



Session 7: Anointed!  
Suggested Week of Use: July 17, 2016  
Core Passages: 1 Samuel 16:4-13

## News Story Summary

In the United States track and field trials for the 2016 Olympics this summer, athletes are pressing for their best performance. The athletes usually save them best for the actual games, but seven of the USA sprinters, jumpers and decathletes have set world-wide season highs in their respective disciplines during trials. For example, Justin Gatlin secured a spot on the USA team by setting two records in the men's 100-meter semifinals and finals. He broke a record that was held by France's Jimmy Vicaut. Gatlin commented, "It's about rising to the occasion."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "seven leading performers at Olympic trials.")

## Focus Attention

Ask group members whether they enjoy watching the Olympics. Guide them to identify their favorite event during the summer games. Share the news summary. Ask: *Besides performing well during trials, what other criteria do you think is important in the selection of American athletes?*

Transition to the session by explaining that the focus of today's session helps us to consider the inward qualities that are important to God. Share that the session is centered on the selection and anointing of David as king. When selecting a person to be king, God instructed Samuel to not look at that person's appearance but to look at his heart.

## Challenge

During the session, ask the group to pay close attention to the rejection of well qualified men and the reason David, who was the youngest, was selected to be king. Remind them of the news summary that reported on the performance of US athletes in the Olympic trials. Ask: *What role does the condition of the athletes' hearts play in their ability to perform to the standards required for making the Olympic team?* Challenge group members to evaluate whether their hearts would prevent God from being effective servants of God. Encourage them to examine their hearts this week, asking God to show them areas that need to be cleaned and renewed.