

1 Samuel 16-David's Anointing

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Based on NLT

Introduction

We know that the world is not perfect. But God cares about the people in the world. Long ago, he made a special people group just for himself. He gave them a king, but their first king disobeyed God. So God chose a new king to lead his people, one after his own heart. This is his story...

1 Samuel 16:1-5

One day, God said to...his spokesman, "...go to Bethlehem. Find a certain man...who lives there, because I have selected one of his sons to be my new king...Invite him to worship* me, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint* for me." So the spokesman did as God instructed him...and invited them...*

1 Samuel 16:6-7

When they arrived, God's spokesman took one look at the first son and thought, "Surely this is the one God wants as king!" But God said to him, "...I have rejected him. I do not make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but God looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."

1 Samuel 16:10-13

...All seven of the sons were presented to God's spokesman. But the spokesman said..."God has not chosen any of these." Then he asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," the father replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep." When this son was brought in, God told his spokesman, "This is the one I choose." So as David stood there among his brothers, the spokesman anointed his head with oil. And the Spirit of God came on David.*

Why This Story?

This story has been a powerful first story in a David mini-set that can be used alone or as part of a longer story set. This story has been used effectively in a *Purpose* story set. It has also been used in another version in a *Restored Relationship (ST4T)* story set.

This story shows that God had a purpose for David from the very beginning, and that his purpose was based on the fact that David had a heart that was ready to follow him—not on his talents, physical prowess, or station in life. This story also sets up the foundation for the rest of the David stories—his rise to power, his sin, and his reconciliation to God.

This story shows that God reveals himself and his will, talks to people, knows the thoughts and intentions of people, makes decisions differently than people do, calls out individuals for his purposes, and that his Spirit comes upon people to help them do the task he's given them.

Story Crafting

We omitted some names for ease of remembering and retelling, but if you find that it is too difficult to say 'God's spokesman' throughout this story, you may include Samuel's name. We simplified the reason for Samuel going to Bethlehem as *to worship* in order for the story to be easier to remember and retell, and to avoid detracting from the main plotline.

We simplified the section of the story in which all seven of the sons were presented to Samuel. If it is helpful to include this portion as a storytelling device, i.e. your audience really likes repetition and hearing that each son, in

turn, was rejected, then you can include that section in your story.

Words/Phrases to Consider

God's Spirit*

You can translate this term directly as *God's Spirit*. The specific meaning here is that David was possessed suddenly and fully by God's Spirit. In other words, God 'qualified him to be governor of his people, by infusing such graces as wisdom, prudence, counsel, courage, liberality, and magnanimity' (Adam Clarke's commentary). The Hebrew *ruach* [spirit] can have the physical meanings 'wind' or 'breath.' It can also mean 'power' or 'authority' that God gives to someone to do extraordinary things.

In the audio version of the Indian *Purpose* stories, we have chosen to say that *God was with David* because we believe that a non-believing audience will better understand that terminology at this early point in the story set.

Spokesperson*

Choose a term for prophet that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet: receives a call from God; takes God's message to men because he has been given it by God himself; has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men. We chose 'spokesman' because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted connotation of a fortune-teller. If you use a religious term, be sure that the average hearer will understand it.

Worship*

Worship's foundation is the idea of 'service,' shown through showing awe

and wonder to God (*IVP New Bible Dictionary*). Patriarchs thought this worship could take place anywhere God had revealed himself. The Old Testament sets up a complicated sacrificial system in the Temple. Jesus made it clear that this sacrificial system of worship was no longer necessary, and that our worship was based on our love for God. Different cultures and languages have different words for worship, some of which refer only to certain ceremonies or rituals one must do. In every story in this story set where ‘worship’ is used, it implies more than just performing rituals; it includes the heart of love, awe and wonder of the worshiper for God. Be sure that the word or combination of words you choose for worship includes this idea.

Anoint*

Anointing in the Old Testament signified an act of God in which someone received divine favor or appointment to a special place, service or function in the purpose of God (especially for kingship). It often is associated with God’s Spirit being given. In this case, a man appointed by God performed the act. He filled his horn (a ram’s horn) with oil and poured the oil on David’s head. If the people in your area have a similar ceremony (with an appropriate word to go along with it) to appoint someone to a special task, you could use the phrase ‘anointed his head (with oil).’ If they don’t, you could say something like, ‘He poured oil on his head to appoint him/show him as the next king.’

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use consistent terms for **God’s Spirit**, **Anoint**, **Worship**, and **Spokesman**. If this is the first story in your story set, you may use the transition given here. If this is not the first story, you need to

transition appropriately from the previous story.

Worldview

In this biblical culture, more importance was placed on the oldest son in a family. It is not surprising that Samuel, and perhaps the rest of the family, would have been confused that God chose the youngest son to be the next king.

Story Set Themes

Purpose

Relationship/Restored Relationship

Leadership

Holy Spirit/God’s Spirit

King/Kingdom

Obedience

Family

2 Samuel 2, 8, 11, 23- Mighty Men

**2 Samuel 2:18; 8:16; 11:3; 23:8-10;
13-18**

Based on NLT

Introduction

After David was anointed as king, it was a long time before he actually became king of God's people. In the meantime, he became a mighty warrior, fighting against God's enemies and for his people. David was a commander of a group of fighting men, and more successful in battle than any other leader. He was famous throughout the land. He would lead his troops against God's enemies, and attack with such fury that they would run.

2 Samuel 23:8

David had an elite group of fighting men, called "The Thirty," who were his close companions and supported him in becoming king later on.

2 Samuel 23:34, 39 (2 Samuel 11:3)

These men were from different families, and had different talents, but they all were loyal to David. One man, Eliam, fought alongside his son-in-law, Uriah.

2 Samuel 23:9-10

Another one of The Thirty was a man who stood once with David in battle when the entire army had fled. This man killed enemies until his hand was too tired to lift his sword, and God gave a great victory that day. The rest of the army did not return until it was time to collect the plunder.

2 Samuel 23:18

There were two brothers who were part of The Thirty. One of these brothers was the leader of The Thirty. He once used his spear to kill 300 enemy warriors in a single battle.

2 Samuel 2:18

The other brother could run like a deer.

2 Samuel 23:18, 2 Samuel 8:16

They had another brother, Joab, who wasn't part of The Thirty, but later became the main general in David's army, when David became king.

2 Samuel 23:13-17

Once God's enemies had occupied the town of Bethlehem, which had been David's hometown. David was on a fortified hill and three of The Thirty mighty men went to where David was. While they were there David happened to make a longing comment: "Oh how I would love some of that good water from the well in Bethlehem, the one by the gate." So three of the group of The Thirty who had come to see him broke through the enemy lines, drew some water from the well, and brought it back to David. But he refused to drink it. Instead he poured it out as an offering to God.

He said: "God, I could never drink this! It would be like drinking the blood of these men who risked their lives to bring it to me!" So David did not drink it. These are examples of the brave deeds of the Thirty Mighty Men of God's People, the elite group who were David's companions in battle.

Why This Story?

This story has been a powerful second story in a David mini-set that can be used alone or as part of a longer story set. This story has been used effectively in a *Purpose* story set. This story, as part of the David mini-set within the larger *Purpose* story set, shows that God had a purpose for David from the very beginning, and that his purpose was based on the fact that David had a heart that was ready to follow him—not on his talents, physical prowess, or station in life. Even his men saw this and therefore were profoundly loyal to him. This story also sets up the foundation for the rest of the David stories---his rise to power, his sin, and his reconciliation to God.

Story Crafting

This story has been crafted for you because of its composite nature.

You may use whatever title for *The Thirty* that you choose (e.g. *The Thirty*, *The Mighty Men*, *David's Elite*, etc.), providing that it is used consistently.

We've used *God's people* in place of *Abraham's descendants*, or "Israelites" because in the Purpose story set we haven't set up previous stories to connect Abraham or the name "Israel" to this people. You should use whatever name you are planning to consistently use for the Israelites throughout your story set, and be sure your audience understands the title for this people group.

We've specifically named Eliam, Uriah, and Joab because they appear in later stories and help the audience understand the depth of David's betrayal in subsequent stories. Although your audience may not

understand why they are learning these names, we've found the realization of who Bathsheba is in later stories to be very powerful for the audience. If your audience is already familiar with the *David and Bathsheba* story, you may choose to name Eliam and Uriah at the end of this story for 'shock value.'

When David says that drinking the water *would be like drinking the blood of these men*, he is saying that he recognizes that these men have risked their lives to obtain this water. You should say this in such a way that your audience will understand what David meant.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to keep the title for *God's people* consistent throughout your stories, so that the audience understands that the epic storyline of the Bible takes place within one people group.

This story is best understood told within a David mini-set, especially as it connects Eliam and Uriah with the *David and Bathsheba* story.

Worldview

David's men and the original audience understood that his refusal to drink the water was an act of respect for his men and worship to God. If your audience does not understand this, ensure that you discuss this in the discussion time.

Story Set Themes

Purpose
Relationship
Leadership

2 Samuel 7-Promise to David

2 Samuel 5:4; 7:1-16, 18-26

Based on NLT

2 Samuel 5:4

Many years passed and David did become the new king. God had brought peace to his land...

2 Samuel 7:1-3

When King David was settled in his palace...*he* summoned Nathan, *God's spokesman**. "Look," David said, "I am living in a beautiful...palace, but *God's presence* is out there in a tent!" Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, *because God* is with you."

2 Samuel 7:4-10

But that same night *God* said to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what *God* has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in?...I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people...I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth!...

2 Samuel 7:11-16

"*'In fact, you won't make a house for me, but I will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings that will last forever!* If *your descendants sin**, I will...discipline *them*...like any father would do. But...your house and your kingdom will continue...for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.' "

2 Samuel 7:17

So Nathan went back to David and told him everything *God* had said in this vision*.

2 Samuel 7:18-26

Then King David went in and sat before *God* and prayed, "Who am I, O *God*...that you have brought me this far? And now, *Oh God*, in addition to everything else, you speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty!...And now, O...*God*, I am your servant; do as you have promised concerning me and my family...And may your name be honored forever so that everyone will *praise you!*

Why This Story?

This is an optional third story in the David mini-set that is used as a part of the larger *Purpose* story set. You may use this story if you would like to establish that David's purpose went beyond his own life, or if you would like to set up the idea of Jesus coming as King, which is a good complement to the later *Son of Man* story found in the *Purpose* set. This story also affirms the special relationship God had with David, thus setting up the shock of the *David and Bathsheba* story for your audience.

This story shows God's extraordinary love in that he doesn't require lavish gifts from us in order for him to lavish gifts on us. He has the ability to bring people from a lowly background into extraordinary places where they can fulfill his purposes.

This story gives us a beautiful example of a servant of God accepting God's plan for him and praising him for it.

The audio version of this story has not yet been recorded.

Story Crafting

We've used Nathan's name in this story because it appears later in *Nathan's Story*. You may need to indicate that Nathan is not the same person as the spokesman in the Anointing story by saying something like "*he summoned Nathan, another of God's spokesmen...*".

If your descendants sin refers to God's warning to David's offspring that if they don't obey God, they will be punished. Although the word referring to *descendants* used here in the biblical text is singular, it is widely understood to refer to all of David's offspring, so we have included that implicit information in our story.

We changed 'ark of the covenant' to ***God's presence***, because many audiences will not have heard the story of Moses or the ark. The ark of the covenant was the place where ***God's presence*** inhabited. If your audience is familiar with the ark and its story, you may keep its reference in this story. Your audience may understand the reference to God's presence needing or having a place to stay, but if not, you may say something like *It isn't right that I have such a big and beautiful house, but God doesn't have one.*

We've omitted most of the dialogue related to why David would not be building God a house, including the prophecy that his son would do that in his place. We wanted God's promise of an everlasting kingdom to David to remain the focus of this story.

David refers to himself as God's servant. If your audience does not understand that David is referring to himself rather than to a third party, you may say something like *me, his servant.*

Words/Phrases to Consider

Spokesman*

Choose a term for 'prophet' that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet:

1. receives a call from God;
2. takes God's message to men because he had been given it by God himself;
3. has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men.

We chose 'spokesman' because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted connotation of a fortuneteller. If you use a religious

term, be sure that it has meaning that the average hearer will understand.

Vision*

Visions refer to a supernatural experience in which a divine revelation is given to a person when they are awake, whereas ‘dreams’ are what God causes people to see when they are asleep. If your language only has one word for ‘vision’ and ‘dream,’ you may want to specify whether the person was awake or asleep when they received the message from God.

Sin*

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word you use here does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.). If necessary, you can use ‘disobedience.’

Intra-Story Cohesion

This story is an optional third story in the David mini-set. If you use this story, you may use references to God’s promise to David throughout the New Testament stories about Jesus, (eg. when Jesus is referred to as ‘the son of David’)

Use the same words for **spokesman**, **sin**, and **vision** that you have used in other stories.

This story is best understood told within a David mini-story set, and in a story set in which you will be referring to Jesus as the fulfillment of this promise to David.

This story will not be well understood unless your audience has heard the *David’s Anointing* story.

Worldview

Your audience may not be familiar with a ‘throne’ or with the figure of speech ‘your throne will be secure’. If not, you may choose to say *your kingdom will be secure*.

Story Set Themes

Purpose

Relationship/Restored Relationship

Leadership

Holy Spirit/God’s Spirit

King/Kingdom

Obedience

God Speaks

2 Samuel 11-David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:1-18, 22-27

Based on NLT

Transition

Many years passed, and God was with David, both in times of war and times of peace.

2 Samuel 11:1

One time, in the spring, the time of year when kings go to war, David sent...his army to fight...But David stayed behind...

2 Samuel 11:2-5

Late one afternoon David got out of bed after taking a nap and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a *beautiful woman* taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the...wife of Uriah and daughter of Eliam, *some of your most trusted soldiers.*" Then David sent for her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her...Then she returned home. Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent a message to David to let him know, *and there was no doubt that the baby was his.*

2 Samuel 11:6-13

So David sent word to Joab, *the commander of his army, to send her husband home.* When he arrived, David asked Uriah how...the war was *going.* Then he told him to go home and relax...But he didn't go home. He stayed that night at the palace entrance with some of the king's other servants. When David heard what Uriah had done, he...asked him,

"...Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" He replied, "*The army is sleeping out in the fields. How could I go home and relax?...*" So David told him to stay another night...David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance.

2 Samuel 11:14-17

So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. The letter *told the commander,* "Place this soldier on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." So, Joab *did as he was told.* And Uriah was killed along with several other...soldiers.

2 Samuel 11:18, 22-25

Then Joab sent a messenger with a battle report to David. He told him that *Bathsheba's husband had been killed along with others...* "Well, tell the commander not to be discouraged," David said. "*People are killed in battle! Fight harder next time...!*"

2 Samuel 11:26-27

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. When the period of mourning was over, David...brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. *Later* she gave birth to a son. But God was very displeased with what David had done.

Why This Story?

This story has been a powerful third (or fourth) story in a David mini-set that can be used alone or as part of a longer story set. This story has been used effectively in a *Purpose* story set as part of the progression of David's life—his call from God, his betrayal of God and of his friends, and his repentance and reconciliation with God. This story also shows that no matter the relationship God has with someone, he is very displeased with sin.

Story Crafting

We chose not to refer to the ark of the covenant when Uriah responds to David because it is an unknown concept that would require a great deal of explanation that could confuse the audience.

‘and there was no doubt that the baby was his’

This is added to the story, based on the text's explanation: ‘She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period.’ The text includes this information to prove that the baby must have been David's—it wasn't her husband's baby.

‘spring’

Not all cultures have seasons, nor would they equate spring with the time kings go off to war. You may want to rephrase this to say something like, ‘It was the time of year when kings normally went off to war...’

‘he slept with her’

Many languages have euphemisms for sexual relationships. Use a term appropriate and not offensive for your audience.

‘period of mourning’

Some cultures may or may not have this period: if not, you could just say ‘after that;’ if so, you could use the name for the culture's period of mourning if it's comparable to this.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Although this story could be used as a stand-alone story, it is best understood and most powerful within the context of a David mini-story set in which David's special relationship with God is set up in previous stories, and David's repentance and God's reconciliation with David is shown in subsequent stories.

Worldview

This story seems to be particularly problematic in some Muslim cultures because it portrays David, a respected ‘prophet,’ sinning. At times the audience will no longer listen to the stories because of this. This story was chosen to show David's restored relationship with God through his repentance. Others have chosen to replace the *David* stories with stories from the life of Joseph or stories from the book of Job to show broken and restored relationship in a more worldview sensitive manner. Those who choose to do this realize they cannot avoid negative reactions to biblical stories, but they choose to build as many ‘bridges’ in the early stages of the story set as possible so that their audience will have an opportunity to hear and respond to the redemptive work of Jesus later in the story set.

Story Set Themes

Purpose

Relationship

Leadership

Repentance

2 Samuel 12-Nathan's story

2 Samuel 12:1-18, 24-25

Based on NLT

Transition

Because God was displeased with what David had done...

2 Samuel 12:1-4

He sent his spokesman Nathan to tell David this story: "There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. The rich man owned many sheep and cattle. The poor man owned nothing but a little lamb.... He raised and took care of it as if it was one of his own children...One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing one of his own lambs, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and served it to his guest."*

2 Samuel 12:5-6

David was furious...He said, "Any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole...."

2 Samuel 12:7-12

Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! God...says, 'I anointed you king.... I gave you an entire kingdom. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. Why, then, have you disobeyed me and done this horrible thing? You murdered a man and stole his wife. Because you have treated God with contempt, from this time on, violence will always be in your family.... What you did secretly will happen to you in the open.'"*

2 Samuel 12:13-14

Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against God." Nathan replied, "Yes, but God has forgiven* you, and you won't die for this sin. But because of what you have done, your child will die."*

2 Samuel 12:15-18

After Nathan returned to his home, God made Bathsheba's baby very sick. David begged God to heal the child...but seven days later the baby died...

2 Samuel 12:24-25

...David comforted Bathsheba...and then slept with her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon...And God loved him so much that he made him king after David.

Why This Story?

This story has been a powerful fourth (or fifth) story in a David mini-set that can be used alone or as part of a longer story set. This story has been used effectively in a *Purpose* story set as part of the progression of David's life—his call from God, his betrayal of God and of his friends, and his repentance and reconciliation with God.

This story also shows that when God confronts sin he can use his spokesmen and stories. Although he forgives and is merciful, he does not always allow us to escape the consequences of our sin. He also keeps his promises...as can be seen that God kept his promise to David by continuing his dynasty, even though David sinned.

Story Crafting

Repay four lambs...for the one he stole

This is the usual punishment for stealing a sheep. See Exodus 22:1. This shows that David thought he was listening to a real case.

disobeyed me

Some people find it difficult to address the concept of disobedience to God when the actions of disobedience have not been addressed in a Moses story in which the Law has been given. If you find that you need to make clearer what the acts of disobedience against God were in this story, you could make it explicit by saying something like *because you have disobeyed me by murdering and committing adultery*.

We have left out certain details about what David did during the time the baby

was sick (praying and fasting) to tighten the main plotline of the story and to avoid detracting from our goals in telling this story.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Spokesman*

Choose a term for 'prophet' that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet:

1. receives a call from God;
2. takes God's message to men because he had been given it by God himself;
3. has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men.

We chose *spokesman* because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted connotation of a fortuneteller. If you use a religious term, be sure that it has meaning that the average hearer will understand.

Anoint*

Anointing in the Old Testament signified an act of God in which someone received divine favor or appointment to a special place, service, or function in the purpose of God (especially for kingship). Anointing was often associated with God's Spirit being given.

Sin*

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word you use here does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.). If necessary, you can use *disobedience*.

Forgive*

Some languages do not have an adequate word for 'forgive.' If that is the case, understanding what 'forgiveness' means

is imperative to translating it correctly. Forgiveness involves two people, one of whom has done something wrong to the other and offended him. The one who was offended sets aside his rights and does not punish the other as he deserves. If the other accepts the forgiveness, the relationship between the two is restored and the guilt is removed.

Intra-Story Cohesion

This story will be best understood and most powerful when told in the context of a David mini-story set. Your audience will not understand this story unless they have heard the previous *David and Bathsheba* story.

Some people have chosen to do a meditative reading, song, or poem based on Psalm 51 in this point in their story set. You may choose to do this, especially if you want to model different ways of worship based on Scripture.

Worldview

Some cultures don't think God forgave David because he still allowed the baby to die. Some people are confused that God would allow an innocent baby to die for David's sin, rather than David being punished himself. It should be clear in your story that God did indeed forgive David.

Story Set Themes

Relationship

Purpose

Repentance

Leadership

Forgiveness