

LESSON 56

God Chooses a New King

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13



BIBLE TRUTH

MAN LOOKS ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Small stone; quarter

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 56)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 56

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Who Can Know the Heart?

SUPPLIES: paper hearts in a variety of colors (one for each child)

Outer Appearances Can Be Deceiving

SUPPLIES: four gift boxes—two small, two large; fancy gift wrap; paper bag—torn, worn; tape; two bags of candy; straw or shredded paper; soda straws (one for each child)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson we will learn that God can see what is hidden in our hearts.

Bring to class a small stone and a quarter.

In class, secretly place the stone in one closed hand and the quarter in the other. Tell the class that you have a stone in one hand and a quarter in the other. Ask them to look real hard and tell you which hand contains the stone. (They of course can only guess. Press them to give you a reason for their answer and try to help them to see that they can only guess.) Show them which hand contains the stone.

Ask if anyone thinks they can guess the right answer ten times in a row. If a student believes he or she can, take the time to give it a shot and show them they cannot. Help them to see that only God knows what is hidden.

Tell the class that the stone is like sin and the coin is like the treasure of loving God. Tell them that in today's class they are going to learn that God can see what is in our hearts.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 56, "God Chooses a New King," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What happened in this story?

(God sent Samuel to anoint a new king. The new king was to come from the house of Jesse who lived in Bethlehem.)

What were the special instructions God gave to Samuel?

(The Lord told Samuel not to judge by outward appearances; instead, the Lord would judge by the heart.)

What was David doing when Samuel came to look for the new king?

(David was serving his father and brothers by tending sheep in the field.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Does anyone remember what kind of man God first told Samuel he was going to look for?

(God told Samuel he was going to choose a man “after his own heart.”)

What does it mean to be a man after God’s own heart?

(A man after God’s own heart wants to do what God wants to do, not what he wants to do.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Isaiah 53:2b

God did not choose David because of his outward appearance but because he had a heart for God. David was a handsome young boy but not tall in stature.

Isaiah tells us of another king who “had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). God’s choice of David to replace Saul as king over Israel should make us think of another king, King Jesus. Jesus would have a perfect heart for God and die on the cross so that he could extend to us his righteousness.

Through Christ, God takes our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh. Then God does something truly remarkable, he moves us to obey him by his Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 56—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is Samuel doing?
(He is anointing David as king.)

What is he pouring on his head?
(oil)

Why is he doing this?
(God told Samuel to anoint David to show God's choice for king of Israel.)

Who Can Know the Heart?

SUPPLIES:

paper hearts in a variety of colors (enough for everyone in the class to have one)

Have the children line up shoulder to shoulder and ask them to close their eyes. Explain that you are giving them paper hearts, but do not mention the colors at all. Randomly give each child a colored heart. Explain to them that without opening their eyes they need to guess what color heart they have. Give each child a chance to guess aloud, keeping track of their answer on a piece of paper. See how many children can guess their correct heart color. Afterward, ask them the following questions:

Did you know what color heart you had?

Who knew the color of your heart?
(the teacher)

Read Jeremiah 17:9–10 and ask the following questions:

Who can know the heart?

(God)

How is our game like the story?

(We don't know the condition—or color—of our hearts; only God does. Remind the class of what God told Samuel—that “the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).)

Outer Appearances Can Be Deceiving

SUPPLIES:

four gift boxes—two small, two large
fancy gift wrap
paper bag—torn, worn
tape
two bags of candy
straw or shredded paper
soda straws (one for each child)

Before class, wrap up the straw in the two larger boxes with fancy wrapping paper. Wrap up the bags of candy in two smaller boxes with torn and worn paper bags.

Note: Wrap the boxes in a way that you can reuse them. Bring enough soda straws for each child in the class, cut four soda straws shorter than the others.

Set the four gifts on a table before class begins. Use soda straws to select four children from the group. Explain to the children that you are “casting lots.” Have each child pick a straw from your hand.

Without touching the boxes, have the four children pick a present they would like to open. (They should pick the nicer ones first.) Tell them they need to share what they get with the class.

Open the larger fancy gifts first, and then open the meager looking gifts.

Help the children understand how this connects with the Bible story.

Jesse first brought out his strongest and oldest boys for Samuel to see, but God was looking at the inside, at their hearts.

Share the candy with the rest of the class.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 56 - GOD CHOOSES A NEW KING

