

## GOD THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## UNIT ONE: God's Heroes

**Lesson 7: How David was Anointed**

## CONTENT:

1. God told the Prophet Samuel to go and anoint one of Jesse's sons as king. Samuel thought that the eldest son was right for the job because he was tall and handsome, but God had chosen David, the youngest.
2. When David was anointed the Spirit of God came upon him and made him strong. He was now able to be a 'shepherd' to the whole of Israel.
- 😊 3. People look at outer appearances, but God looks at the heart. If our hearts are for God, he is able to use us for his kingdom.
4. Before Jesus went back to heaven he met Peter and asked him if he loved him. Then he told him to take care of his sheep. He was making him the main shepherd over all his people, that is, the Church. Peter was our first pope. [CCC553]
5. God also chose eleven other 'apostles' to help Peter. The apostles took care of God's people and then anointed other men to take their place. They are called bishops. Each bishop is like a shepherd, looking after his flock, that is, God's people. [CCC1586]
- 😊 6. Our bishop cares for us and helps us follow Jesus. We thank God for him and respect and cooperate with him. [CCC1586]

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Find out and write the names of our Pope and Bishop.

REFERENCES: 1Samuel 13:14; 16:1-13. John 21:15-17.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; a chocolate and a sweet (*wrapped as explained below*); materials for making posters: pencils, markers/crayons, chart paper.

**I. STARTER:**

*[Wrap a milk chocolate in a simple package and an ordinary boiled sweet in a fancy wrapping. Place them on the table and ask for a volunteer. Ask him (or her) to choose one of the packages. Bring out:]*

- Most of us would have chosen the fancy package, because we think, 'The wrapping is very nice, so there must be something nice inside.'
- If you had x-ray eyes and could see right through the paper, you would know what was inside and would choose what you like.
- The same thing happens with other things. You might tell your father, 'Let's go to that restaurant for lunch! It looks so nice.' But the food may not be so tasty.
- Or you may look at someone and say, "She looks so pretty and has such nice clothes! I want to be her friend!" But later you may find that she is not very kind or loving.
- There is one person who does have x-ray eyes. He can look right through a person and see his heart. Do you know who can do that? Superman? [God]  
Let's listen to a story about how God chose someone to be king by looking at his heart.

**II. DEVELOPMENT:**

- Do you remember David, the shepherd boy? What was his father's name? [Jesse] How many brothers did David have? [7]  
David lived in a town called Bethlehem. One day, someone very important came to their town.

It was Samuel, the prophet of God. Everyone had heard of Samuel! God used to talk to him and he would even tell the king what to do. Not long ago, he had taken a sword and killed one of their enemies.

The leaders of Bethlehem hurried out to meet him Samuel. They were afraid that maybe God had sent him to punish them for something wrong they had done.

“What have you come here for? Have you come in peace?” they asked.

But Samuel said, “Don’t worry, I have only come to offer this bull as a sacrifice to God.” (He had a young bull with him.) “Make yourselves clean, and come for the sacrifice!”

Samuel sent a message to Jesse too: “Make yourself and your sons clean, and come for the sacrifice!”

Jesse was very proud to get a special invitation. He called his sons and they washed themselves and got ready for the sacrifice. After the sacrifice there would be a feast for everyone.

David was excited that he would see the great prophet and join the others for the feast. But his father said, “No David. You are too young. And anyway if you come, who will take care of the sheep?” So David sadly watched his father and big brothers dress up and go off, and then he took his staff and guided his sheep out to the hills.

After the sacrifice was made and the prayers over, Samuel said to Jesse, “Before we eat, I would like to meet your sons!” So Jesse told his sons to come near, and he began to introduce them one by one. The eldest was Eliab. He was tall and handsome and strong.

Samuel sat looking at him for some time. Now the real reason why Samuel had come was to choose a new king for Israel. God had told him, “I am not happy with King Saul’s behaviour. Take your horn of oil and go to Bethlehem. I want you to anoint one of his sons to be the new king of Israel.”

As Samuel looked at Eliab he thought, “This young man is just right to be king! He looks just like a king and he is the eldest!” He was just about to take out his horn of oil, when he heard God’s voice in his mind saying, ‘No Samuel, don’t look at how tall or strong or handsome he is. He’s not the one. You look at the outside, but I look at the heart!’

So Samuel said to Jesse, “Show me your second son!” But God was quiet, and Samuel knew that he was not the one God had chosen. All the seven sons of Jesse came to meet Samuel, but God had not chosen any of them.

Now Samuel was confused. God had told him, “Anoint one of Jesse’s sons, and he hadn’t chosen any of them. He asked Jesse, “Are you sure all your sons are here?”

Jesse said, “There is one more, but he’s just a boy. He’s looking after the sheep.”

“Then send someone to call him at once! We will not eat until he comes!”

One of the brothers ran as fast as he could and searched for David, while everyone waited, wondering what the prophet was up to. Why did he want to see David? What would he do to him?

As soon as David came in, a young boy in his simple shepherd’s clothes, Samuel heard God’s voice, “Get up and anoint him, for he is the one!”

Everyone was shocked at what happened next. Samuel took his horn of holy oil and poured it on David’s head. He put his hand on him and prayed. As the oil fell on David, the Spirit of God came into him. He became strong inside! At the right time he would become king of Israel. Instead of looking after sheep, he would become the shepherd of all God’s people!

### III. REFLECTION/DRAMA:

- Why do you think God chose David, and not Eliab? What do you think he saw in David’s heart? [*Accept students’ suggestions. Bring out:*] God must have seen that David’s heart was for God. He loved God. He also knew what a good shepherd he was, and how well he took care of his sheep. He must have thought, ‘This young man will also take good care of my people!’

- If your heart is for God, and if you try to do what he wants, he will be able to use you for his kingdom. Let's ask God to give us hearts that are pleasing to him.

*[Students could place their right hands over their hearts and pray:]*

Lord, please bless me./ Give me a heart that loves you and makes you happy. /  
 Help me to do my work well. / Bless me also with your Holy Spirit /  
 and let me serve you./ Amen.

#### NEXT CLASS:

*[Give out handouts. Students read the first section and fill in the missing words with the help of the teacher:]*

1. God told the prophet Samuel to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king.
2. Samuel thought that Eliab would be right because he looked like a king, but God said, "People look at the outside, but God looks at the heart."
3. Finally God chose David, the youngest son. Samuel anointed his head with oil and the Spirit of God came into him.

- We heard that Jesus called himself a good shepherd. Is it true? How does he take care of us?  
*[He watches over us, hears our prayers etc.]*

But God also had another way of looking after us, his flock. One day, after he had died and risen from the dead, Jesus met Peter and the other disciples when they were out fishing. He gave them breakfast and then he called Peter to one side for a special one-to-one talk. Jesus looked straight into Peter's eyes and asked him a question, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter knew that Jesus could see his heart. He answered, "Yes Lord, you know everything! You know I love you!" Then Jesus said, "Feed my lambs!" Three times, Jesus asked Peter the same question and each time Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love you!" And Jesus kept telling him, "Feed my sheep! Look after them!" Then Peter realised that Jesus wanted him to be a good shepherd and care for his people.

Peter became the first Pope, or Holy Father. The other apostles also helped Peter to care for the people. Before they died, they anointed other men to take over their work. We call these anointed men bishops.

For 2000 years God has looked after his flock with the help of the Pope and the other bishops. He wants us to cooperate with them and respect them because they stand for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Have you ever seen our bishop when he celebrates a special mass? He also carries a long stick, just like a shepherd's crook.

*[Students read the second half of the handout and fill in the missing words with the help of the teacher.]*

1. Before Jesus went away to heaven he met Peter and chose him to be the shepherd of his people. He became the first pope.
2. Jesus also chose eleven other apostles to help care for his people.
3. The apostles anointed other men to take their place. They were called bishops.

#### IV. ACTIVITY

*[Students make posters with the words: PEOPLE LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE, BUT GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART. They illustrate it using sketches. ]*

**Home assignment:**

- x Read handout at home.
- x Find out and write the names of our Holy Father and Bishop.