

Teen Devotion

Year C – Epiphany 1

Uncovered



One truth shared: God identified that there was something special about David, some hidden potential. What was it? His anointing, like ours, purifies us and sets us on our course for greatness in God’s kingdom.

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

Uncovered Life Potential

What was it about David? What was it that was going on his heart that led God to choose him?

Maybe it was his bravery and courage. God knew about the bravery and courage that David would show in the face of Goliath. Maybe it was that.

Maybe it was his humility. God knew that David would humble himself beneath an evil king who constantly tried to kill him. Maybe it was humility.

But what if God saw the sin that David would eventually commit and the harm he would cause? God certainly saw the way that David was bent toward sexual sin. God certainly saw the way that David was prone to his own fits of anger. God knew David was proud in the depths of his heart.

God saw it all, both the good and the bad, the ugly and the beautiful. And this is the one whom he anointed to be the very next king.

Sometimes people say that God sees our potential more clearly than we do. Those people aren’t wrong. God has a plan for our lives, a plan to save us and a plan to use it.

But that’s not why God chooses us and anoints us. He chose and anointed Jesus for us because he is merciful and gracious. Then, he anoints us with water and the word in Baptism to cleanse our hearts and to make us his. Through Baptism he sets us on a course to carry out his plan in and through our lives.

Just as God chose David despite his sinful heart, so God has chosen and anointed you through Baptism. He has given you a clean heart and a powerful purpose.

Now, step into that purpose and serve him.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to see the purpose for which you have anointed me. You didn’t look at what I was capable of, but instead cleansed me and gave me power from your Spirit. Use me this year for your glory and good. Amen.

Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

Year C – Epiphany 1

Uncovered

One truth shared: God identified that there was something special about David, some hidden potential. What was it? His anointing, like ours, purifies us and sets us on our course for greatness in God’s kingdom.

Small but Significant

Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- Name at least one silly and one serious goal for this year.
- How hopeful are you to accomplish those goals? Why?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.*

- Which Bible character inspires you as you chase your goals? Why?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- God is choosing a replacement for the current King Saul. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.
- What do you think Samuel’s criteria for a replacement were?
- What do you think God’s criteria was for this replacement?
- What did God see in David? Identify both the good and the bad that David would accomplish during his life. (1 Samuel 16:7).
- What does God see in you? Be honest (at least with yourself).
- What happened when David was anointed? (1 Samuel 16:13)
- When did a similar anointing happen in your life? What happened there? Look at Titus 3:4-6.

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

- Discuss this modern proverb: God doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called.
- From what does our life’s potential come—our own abilities or the calling and anointing of God’s Spirit? What difference does this make?