

PREPARING AT HOME

June 11-17, 2018

Focus reading: 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=389082319>)

Other lectionary readings: Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6–10, (11–13), 14–17; Mark 4:26–34

Theme: God's Role for Me

The people of Israel got the king they asked for when Saul was anointed; however, they were not pleased with Saul's leadership. God was not pleased either; and in this week's reading, God sends Samuel to find a new king. In the narrative that follows, we see how God chooses people for particular roles. Samuel is called to find and anoint the king of God's choice. Jesse is chosen to offer one of his sons as the future king, even though such an act is treasonous and could result in death. The elders are chosen to witness the anointing and thereby support his claim to kingship as legitimate. David's brothers are chosen to support David as king, even though social norms would have prevented the youngest brother from taking the throne. Finally, David is chosen to be the future ruler. Thus, a whole community of people are called to particular roles so that God's plan can be accomplished. It is a plan that defies cultural and social expectations and presents risks for those who agree to play their part in it. The Hebrew word *sama* appears in this passage. It means "to listen" or "to hear," but it also means "to obey." To answer the call of God, one must both listen and obey. When we do, we may find that we see things in new ways.

POSSIBILITIES AHEAD

Other people may have seen a little shepherd boy when they looked at David, but God saw the future king of Israel. What does your child see himself or herself doing in the future? Invite your child to draw pictures of his or her future-self.

PAPER BAG PEOPLE

Each person will need a small plain paper bag and crayons or markers for this activity. Lunch bags work well. On the outside of the bag, each person should draw things that others may see or notice about them. On separate sheets of paper, each person should draw or write things that describe what is on the "inside" – things that others can't tell by looking at them. Put those completed sheets of paper inside the bag. Share as each is willing. When we are with others, how can we remember that they too are more than what we see on the outside?

PRAYER

Loving God,
We give thanks that no matter how small
we are or how unimportant we may feel,
you know all about us and love us.
You choose us to do important work.
May we do what you need us to do with love and courage.
Amen.

*Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org
Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org*