

Bible Verse: 1Samuel 16:7b

“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Last week, our story was about Ruth, who cared for her mother-in-law Naomi and chose to worship the one God of Israel.

Today’s story is about Ruth’s great-grandson, whose name is David. It happens about a thousand years before Jesus.

David is living in Bethlehem with his father Jesse and his seven brothers. David is the youngest brother, and he likes to spend his time in the fields watching his father’s sheep. He protects the sheep. He plays music on his harp and he makes up songs to praise God.

One day while David is out with the sheep, his father and his brothers have an important meeting with a prophet named Samuel. God has sent Samuel to choose a future King for Israel. God tells Samuel that the new King will be one of the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem, but God does not tell Samuel which son it is.

At first, Samuel is sure that the oldest son Eliab is the one to choose. Eliab is tall and strong and good-looking, like Samuel thinks a King should be. But God rejects Eliab. God says he is searching for the right heart inside the new King.

Jesse calls his next son Abinadab and has him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel says, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Jesse then has Shammah pass by, and one by one the rest of the seven sons, but Samuel says to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” So he asks Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answers. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel says, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

So Jesse sends for his youngest son and has him brought in. The Bible tells us that David is glowing with health and has a

fine appearance and handsome features. And the Lord sees that he has the right heart. God tells Samuel, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

So Samuel takes oil and anoints him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord comes powerfully upon David.

David will become a great King.

Wonder Question: If you were a shepherd and all you had to do was watch sheep all day, what would you do to pass the time?

