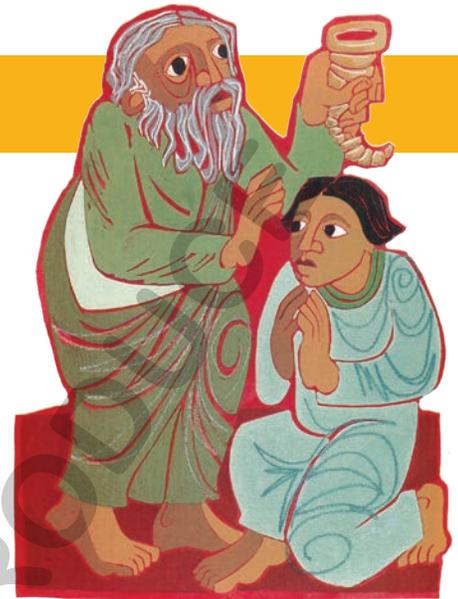


God Calls David



The call of young David and his encounter with Goliath are found in 1 Samuel 16-17. David is shown as a shepherd, a musician and a warrior. Yet he is also clearly just a young boy. David's achievements make sense only when we see the big picture. The message is that when we have God on our side, nothing can defeat us!

As you read through David's story, spend some time pointing out how David is full of hidden talents. Though a small and simple shepherd, he can comfort King Saul with his music and defeat Goliath with a few stones. There are such seeds in all of us, whatever our age, that are just waiting for God's love and our faith to bring into blossom. Remind yourself and your young people that God sees all our goodness, even if others miss it.

1

Before you begin, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

2

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

3

Getting started. Mirrors only tell part of the story, our visible side. Discuss together: Who shows you what is inside you? Who is your "personal mirror"?

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

A long, long, long time ago, there lived a boy named David. David lived with his father, Jesse, and his seven brothers. They lived in Bethlehem. David was the youngest in the family. It was his job to watch over the sheep. One day when he was in the fields with the flock, a wise man named Samuel came to town. God had told the wise man that the next king would be one of Jesse's sons. God had sent Samuel to bless the next king.

All of the people in the town gathered. They wanted to know why Samuel had come to town. God had told Samuel not to tell anyone why he was there. So Samuel told everyone he had come to worship with them. He invited Jesse and his sons to be with him when it was time to worship.

When Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, he thought, "Surely this must be the next king. He is so fine-looking and so strong." But God said to Samuel, "He is not the one. God does not see as people see. People may care about what someone looks like on the outside, but God looks at a person's heart." Samuel looked at each of Jesse's sons. He knew that the chosen one was not there.

Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all of your sons?" Jesse said, "There is still the youngest. He is out in the fields with the sheep." Samuel told Jesse to send for him. When David came, he stood in front of Samuel. He was very young and small, but he had beautiful, gentle eyes. God said to Samuel, "This is the one. He is the one chosen to be the next king." Samuel took out the



holy oils he had brought with him. He blessed David. From that day on the Spirit of God stayed with David.

David liked to look after the sheep. He took good care of them. Sometimes wild animals would come to steal from his flock, but David had a slingshot made out of a tree branch. He would shoot a stone from his sling and chase the animals away. David became very good with his sling.

One day his father came to David and said, “Three of your brothers have gone off to war. I am worried about them. I want you to go and take some extra food to them. I want you to find out how they are.” David found someone to look after the sheep. Early the next morning, he left to find his brothers.

The Hebrew people were fighting a great war. The war was not going well. One of the enemy’s soldiers was a giant of a man. His name was Goliath. Every morning Goliath would come out into the middle of the field. He would shout to the Hebrews, “Who will come out and fight me? We will settle this war with one fight. Choose a man. If he wins, your side will win the war. If I win the fight, our side wins the war.” The Hebrews were afraid of Goliath. No one wanted to fight him.

David arrived at the camp just in time to hear Goliath call out to the soldiers. “Are you all cowards? Will no one come out to fight me?” When David heard Goliath say this, he told the soldiers, “I will fight him. I am not afraid.” Everyone laughed. David was so small. He was just a boy. What could he do?

David went to the river and found five smooth stones. He put them in his pouch. Then he went to the field where Goliath was standing. David walked up to Goliath. Goliath looked at David and laughed. David said, “You are big and strong, but I have God on my side. You cannot win.”

David took out one of the stones. He slung the stone and hit Goliath right in the middle of his forehead. Goliath fell over. With one shot, David had won the fight. The war was over. The Hebrew soldiers all cheered. David was a hero.

David grew up to be a fine man. When the old King died,



David became the new king. He was the best king the Hebrew people ever had.

David was chosen to be king when he was just a young man. God did not choose the oldest brother or the strongest. God chose David, and Samuel listened.

God spoke to Samuel. God spoke to David. And God speaks to us the same way today. *“People may care about what someone looks like on the outside, but I look at a person’s heart.”*

1

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. What is your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. Have you ever felt like David (small and standing alone in front of a big problem)? When? Why?
3. David had five smooth stones that he used to defeat Goliath. Can you name five “stones” in your life—that is, five things that help you believe in God and yourself?

2

Just for you: Get your child started on the activity on the next page, making sure they understand the instructions (the answer is on page 8).

This is a good time to be close to your child without necessarily talking about faith. Don’t be afraid to put your arm around your child while they work through the activity.

Find David's Crown

Hidden in the fancy Easter egg below is David's royal crown. Color in the spaces using the color code below, and you will find it.

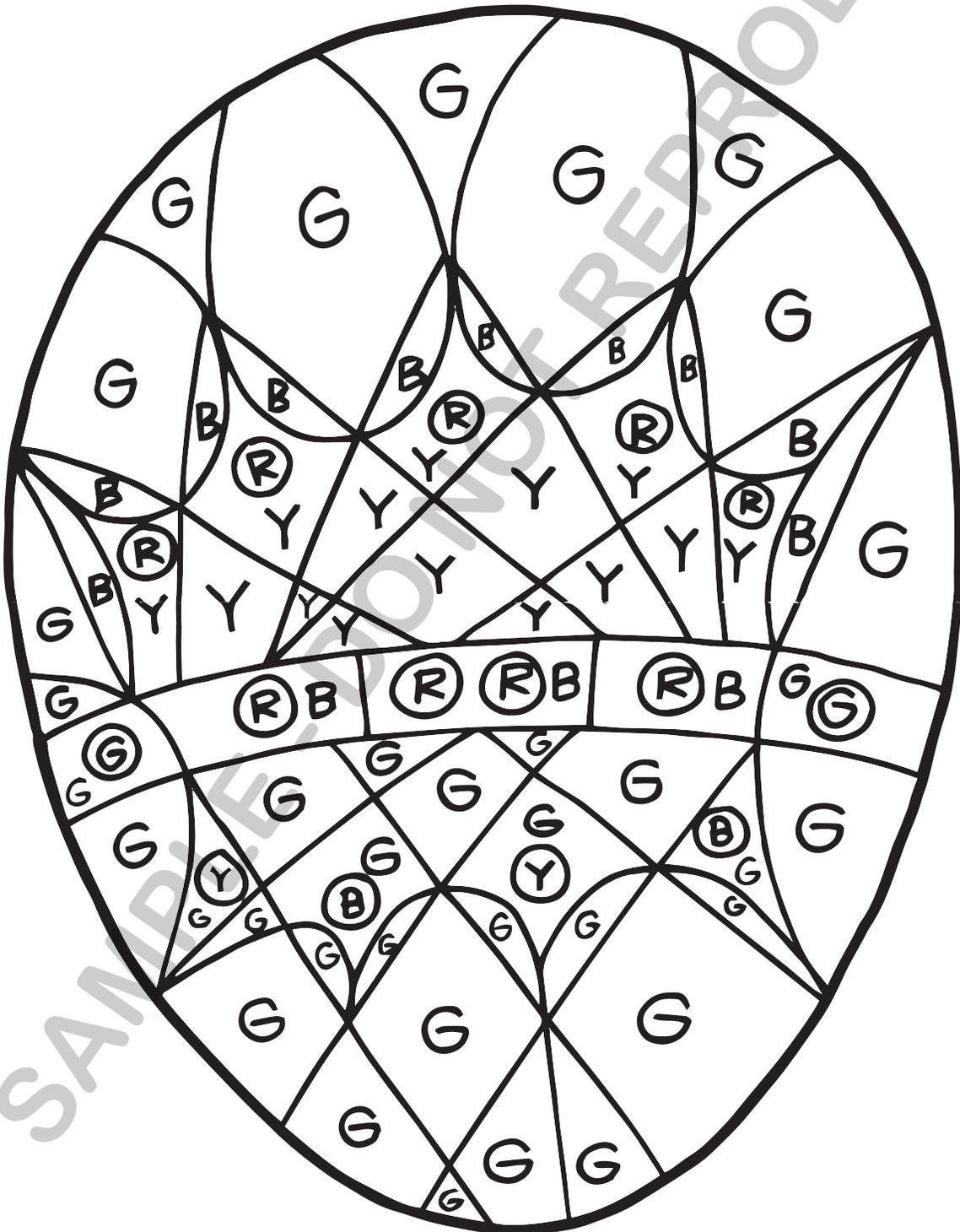
Color Code

B = black

R = red

Y = yellow

G = green



Seeing Through the Eyes of Love

1

Help your child get started on their activity on the next page, and then continue to the next step.

2

Spend a few moments thinking about your child. You have the wonderful privilege of seeing this young person through the same kind of eyes God uses: eyes that see the inside as well as the outside, eyes of love and support. After all, David was just a small shepherd boy to Samuel, but God saw the future King of Israel! What do you see in your child?

3

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

Then draw a symbol of your child or describe the hidden talents you see in detail.

Share with your child once you are both ready.

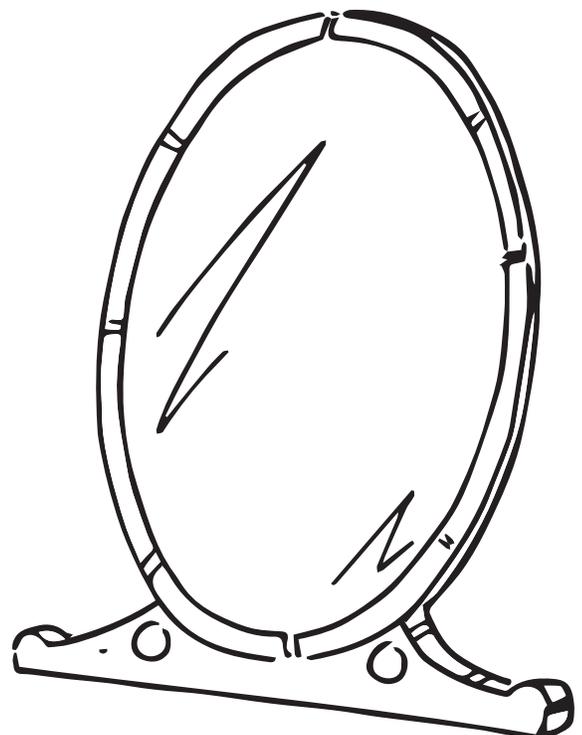
‘You are very special to me.’

“When I look at you I see _____.”

“When I look at you I see _____.”

“When I look at you I see _____.”

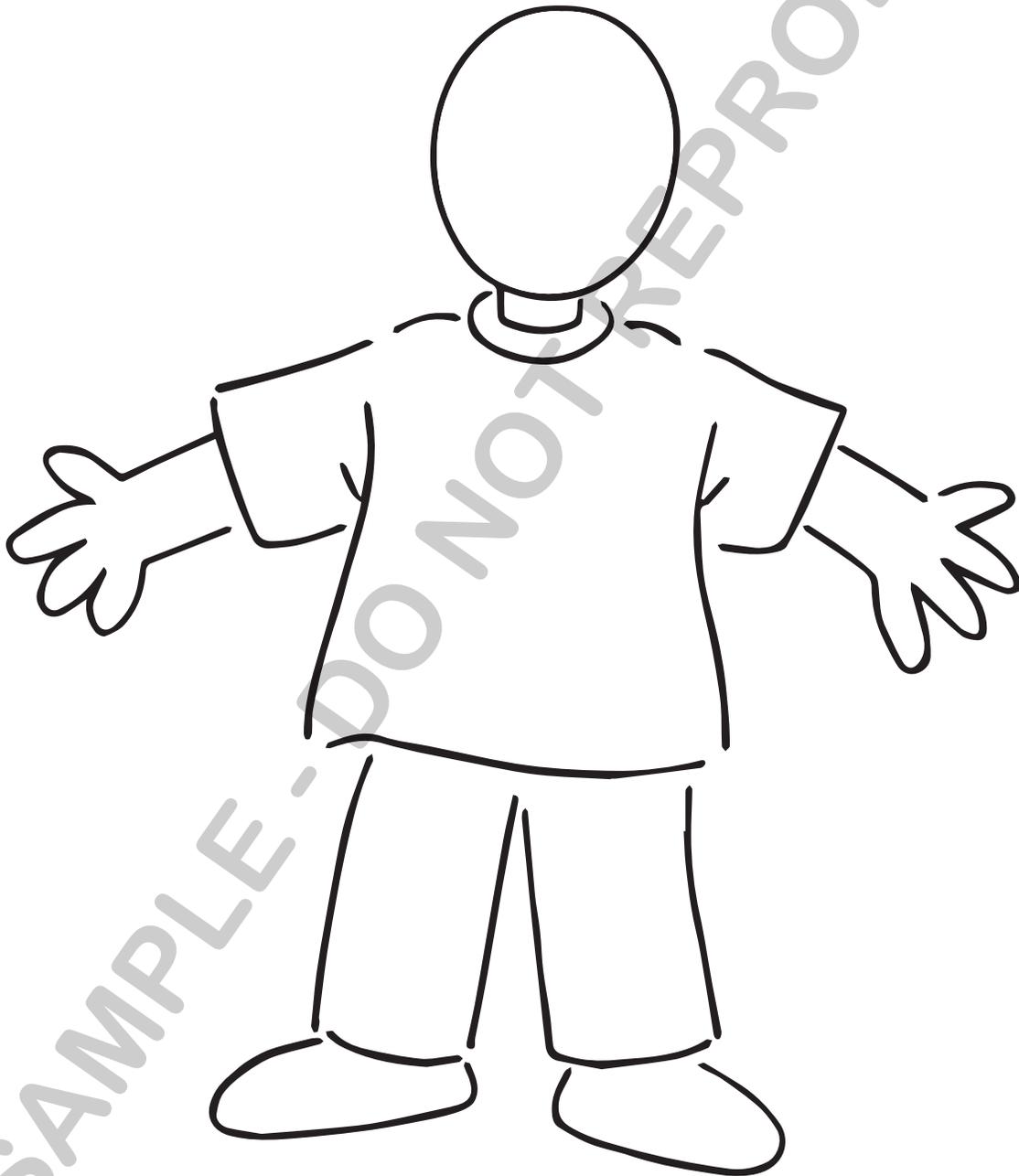
This is how I see you:



Inside/Outside

God chose David when he was just a young boy to do a very special job. It did not matter to God that David was small. God sees what is inside a person, and that is what counts.

Think about what you look like on the outside. Now think about what you are like on the inside. Make the person below look like you. Write on the T-shirt some words that tell what you are like on the inside. You may use some of the words below or your own words.



quiet

funny

happy

brave

gentle

loving

huggable

kind

loud

curious

Ancestors

1

David is the son of Jesse, and Jesse is a descendant of Abraham. The family tree of David is important to the history of the Chosen People. Who are your ancestors? Most families have colorful characters and admirable elders somewhere on the family tree. Who are the ancestors of your child? This is a good time to share some old family tales about the people who went before you.



Closing Ritual

2

End with a prayer that highlights something positive that both of you found (for example, "I am glad I can forgive others so quickly. Thanks, God!").

Answer to activity on page 5

