



LESSON 33

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: God looks at the heart. Man looks at the outside.

Bible Character(s): David

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 16

OPTIONAL PLUG IN TIME

Use this activity as a way to pique the child's interest about what is to come in the story.

Judging a Book By Its Cover

Go through the cards with pictures of book covers on them and ask the campers which book they would rather read just by looking at the covers. Keep a tally for each card showing which book received more votes.

Supplies:

Book cover pictures (1 set per bin)

Bible Lesson

Note to parents: The content in bold print is written to be read aloud as if you were reading a story. There are intentional pauses where you will invite your child to interact with the story. For example, see "Tie it Together" in several places throughout the lesson.

Over the past few weeks, we have been learning about disobedience. What did the other countries have that the Israelites wanted too? The countries around them had a king. The Israelites demanded a king so they could be like the other nations around them. Did the Israelites listen to what God wanted for them? No, they did not care that God told them a king was not best; they wanted a king anyway. So what did God do? God gave them a king, Saul, even though he knew it was not good for them. What did we see Saul do in our lesson last

week? Saul disobeyed God by not fully obeying everything God asked of him. What happened to Saul? As a consequence, God took away Saul's kingship. God demands complete obedience. God told Samuel that he had to search for a new king.

Today we are going to learn about this new king and why God chose him. Let's begin reading the Bible in 1 Samuel 16.

1 Samuel 16:1-6

1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

2 But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

"Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."

4 So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"

5 "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!"

Why does Samuel think Eliab is the one that God has chosen to be king? What about Eliab makes Samuel think this? (Allow responses.) Samuel thinks this based on his first impression of Eliab.

Tie It Together

Often, we look at people the same way as we did these book covers; we judge them by how they look, or their outward appearance. If we do not like how the person looks or do not feel comfortable around the person because of how he or she looks, then we do not want to talk to them or be around them. Judging others by their outward appearance is sin. God calls us to love everyone, not just the people we want to love or feel comfortable loving. If we choose to only love the people we want to love, we are disobeying God. In his life on earth, Jesus loved everyone, no matter what a person looked like. He saw each person as a creation of God, created in his image. We can look at other people as a creation of God, instead of judging by outward appearance. When we learn to love as Jesus loves, we reflect who Jesus is to others.

Samuel looks at Eliab, and he expects Eliab to be the next king because of how he looks (his outward appearance). Do you think this is a good way to choose a king? (Allow responses.)

Let's see how God responds to Samuel's thoughts about Eliab and read the Bible.

1 Samuel 16:7

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

God warns Samuel not to judge by outward appearance. Remember our activity with the books? Would you say you judged the book by its cover? (Allow responses) You judged whether a book would be good based only on the way the cover looked. Did you think the book could be good even though the cover did not make it look like a good book? Judging by outward appearance is not what God wants us to do. This is what God is trying to teach Samuel.

Let's see how Samuel responds to God's words.

1 Samuel 16:8-13

Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen." Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."

"Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes.

And the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him."

So as David stands there among his brothers, Samuel takes the flask of olive oil he brought and anoints David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord comes powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returns to Ramah.

Tie It Together



How does God instruct Samuel to look at Jesse's sons to find the next king? Does Samuel obey? (Allow responses.) Who does God choose to be king? God has chosen David to be the next king. Why does God choose David? God looks on the inside, at David's heart, instead of judging him by his outside appearance.

Self-Portrait



The purpose is for your child to understand that only God can see us for who we truly are.

Supplies:

Worksheet - 1 Samuel 16:7 side (1 per camper)

Hand mirror (3 per bin)

Crayons/markers

Give your child a worksheet and tell them to turn to the side with 1 Samuel 16:7. Have them look in the mirror and draw pictures of themselves.

Tie It Together



What does this picture show about you? It shows what you look like on the outside. Does it show everything about you? Does it show what kind of person you are on the inside? Does it show what you are thinking or feeling? God is the only person who can see you for who you really are. He sees more than what is reflected in the mirror. He can see what you are like on the inside, how you are feeling, and what you are thinking. God can see the condition of your heart.

Have them read the verse on the paper with you a few times—“People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

Clean Hearts



The purpose is to show your child that only God can make our hearts clean.

Supplies:

Worksheet – heart side (1 per camper)

Tell them to turn the worksheet over to the heart side. Ask them to circle all of the phrases that show evidence of a clean heart that God is changing and cross out the phrases that do not show a clean heart. Go over the verse with them a few times—“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me” Psalm 51:10.

Tie It Together



What are some ways that you can see that a person's heart is clean and that God is changing it? (Allow responses.) We all have sinful hearts, and we all need God to change our hearts. Sin makes our hearts dirty, and we need God to clean our hearts by allowing the Holy Spirit to change us to be more like Jesus. Jesus died to pay the price for our sins, and he can help us to live in a way that is glorifying to God. He can help us to not judge someone by their outward appearance but instead learn about who they are as God's child. Think about some things in your heart that are dirty. Let's spend a few minutes asking God to change our hearts to make them more like his.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to change our hearts and help us not judge others based on how they look.



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