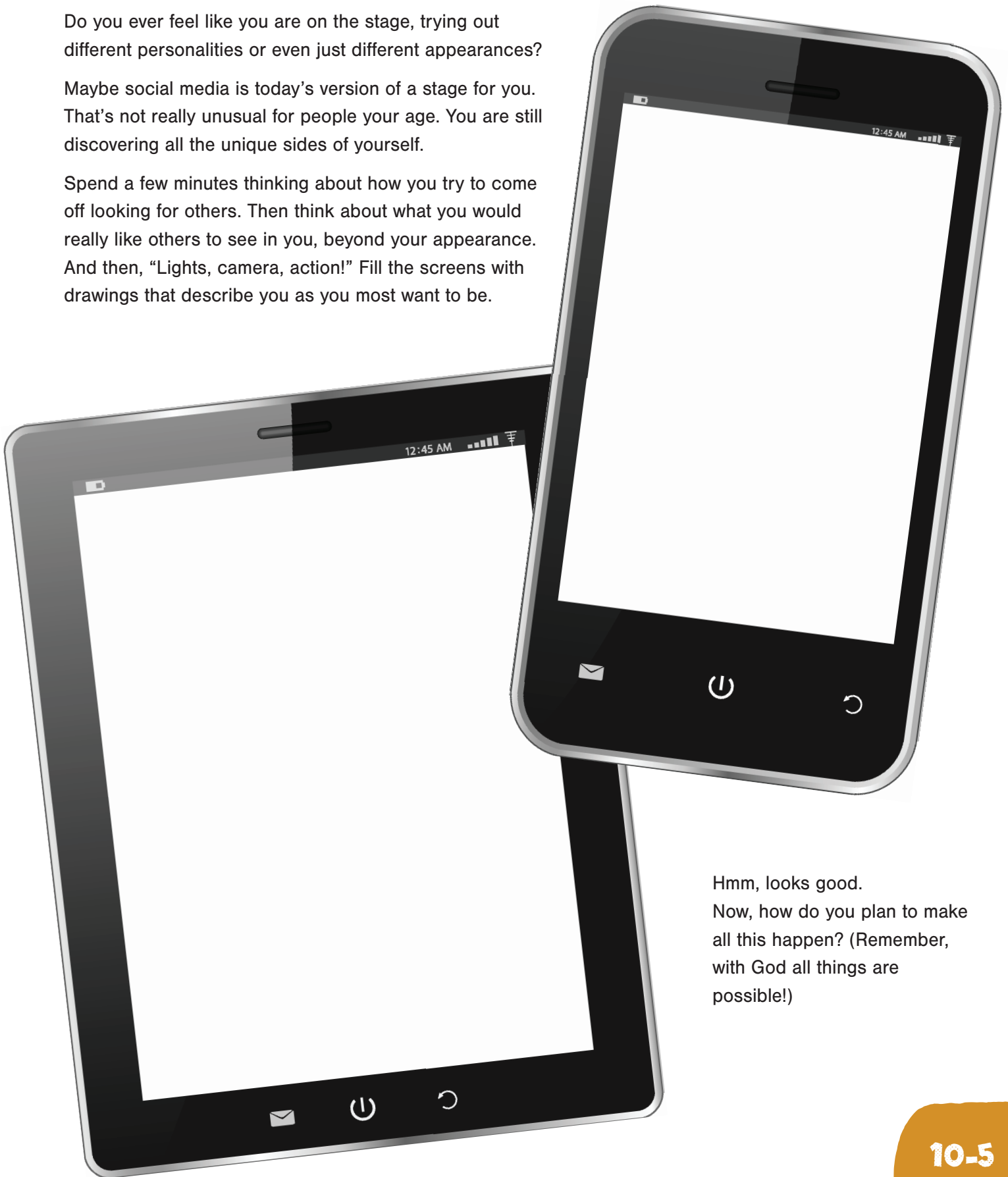
This is a good time to be close to your child without necessarily talking about faith.

Spotlight on Me (And the Me I Want to Be)

Do you ever feel like you are on the stage, trying out different personalities or even just different appearances?

Maybe social media is today's version of a stage for you. That's not really unusual for people your age. You are still discovering all the unique sides of yourself.

Spend a few minutes thinking about how you try to come off looking for others. Then think about what you would really like others to see in you, beyond your appearance. And then, "Lights, camera, action!" Fill the screens with drawings that describe you as you most want to be.



Hmm, looks good.
Now, how do you plan to make all this happen? (Remember, with God all things are possible!)

Seeing Through the Eyes of Love

1

As your child works on their activity on the next page, continue to your next step on this page.

2

Spend a few moments thinking about your child. You have the wonderful privilege of seeing this young person through the same kind of eyes God uses: eyes that see the inside as well as the outside, eyes of love and support. After all, David was just a small shepherd boy to Samuel, but God saw the future King of Israel! What do you see in your child?

3

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

Then draw a symbol of your child or describe the hidden talents you see in detail.

Share with your child once you are both ready.

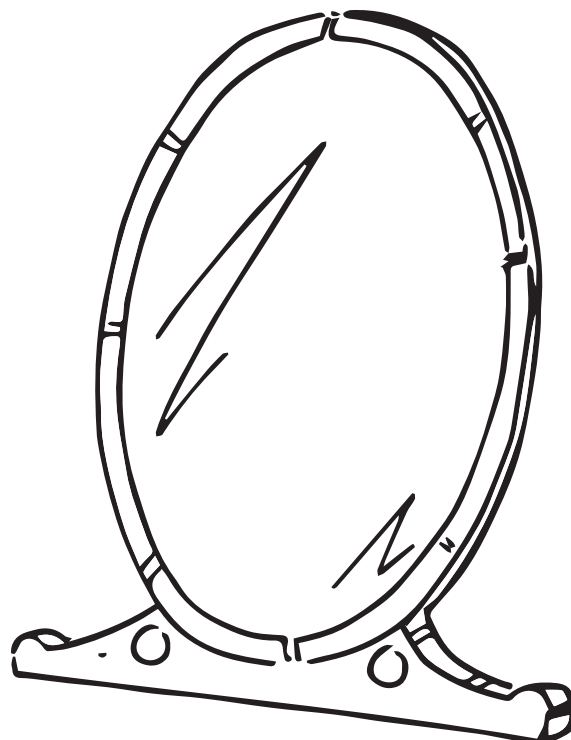
'You are very special to me.'

"When I look at you I see _____."

"When I look at you I see _____."

"When I look at you I see _____."

This is how I see you:



This Is Who I Am!

Have you noticed how many people wear T-shirts with sayings or slogans on them? Some come from commercials, some from cartoons, some from song lyrics, but all of them carry a message that the wearer considers fun or important.

What slogan would describe you in a few words?

Design yourself a T-shirt with a distinct saying that sums up your attitude, belief, or hope. Feel free to add colors or symbols to your design. Who knows—maybe you'll design a T-shirt worthy of popular sale!



Ancestors

1

David is the son of Jesse, and Jesse is a descendant of Abraham. The family tree of David is important to the history of the Chosen People. Who are your ancestors? Most families have colorful characters and admirable elders somewhere on the family tree. Who are the ancestors of your child? This is a good time to share some old family tales about the people who went before you.



Closing Ritual

2

End with a prayer that highlights something positive that both of you found (for example, “I am glad I can forgive others so quickly. Thanks, God!”).

