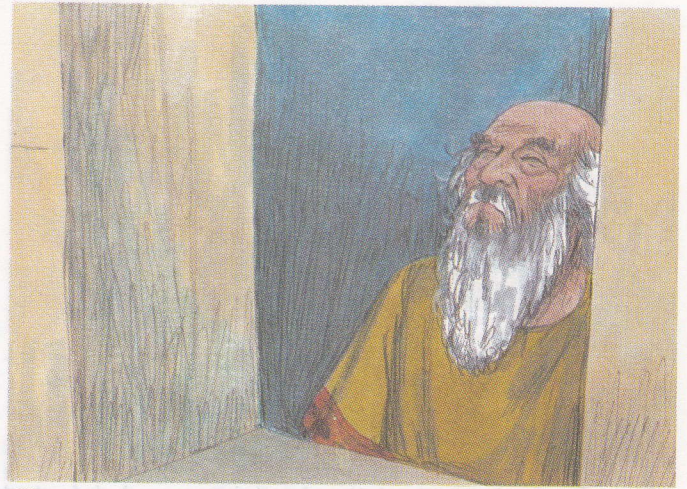


The Lord Chooses David



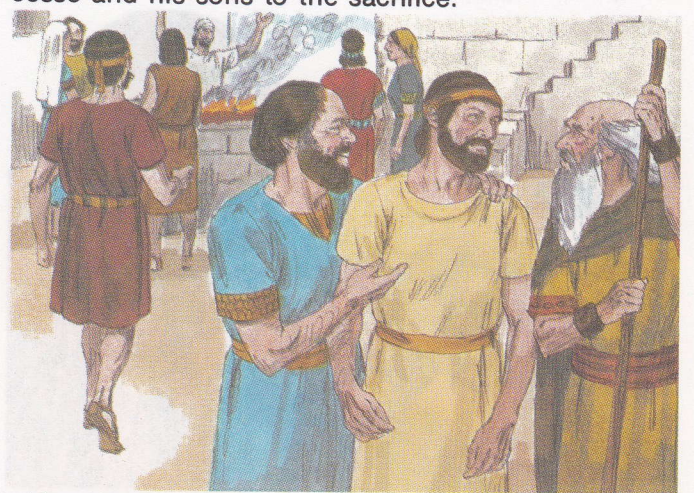
1 The Lord rejected Saul as king because of his disobedience. Then he said to Samuel, "Go to Bethlehem to a man named Jesse. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."



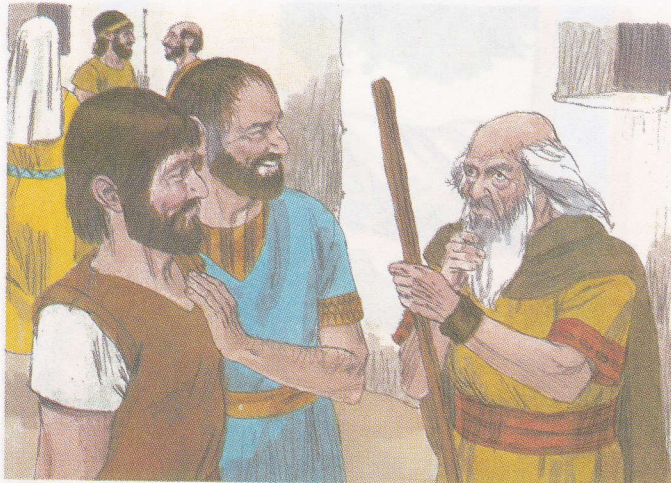
2 "How can I?" Samuel replied. "If Saul finds out, he will kill me." God said, "Take a calf and say that you have come to offer a sacrifice. Then invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice."



3 The leaders of Bethlehem were frightened, but Samuel reassured them by saying he had come to make a sacrifice. And as the Lord had instructed him, he invited Jesse and his sons.



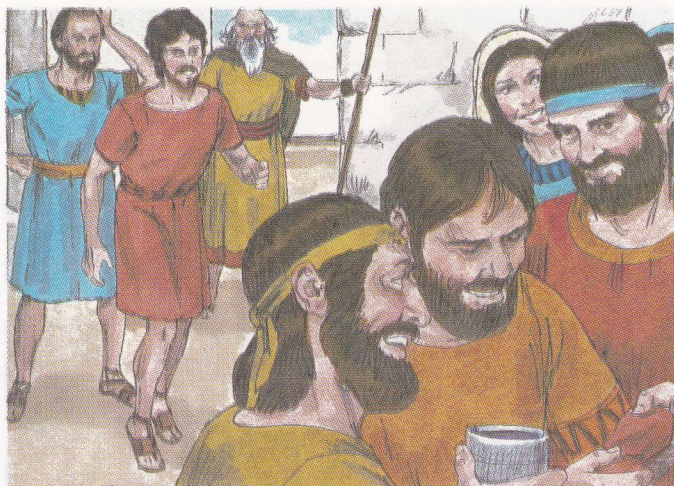
4 When they arrived, Samuel was impressed by the oldest son. But the Lord said, "I do not look at how handsome he is but at his heart. This is not the one."



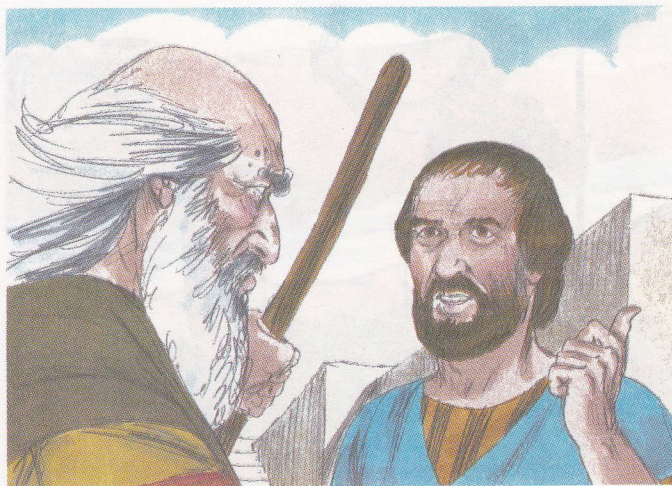
5 Then Jesse called his next son Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this son either."



6 Next Jesse had Shammah pass by Samuel. But the prophet said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either."



7 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel in this way. But Samuel always said, "This is not the one God has chosen." Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"



8 "There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." "Send for him," Samuel said. "We will wait on the sacrifice until he gets here."



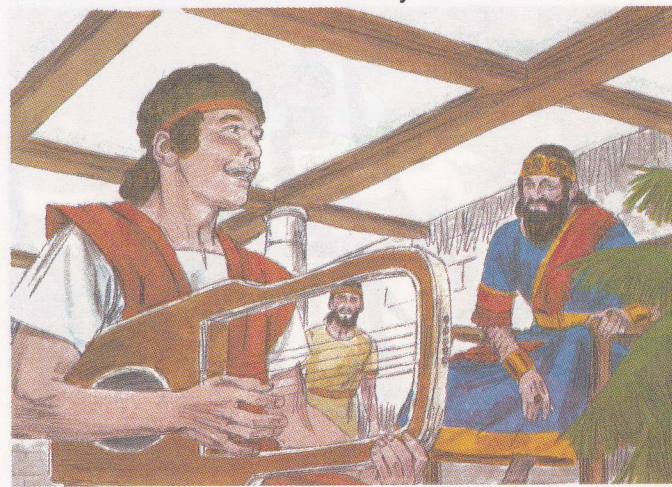
9 Finally the youngest son, whose name was David, arrived. He was strong and healthy and had sparkling eyes. The Lord said to Samuel, "This is the one — anoint him!"



10 Samuel took the olive oil he had brought with him and anointed David in front of his brothers. Immediately the spirit of the Lord came upon David and was with him from that day on.



11 But the Lord's spirit had left Saul, and an evil spirit troubled him. His servants suggested he find someone to play the harp for him to cheer him up. One of them suggested David.



12 So Saul sent for David, who played his harp whenever Saul was troubled. The music always made Saul feel better. Saul was so pleased with David that he chose him as his armor-bearer.