

Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 about how God chose David to be anointed as Israel's next king, not according to age or appearance, but by looking at the heart (verse 7).

As a boy watching over his father's sheep, David had time to reflect on life, talk to God, and even play his harp. But it wasn't always an easy job, and David quickly learned how even in difficult times he could rely on God to come to his aid. Part of his responsibility of caring for the sheep was to defend them from predators. The Bible tells us how David successfully protected his sheep from lions and bears.¹

¹ 1 Samuel 17:34–35

When I was young, I spent many hours caring for my father's sheep.

From an early age, God was training David to one day serve Him in the capacity of Israel's king. David's faith in God resulted in him being a great king and he was later called "a man after God's own heart."²

² Acts 13:22. Also, in 1 Samuel 13:14 you can read how God was seeking a king who was "after His own heart."

Faith-filled Models from the Old Testament:
King David

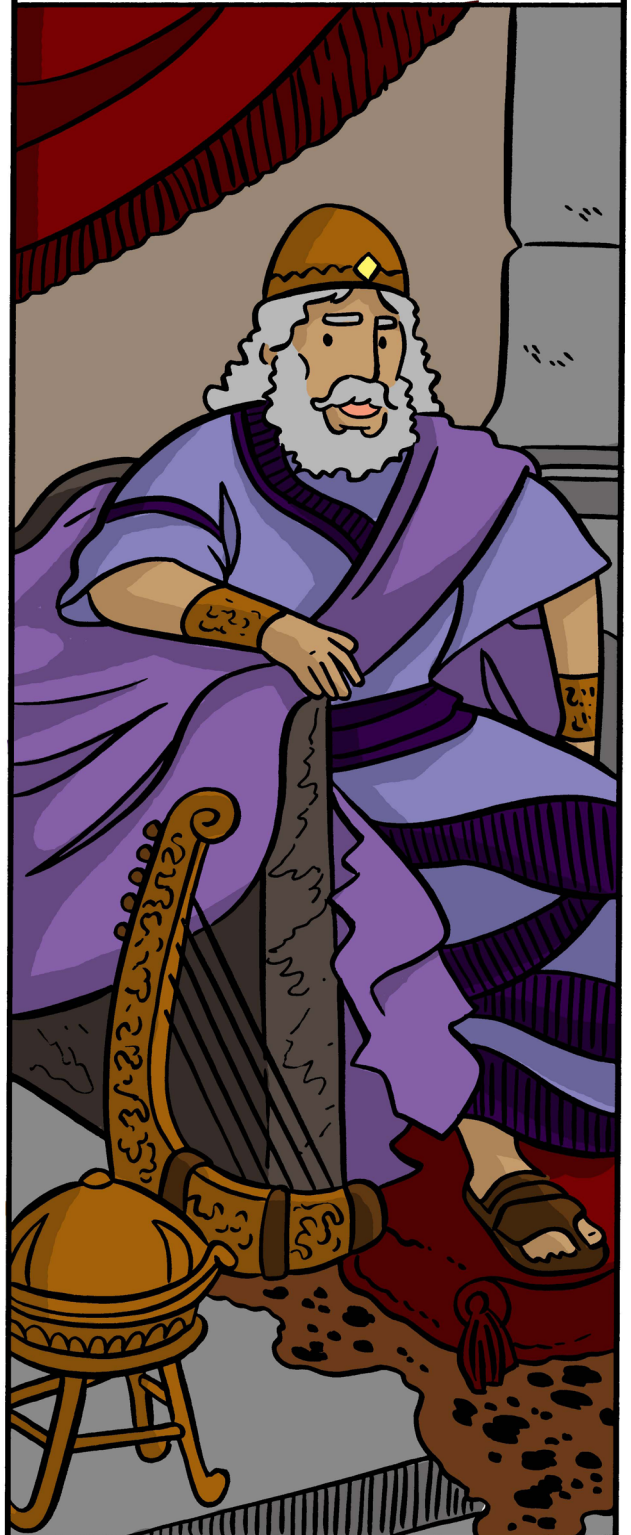
Though David was anointed as a young man to one day be the king of Israel, it was years before he actually became king. During that period, Saul was still king of Israel. After defeating Israel's enemy, Goliath, David was sometimes asked to play his harp and sing for King Saul.³

³ 1 Samuel 16:18-23



David was first used by God in smaller ways in preparation to lead Israel.

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much (Luke 16:10 ESV).



His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21 ESV).