



# DAVID'S ANOINTING



**1 SAMUEL 16:1-13**



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In 1 Samuel 16, God sends Samuel to anoint an unexpected king. God leads him to a small shepherd boy, overlooked by his family and forgotten in a field, to teach us all an important lesson, "the LORD looks at the heart."

**BIBLE READING:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**MEMORY VERSES:** "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or height, for I have rejected him; the LORD does not see as man does. For man sees the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart" - 1 Samuel 16:7.

## BACKGROUND TO 1 SAMUEL 16

The nation of Israel had asked for a king to lead them, like all the other nations (1 Samuel 8). Despite Samuel's warning about the cost of a monarchy, the Israelites insisted, leading to the anointment of Saul as the first king of Israel.

Initially, King Saul showed promise. Tall, handsome, and charismatic, Saul appeared to be everything Israel wanted in a king. However, as time progressed, Saul's true character emerged. He disobeyed God's direct commandments on at least two significant occasions: 1 Samuel 13 and 1 Samuel 15.

In this context of Saul's disobedience, God, in 1 Samuel 16:1, tells Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

God's instruction to Samuel to find a new king signifies a pivotal turning point. It's a shift from Saul's reign, characterized by a king representing the people's wants to a new reign led by a "man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14).

## KEY POINTS

### 1. GOD LOOKS BEYOND EXTERNAL APPEARANCES - 1 SAMUEL 16:7

We live in a world filled with the pressure to measure up to the "perfect" image. Have you felt the need to be more attractive, athletic, famous, or accomplished? Today's culture emphasizes external appearances, but God's perspective is drastically different.

Initially, Samuel, like any of us, was swayed by appearances. When he saw Eliab, Jesse's oldest son, he was sure he had found the next king. Eliab had the look — tall, handsome, the kind of person you'd expect to be a king. But God's choice was different.

God told Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or height, for I have rejected him; the LORD does not see as man does. For man sees the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Unlike us, God does not focus on who's the smartest, most athletic, or best-looking. Instead, He seeks those with hearts oriented towards Him, characterized by humility, love, and obedience.

## **2. YOU'RE NOT FORGOTTEN BY GOD - 1 SAMUEL 16:11-12**

Have you ever felt overlooked, like you're standing in the shadows while others around you are in the spotlight? Maybe you didn't get picked for the team, or you feel like an afterthought among your friends, or perhaps it seems like even your family doesn't notice you sometimes.

When Samuel arrived at Jesse's house to anoint the future king of Israel, Jesse presented seven of his sons. But God had rejected all of them. The one son who wasn't even considered, who was out tending the sheep, was the one God had chosen - David.

David, the shepherd boy, was ignored by his own family. But he was not overlooked by God.

Sometimes you may feel forgotten or less than, but remember, God sees you. He knows your worth, strengths, and talents and has a purpose for your life. In Matthew 10:30, Jesus said, "And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." That's how much God cares about every detail of your life.

You matter to God.

## **3. DEVELOP A HEART FOR GOD - 1 SAMUEL 16:7, 1 SAMUEL 13:14**

The key thing that set David apart from his brothers, and even King Saul, was the condition of his heart. Unlike his older brothers, who were physically impressive, or King Saul, who was head and shoulders above the rest in Israel, David was chosen to be king because he was a man "after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14).

This phrase means David had a heart that aligned with God's heart. He pursued a genuine relationship with God, sought God's will, and was committed to obeying God, even when it was challenging. He didn't just honour God with his words but also his actions and attitudes.

God told Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7, "The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." What mattered most to God wasn't David's appearance or physical strength but his heart's condition.

As believers, we're called to develop a heart for God, much like David. This means pursuing a relationship with God, seeking to know Him intimately through prayer and His word. It means aligning our desires with His, striving to obey His commands and seeking to glorify Him in all we do.

## **4. TRUST IN GOD'S TIMING - 1 SAMUEL 16:1, 1 SAMUEL 16:13**

We often want things to happen in our time frame, according to our plans. But, in 1 Samuel 16, we see that God's timing does not always align with ours, and that's good.

When God instructed Samuel to anoint young David, he didn't ascend the throne immediately. Instead, he returned to his life as a shepherd, a job that, unknown to him, was preparing him for his future role.

The skills David acquired as a shepherd, such as leadership, protection, and care for his flock, were the same skills he would later use to lead and care for God's people as king. This was no coincidence but a divine plan. David's "waiting period" was a preparation period, transforming David from a shepherd of sheep to a shepherd of a nation.

David is not the only biblical character whose story teaches us to trust God's timing. Joseph went from being sold into slavery by his brothers to becoming Egypt's second most powerful man. His journey wasn't easy and involved years of hardship and unjust imprisonment. But God used this time to refine Joseph's character and prepare him for his crucial role during the famine.

Likewise, Moses spent forty years in the wilderness tending sheep before God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. This period in the wilderness was a time of preparation as God moulded Moses into a leader.

God's timing in our lives is always perfect. If you find yourself in a season of waiting, remember it is a time of preparation, much like it was for David. God may be equipping you with the skills, knowledge, and experiences you'll need for the future.

## **CONCLUSION**

1 Samuel 16 reminds us that no one is overlooked or forgotten by God, and each of us has a unique and significant purpose in His plan. This chapter emphasizes the importance of developing a heart for God, seeking to know Him, and aligning our desires with His will. Be patient, trust His timing, and keep your heart turned towards Him.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

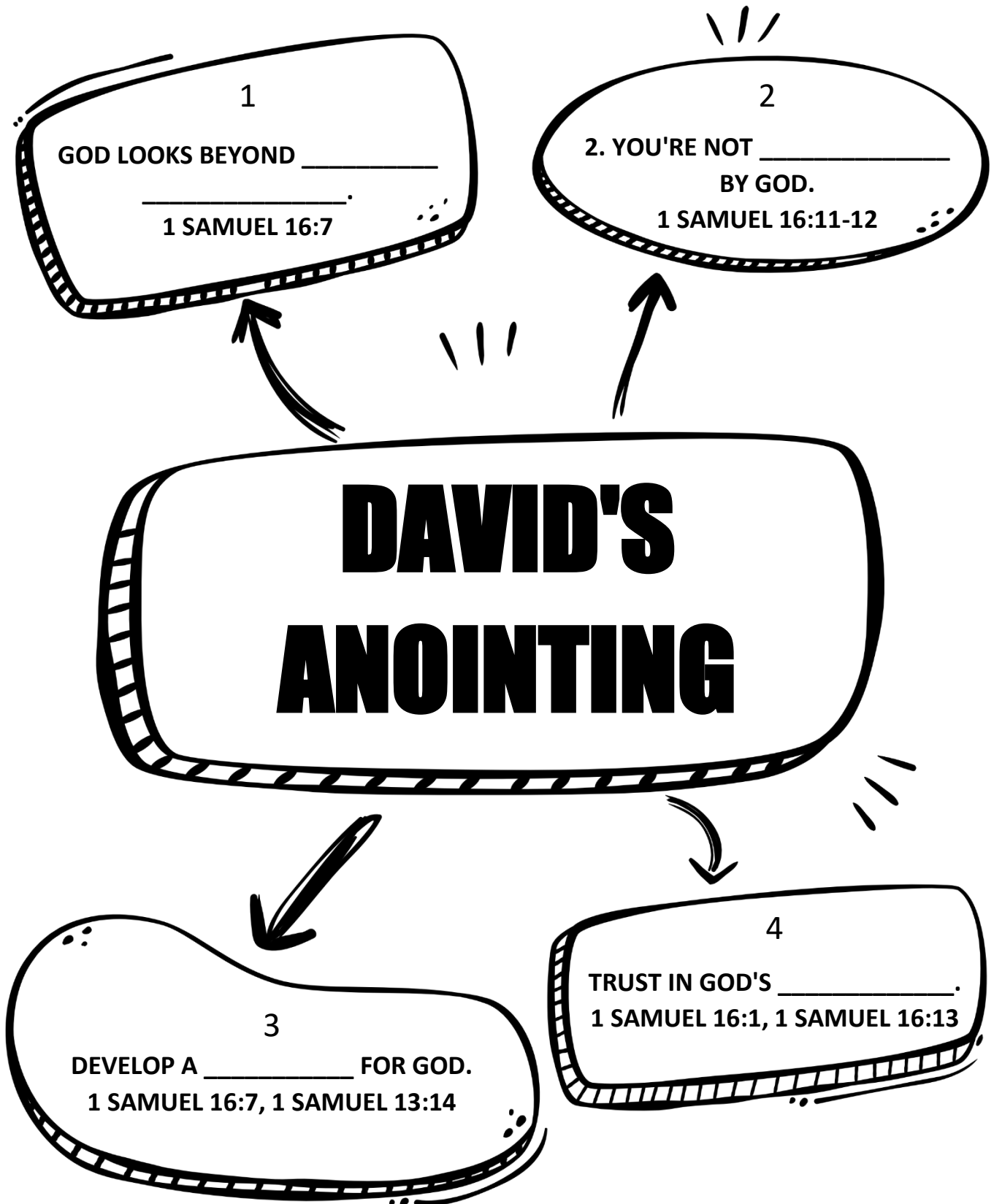
**WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO HAVE A "HEART FOR GOD"?**

**HOW CAN WE ALIGN OUR DESIRES WITH GOD'S WILL IN OUR DAILY LIFE?**

**HOW CAN WE AVOID JUDGING BASED ON EXTERNAL APPEARANCES?**

**WHY DO YOU THINK GOD ALLOWS US TO GO THROUGH PERIODS OF WAITING  
AND PREPARATION?**

# STUDY NOTES MIND MAP



# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

## HEART OF THE MATTER

**Materials needed:** Paper, markers, scissors.

**Instructions:**

1. Hand out paper and markers to each person.
2. Have everyone cut out a heart from the construction paper.
3. Ask them to write or draw on the heart something they feel represents their heart for God (could be a word, a scripture, a picture).
4. Once everyone is finished, allow them to share their hearts and why they chose what they did.
5. Reflect on 1 Samuel 16:7, emphasizing that God looks at the heart.

## SHEEP HERDING

**Materials needed:** Small soft balls or balloons (representing sheep), blindfolds.

**Instructions:**

1. Divide the group into pairs, and in each pair, one person is a shepherd (blindfolded).
2. Scatter the "sheep" (soft balls or balloons) around the room.
3. The shepherd must listen to the voice of their "guide" to guide them to pick up the "sheep" safely without stepping on them.
4. The pair that gathers the most sheep wins.
5. Relate this game back to David's role as a shepherd and how he needed to listen to God and care for his sheep, similar to how we must listen and follow God's voice.

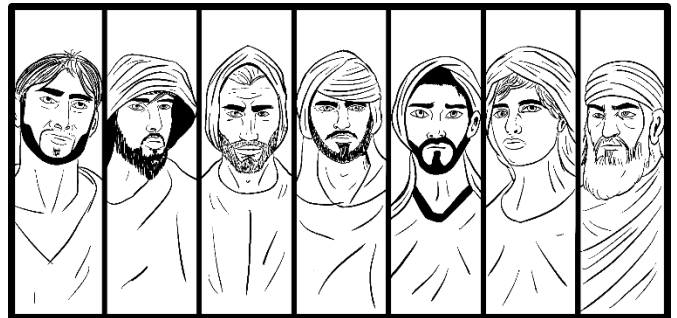
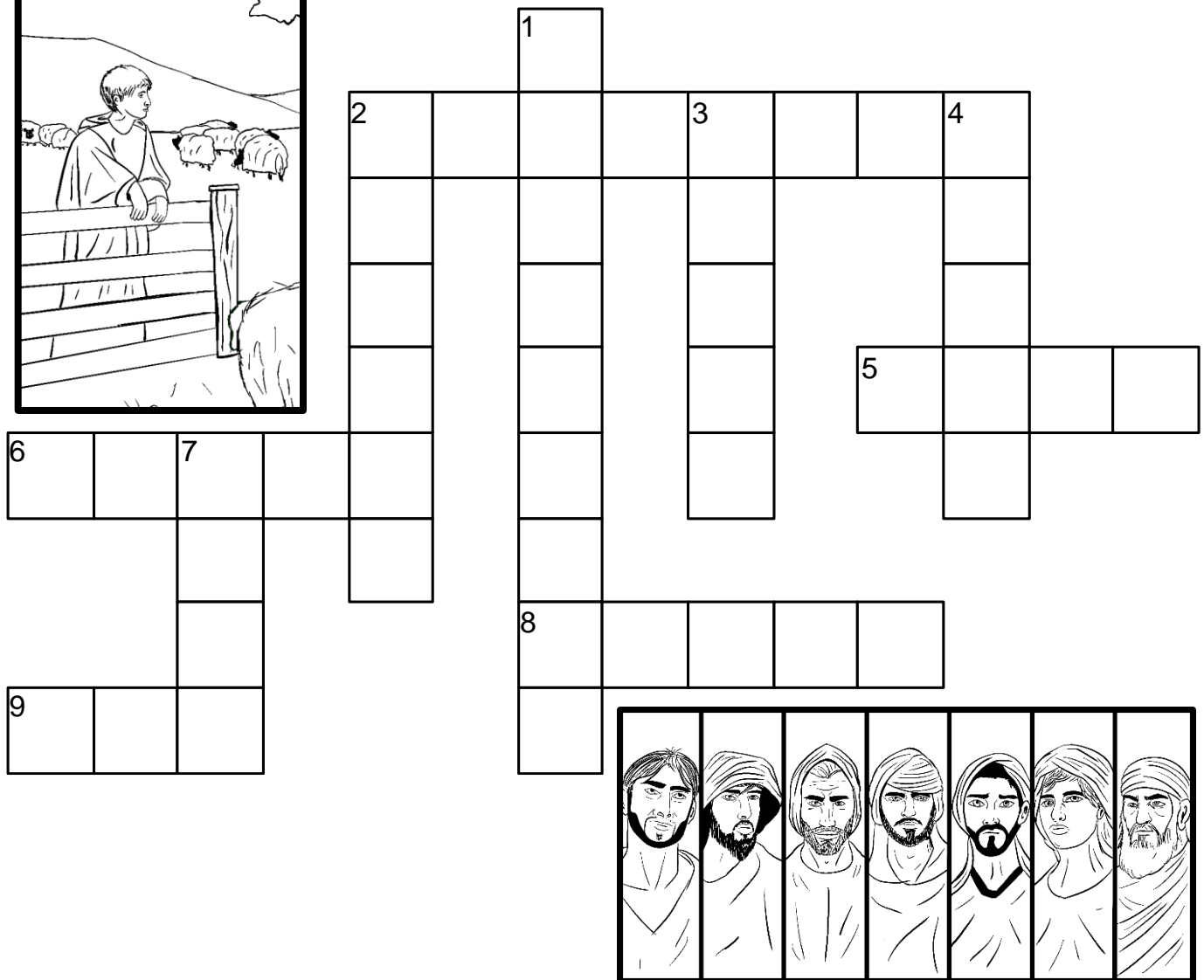
## GOD'S TIMING RACE

**Materials needed:** Stopwatch, several everyday tasks/items (like tying a shoe, stacking cups, adding maths, simple puzzle, etc).

**Instructions:**

1. Set up different stations with the tasks/items.
2. Divide the youth into teams and assign a station to each.
3. Each team must estimate how long they think it will take to complete the task at their station, then attempt to complete it in that time without a clock to guide them.
4. Use the stopwatch to time them and see how close they got to their estimate.
5. Discuss how God's timing is perfect, and how our timing may not always be accurate.

# A NEW KING - CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 2 David's occupation before he was anointed. (1 Samuel 16:11)
- 5 The role for which David was anointed. (1 Samuel 16:1)
- 6 He was the father of the future king. (1 Samuel 16:1)
- 8 David's older brother who was initially thought by Samuel to be the anointed one. (1 Samuel 16:6)
- 9 Samuel was told to fill his horn with this for the anointing. (1 Samuel 16:1)

## DOWN

- 1 The town where Jesse and his sons lived. (1 Samuel 16:4)
- 2 God spoke to him and instructed him to anoint a new king. (1 Samuel 16:1)
- 3 God doesn't look at the outward appearance but at this. (1 Samuel 16:7)
- 4 He was anointed by Samuel to be the future king of Israel. (1 Samuel 16:13)
- 7 He was the first king of Israel but was rejected by God. (1 Samuel 16:1)

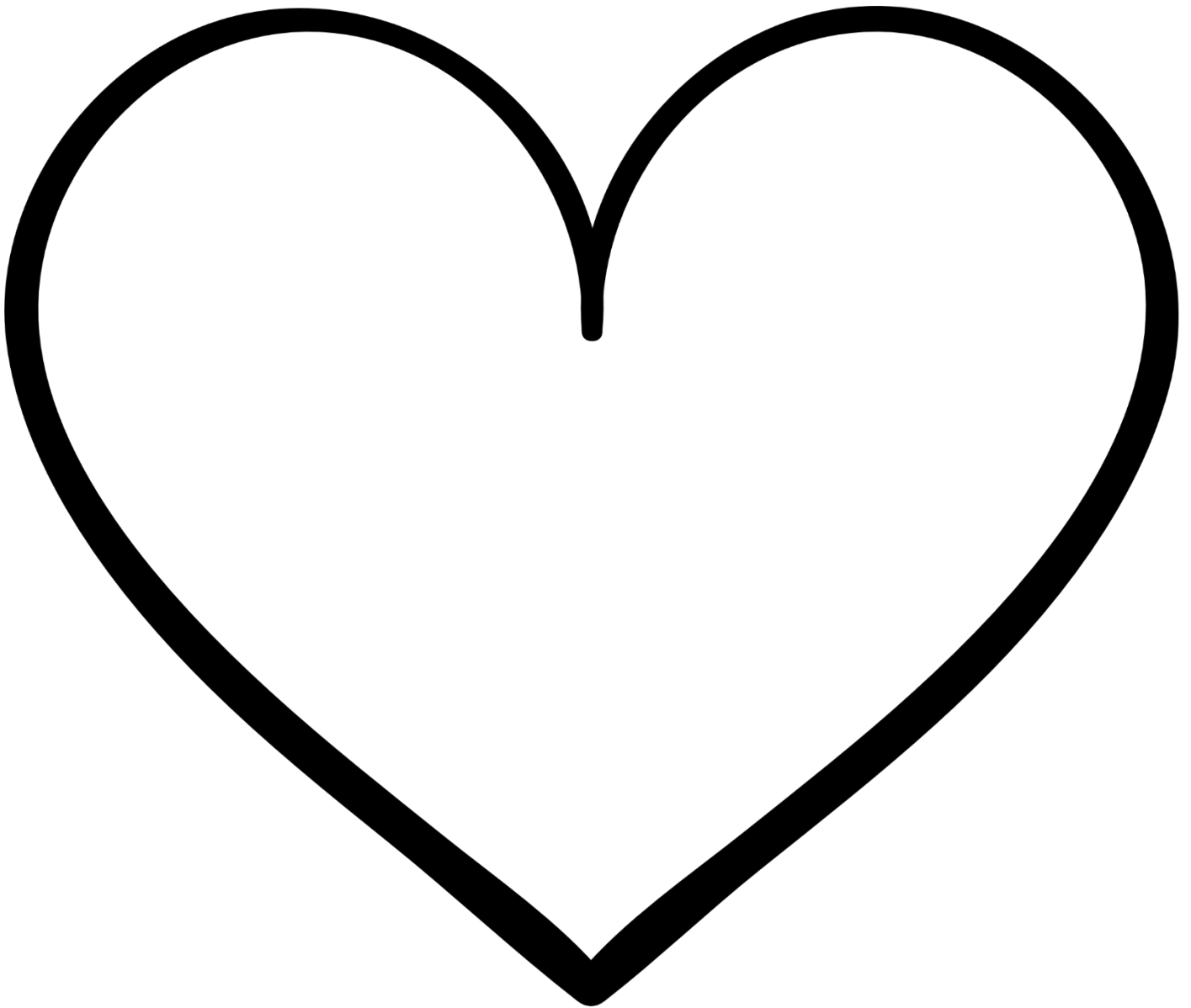
# FIND 7 DIFFERENCES



# GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

Inside the heart, list the attributes and actions that please God.

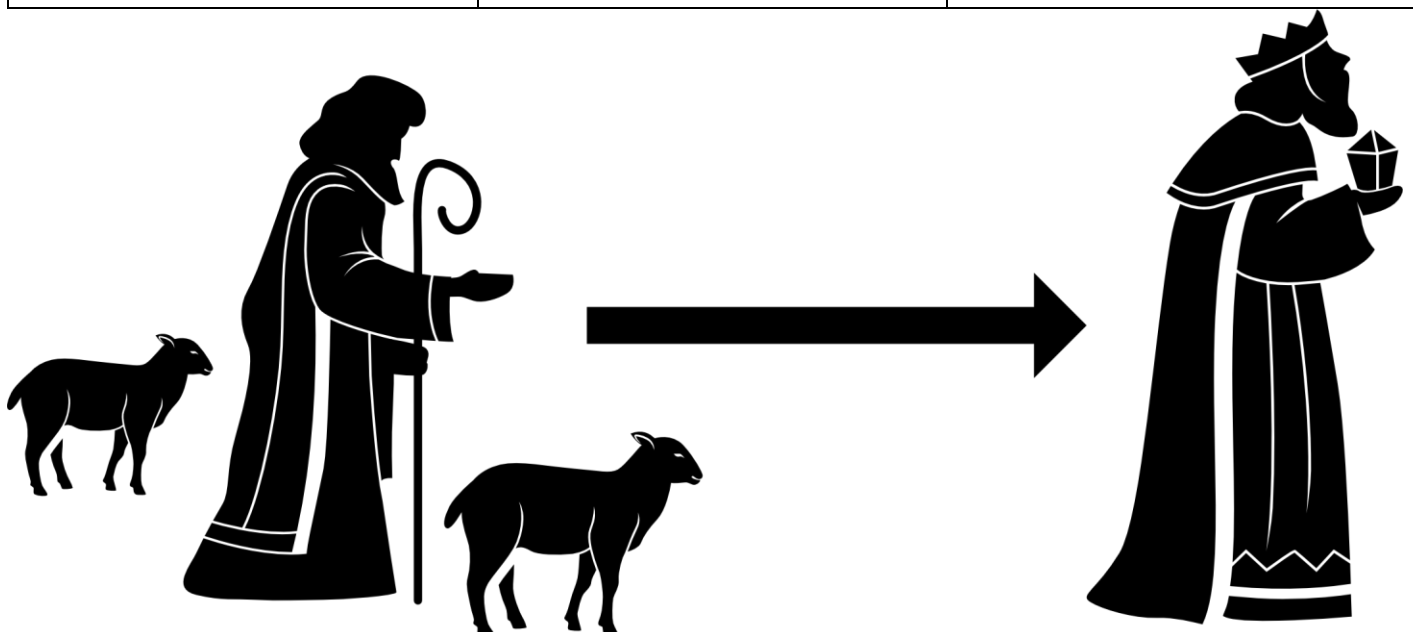
Outside the heart, write down behaviours or attitudes that God doesn't want us to have in our hearts.



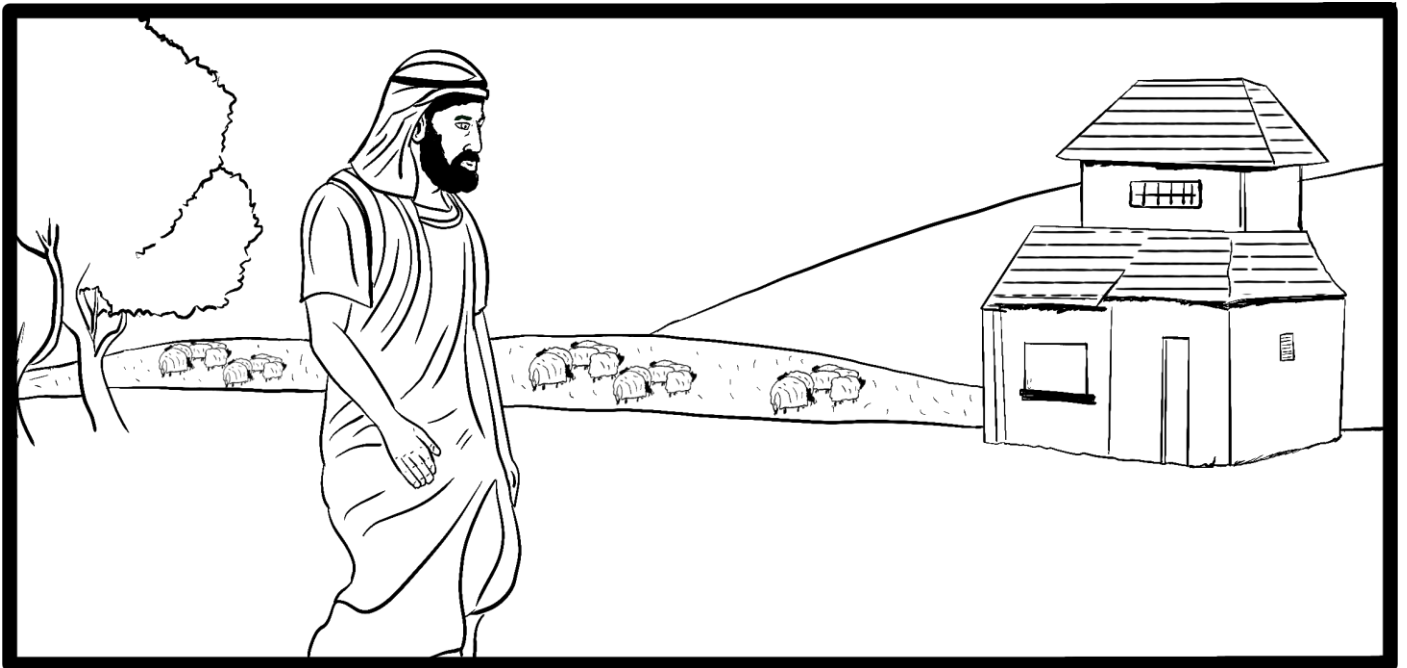
# SHEPHERD TO KING SKILLS

Think about David's life as a shepherd. Write down the skills he would have needed to be a successful and then how these same skills would be valuable for a king.

SKILL	SHEPHERD	KING
<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Guiding the sheep where they need to go.</i>	<i>Directing the nation in ways that align with God's will.</i>



# WRITE THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS





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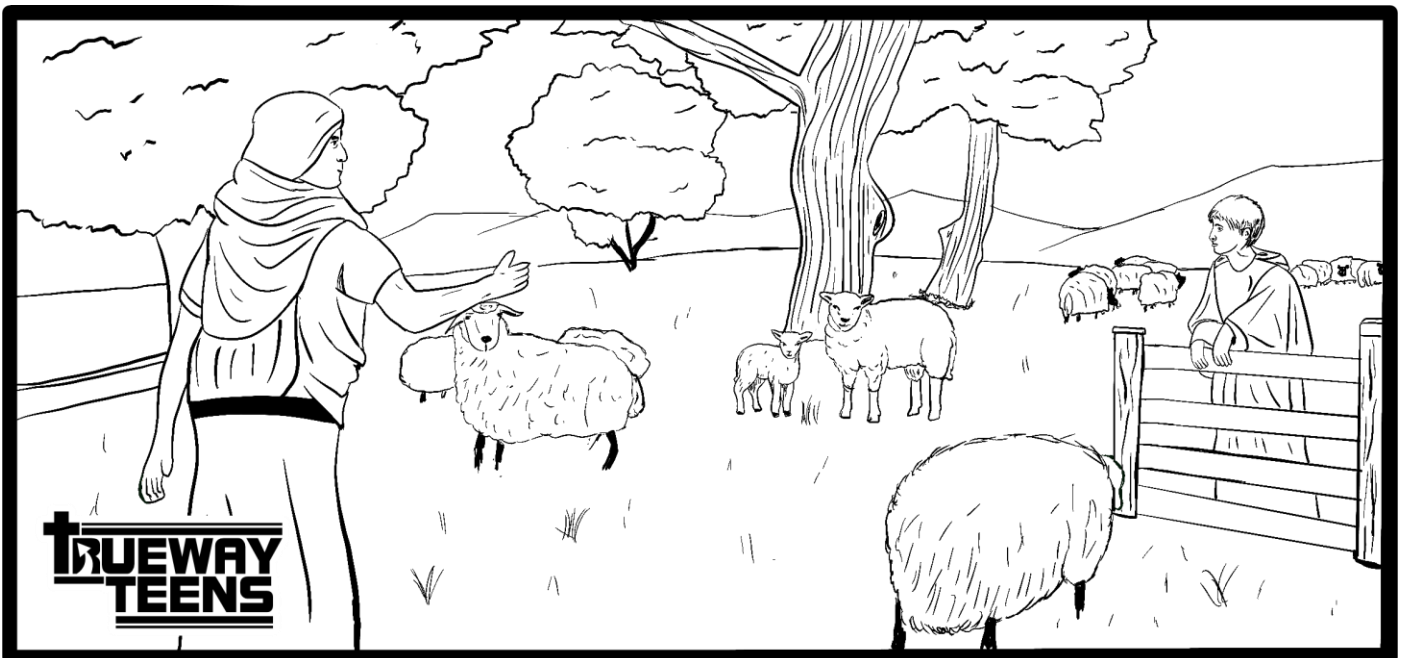
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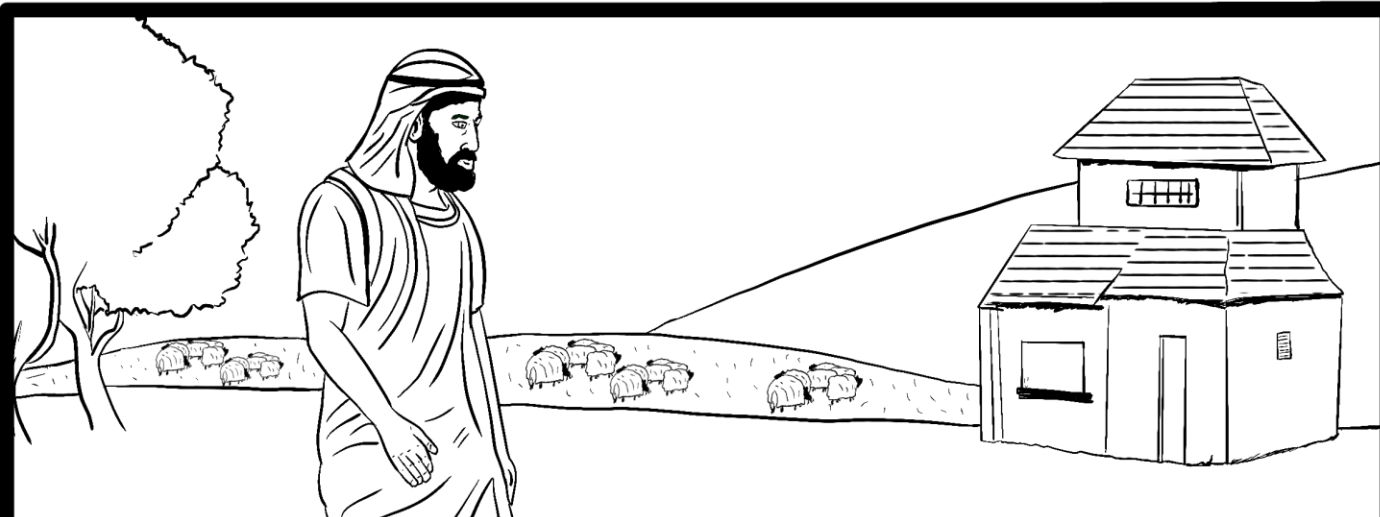
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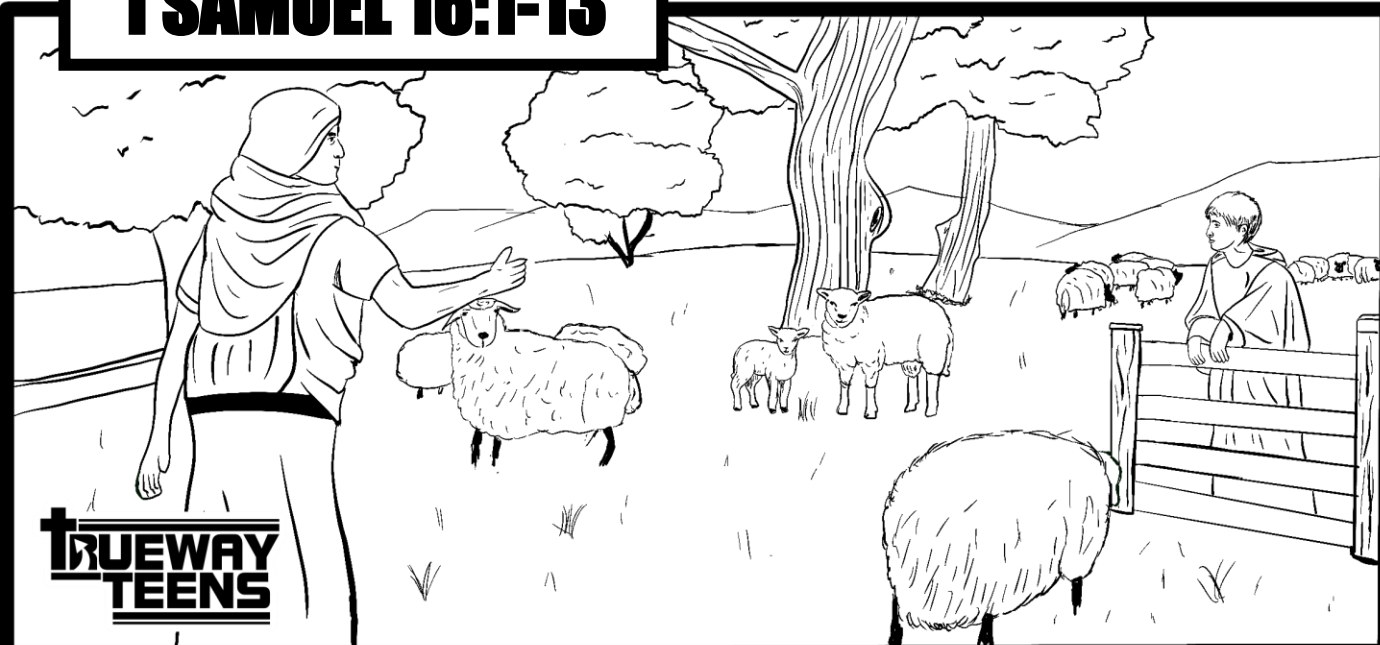




# DAVID'S ANOINTING



**1 SAMUEL 16:1-13**



**TRUEWAY  
TEENS**

# WRITE OUT THE MEMORY VERSE

***1 Samuel 16:7***



# Answers

