

# Bible Engagement: On the Inside

Year B, Pentecost 4

By Beth Barnett

This is a Bible Engagement for 1 Samuel 16:1-14

You will need:

- Copy of text on screen or printed (prepared powerpoint is included in the Visions and Voices Resources Zip)
- Large printed poster of Chris Booth's art images 'Anointing Who' and 'David Turns up' or use the images in the powerpoint on the screen
- 17 empty 2 litre soft drink bottles and 1 empty 250ml bottle, labels removed, lids on.  
Wrap one bottle in cow-splodge decorated paper and draw a face on the round bottom of the bottle. Wrap the rest of the bottles in some cloth scraps and tie with string. Using a thick black permanent marker, draw large faces on top sections of the bottles. Add some wool scraps for hair if you like. Inside the large bottles, place a few tablespoons of sand or sawdust. Inside the small bottle (David) add a few tablespoons of olive oil. Label each bottle with one of the following character ties:  
Samuel, Saul, King, Elders of the city (x3), Heifer cow, Jesse the Bethlehemite, Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Son #4, Son #5, Son #6, Son #7, David.
- Tray
- Glass

Time required:

4 minutes



## Instructions

Invite 16 people to hold up one bottle each. Make sure they know which character their bottle is. Ask the volunteers to hold their bottles in front of their chests. Explain that whenever their character is mentioned in the text, they should lift their bottle up and forwards, then bring it back in front of their chest again. Provide about a dozen other people with long blue streamers to circle over their heads whenever The Lord is mentioned in the text, reminding people that throughout these weeks we have used the strands of blue as symbols of the voice of the Lord.

Invite everyone to read along and join in on the words in Orange or Blue.

At the end of the reading invite each person with a bottle to empty it out on to the tray, observing the sand/rocks/sawdust in the large bottles. Good stuff. The stuff of earth. Useful stuff. Then empty the oil from the smallest bottle 'David' into a glass. Explain that the oil represents God's special choosing for a task. Oil was poured on David's head to show this. Let the surprise of what was inside the big bottles and the small bottle take impact. Who knows what is inside each of us? God does.

## Conclusion

I wonder what you have noticed during our reading (*Take a few comments*)  
Perhaps you've noticed that there are no women in this story.  
This reminds us that there are things in the story that have been intentionally left out – and helps us wonder what all those things might be, and why.

Perhaps you've noticed how many people are in this story apart from David.  
We might think of it as a story about David being chosen.  
But maybe it is also very much a story about a whole community and the way that stories and realities are written by many voices in communities, not just as stories of one person – one hero – one main character. We are all part of each others' stories, and in God's great story together.

## Suggested follow up Song

Jesus knows all about me  
(see Visions and Voices music folder for using this song)