

A Chosen People



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. Talk about a time in your life when God felt really close to you. Discuss together: Is there any particular place or time of day when you feel closest to God?

Our Bible is a collection of stories, histories, poems, letters, and commentaries that all have one and the same purpose: to help us unravel the mystery of God. God initiated the unraveling thousands of years ago by selecting one particular nation, the people of Israel, who became known as the Chosen People. Generation after generation of Israelites faithfully recorded how God acted in their lives. In the Hebrew Scriptures (often called the Old Testament) God's power, goodness, and justice are revealed not only in the history of the nation but also in the everyday life of the people. These are some of the stories you and your children will read.

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

Adam and Eve had many children. Their children lived all over the earth. As the years passed, the people forgot about God. They forgot that there was only one God. They began to pray to all sorts of gods. But the LORD God still called to them. God chose a special people who heard the call. They were the Hebrew people. They would be God's special friends. In this book, you will meet some of the special friends who heard God's call.





2

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions. There are no right or wrong answers.

1. What do you think God's special friends would be like?
2. Do you know anyone who seems to be a special friend of God?
3. Whom do you think God chooses today?

God Signs

1

Ask your youngster to begin working on the activity on the next page. You may choose to go with them if they are walking outside of the house. When they are ready to draw, continue to read below on your own.

2

Just for you: God chooses us to be part of a special relationship. It is up to us to say “yes.” If we hope to become closer friends with God, we need to get to know God better.

Looking, listening and discovering God in our history and in everyday moments is a lifetime endeavor. Help your youngster keep their eyes, ears and minds open to God’s presence.

Encourage reading Scripture alone or with you. Listen to your child’s stories. Before going to bed at night, review the day to help the youngster discover how God is acting in his or her life.

If you keep your eyes open and use your imagination, you can see all sorts of things that might make you think about God. For example, a ring reminds us that God has no beginning and no end.

Take a walk outside or around your house and find something that makes you think about God. If possible, bring the object back with you. Draw a picture of it below and write a few words about why you chose it. Bring the object or the picture to your prayer table.



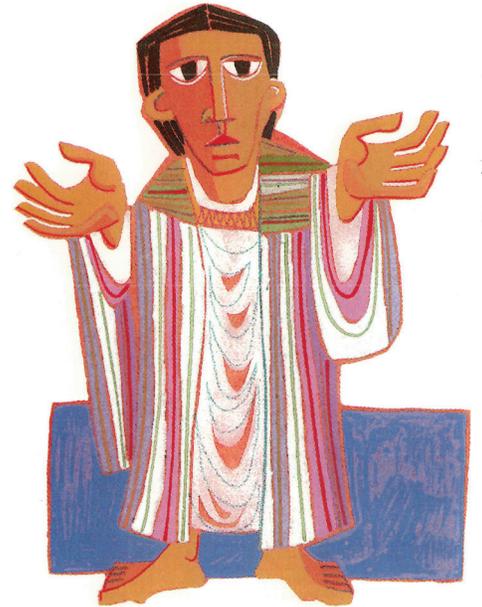
People Chosen by God

1

Read through the pictures and titles on the right with your child. You will be exploring these stories in future sessions.



God Calls
Abraham and Sarah



God Calls Joseph



God Calls David



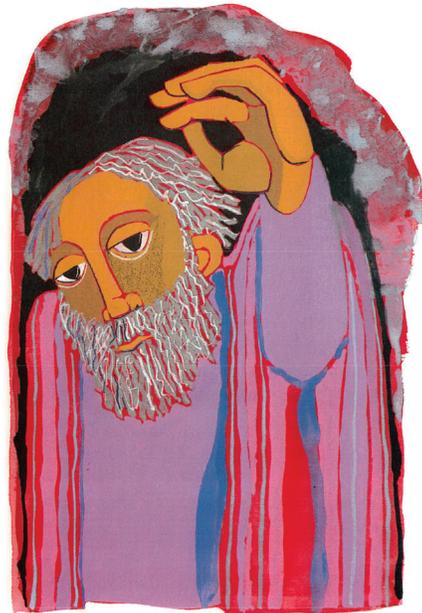
God Calls Esther



God Calls Moses



God Calls Ruth



God Calls Elijah



God Calls Daniel

2

Ask if your child already knows some stories about these people and what they know of them. Point out that all of these people were chosen by God, and we still remember them because they listened to God's call. Say that as you both learn more about the people in the pictures, you will also be learning more about God.

Chosen by God

1

The following sessions will all focus on great heroes of the Old Testament listed on the previous pages. God called women and men, young children and older people, Israelites and foreigners to show people God's desire to be in relationship with all humans.

2

Together with your child, name some people in your life who are "heroes" in the way they show love, courage, or inclusion of others. They may be a grandparent, a neighbor, a front-line medical worker, a teacher, or anyone else you know. List them in the space below and name why they are a modern day hero.

Closing Ritual

3

Make the Sign of the Cross together and say the closing prayer on the right.

We ask you, God,
to open our minds and our hearts
to your words
so that we can come to know
and serve you better.

Amen.

