

GOD CHOSE A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART TO BE KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13



Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Samuel was afraid – The chapter opens with Samuel grieving Saul sin and God's rejection of Saul. God called out to Samuel and sent him with a horn of anointing oil to the house of Jesse. He wanted to anoint a new king. Samuel was reluctant to go but did not rebel against the Lord's command. He simply wanted to know how he could go, knowing that "if Saul hear it, he will kill me." This was a legitimate concern given the fact that Saul, the current king, was still alive. God, of course, had a plan and told Samuel to invite Jesse to a sacrifice. God was not interested in a public coronation, just a private anointing. God would show Samuel the next king at the appointed time.

Samuel looked at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart – When Samuel thought about a king, he thought of a man who would have a large forceful appearance, like Saul. Eliab, the firstborn of Jesse's sons, was such a man. Samuel took one look and settled it in his mind that he was looking at the next king. But the Lord corrected Samuel and instructed him not to look for height or appearance.

God looks at the heart – God told Samuel that the most important characteristic of a king was his heart. After looking to the outward appearance of Eliab, Samuel made an adjustment and kept looking. He passed up all of Eli's sons saying, "The Lord has not chosen these" (1 Samuel 16:10). Samuel asked if Jesse had any other sons. Jesse mentioned the youngest, which was tending the sheep. David, the shepherd boy was not even invited to the sacrifice! When David arrived God spoke to Samuel and said, "This is he." Samuel anointed David and the Spirit of God rushed upon him.

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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.

God did not choose David because of his outward appearance, but because David 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 majesty to attract us to him, nothing in appearance that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2b). The choice of David points to the choice of this other king, King Jesus. Jesus would have a perfect heart 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).

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

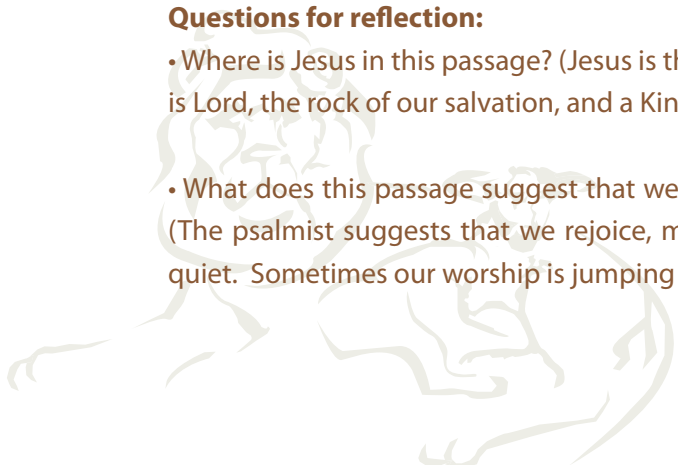
Bible Passage: Psalm 95:1-3

Connecting the passage to Christ:

1 Peter 2:6-9 tells us that Jesus is the stone we can trust in for our salvation.

Questions for reflection:

- Where is Jesus in this passage? (Jesus is the only one who meets the description of this passage. Jesus is Lord, the rock of our salvation, and a King.)
- What does this passage suggest that we do in response to the description of God as Lord and King? (The psalmist suggests that we rejoice, making noise! Singing to God is not always supposed to be quiet. Sometimes our worship is jumping up and down filled with excitement!)



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SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

A LITTLE BIT AFRAID

Supplies

a pack of gum

Use this to illustrate why the elders were afraid of Samuel's arrival, see 1 Samuel 16:4.

After the class is all seated, call them to attention, then very sternly call up one of the children in the class. Say something like:

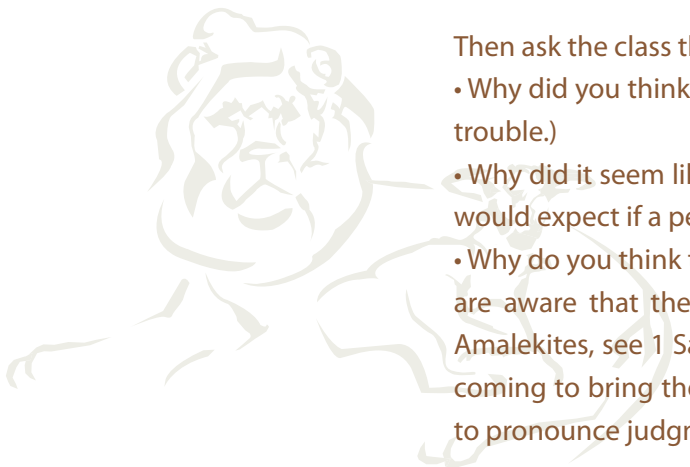
Mr. Jones, get out of your seat and come right here. (This should be sudden, but it is helpful if you pick someone with a bit of a history of not paying attention.)

Then say to them. Do you know why I called you up here? (If you do this correctly they should look a bit concerned.)

Tell them: "To give you a pack of gum. Wait till after class to chew it. Thank you. You may take your seat."

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why did you think I asked _____ to come up front? (It sounded like they were in trouble.)
- Why did it seem like they were in trouble? (Your actions were similar to those we would expect if a person did something wrong.)
- Why do you think the elders are afraid of Samuel's visit to Bethlehem? (The elders are aware that the people kept some of the animals after the battle with the Amalekites, see 1 Samuel 15:9. Many times when a prophet came to town he was coming to bring the judgment of God. They probably thought Samuel was going to pronounce judgment on them for what they had done.)



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MAN LOOKS ON THE OUTWARD

Supplies

- two large bags of potato chips
- one carton of grapefruit juice
- one bag of individually wrapped bag of candies, enough for the whole class
- small plastic bowls

The object of this lesson is to demonstrate that appearance can be deceiving.

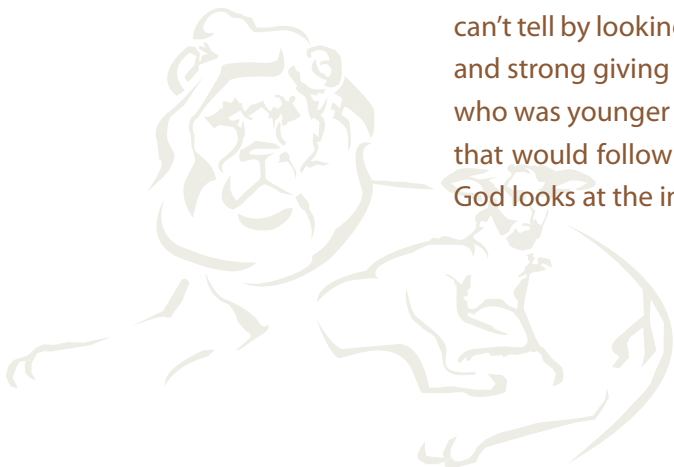
Open the bottom of the potato chip bags and empty the contents. Fill the bags back up, one with dried leaves, the other with shredded paper. Staple the bottoms closed again. Empty the grapefruit juice. Wash and dry the carton and then fill it with the candy. Close the top again with a dab of white glue (a clothespin will hold it together until it is dry. Don't use too much, as you want to be able to reopen it.)

Ask the class if anyone would like a snack holding the bag up for everyone to see. Have the children raise their hands then open one bag up and start dishing it out. After objections, do the same with the other bag.

Then ask if anyone is thirsty and would like a drink, holding the carton up. Most kids don't like grapefruit juice so they will probably refuse. If no one raise their hand ask a teacher who replies "yes." Open the carton and pour out a piece or two of the candy into a small cup. Give it to the person who requested some. Observe the reaction of your class.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- When I offered you a snack, what did you think you were going to receive? (Potato chips.)
- Why did you think you were going to get potato chips? (The bags containing the snack were potato chip bags.)
- How are these chip bags and the grapefruit juice containers like Jesse's sons? (You can't tell by looking on the outside what is on the inside. Jesse's older sons were tall and strong giving the impression they would make better kings than would David who was younger and smaller. David's heart, which could not be seen, was a heart that would follow after God. God told Samuel that man looks at the outside but God looks at the inside – the heart.)



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HEAVY BOXES

Supplies

- clear packing tape
- duct tape
- 80 pounds of small exercise weights
- two cardboard boxes: one small box (just large enough to fit the weights) and a second box at least twice as big as the first

Use this exercise to demonstrate that looks can be deceiving and you need the right person for the job.

Place the weights inside the small box and tape it with clear packing tape. Tape the larger box up with duct tape. Place the boxes on the floor.

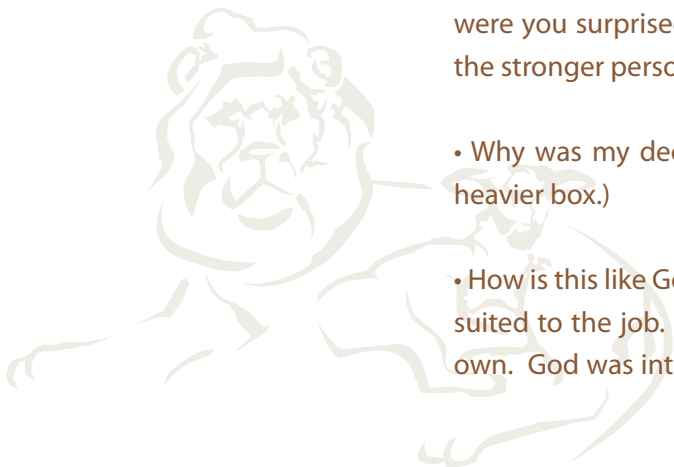
When class begins read the scripture assigned for the day. Then ask for volunteers. Pick one of the larger, stronger guys and the smallest boy or girl. Thank them for coming up and then ask if they would do you a favor for the next part of the lesson. Tell them that you would like them to lift the boxes up and hold them for the class. Pretend you are thinking and say to yourself, "Let me see, who should I give the larger box to." Then, tell the smaller person to go pick up the larger box and hold it for a minute. Tell the person to be careful as it might be a little heavy and difficult for them.

After the smaller person picks up the larger box, send the stronger person after the smaller box. Tell them to be careful because it might be a little heavy and difficult for them.

Allow the exercise to play out. (Be careful they do not get hurt. You may need to call for another person from the class to help.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What was odd about what happened? (The smaller box was the heavier one.)
- When I was trying to figure out which person to select to pickup the large box were you surprised I didn't ask ____ (the stronger person's name). (Yes, I thought the stronger person should have picked up the larger box.)
- Why was my decision a good one? (You picked the stronger person to lift the heavier box.)
- How is this like God choosing David? (David was smaller on the outside but better suited to the job. God was not interested in a king who could win battles on his own. God was interested in a king that would look to God for victory not his own



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PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of Jesse's eight sons with David as the smallest in stature.

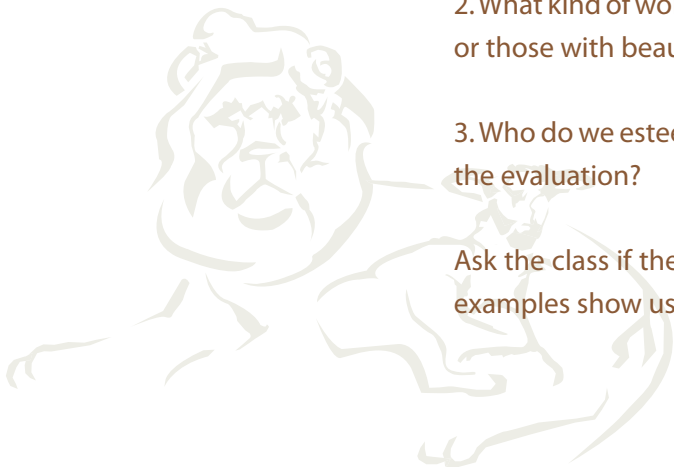
FOR OLDER GRADES

What are the similarities of David in 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and Jesus as described in Isaiah 53:2b? (Neither David nor Jesus was impressive on the outside. They were chosen for their heart for God.)

Discuss with the class the following ways we typically look to the outward appearance:

1. Which would you be more likely to purchase, a car with a sweet looking body that has some engine knocking or a well maintained car with a bunch of dents and an ugly brown color?
2. What kind of women are pictured on magazine covers, those with godly character or those with beautiful appearances? Why is that?
3. Who do we esteem more, tall or short people? Why doesn't their character fit into the evaluation?

Ask the class if they can think of other examples from their own lives. All of these examples show us that man looks to the outward appearance first.



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A LITTLE BIT MORE

Heart – When God tells Samuel that He looks at the heart he does not mean he looks at the muscle in David that pumps his blood. The heart is the center of man's emotions, thoughts, and desires. The heart is where our sinful nature is, see Matthew 15:18-19, but also where our love for God should be, see Mark 12:33. It is in our heart that we believe, see Romans 10:9. It is in our hearts that God is going to transform us, taking away a heart of stone and giving us a heart of flesh, see Ezekiel 36:26.



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WORKSHEET

What are the similarities of David in 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and Jesus as described in Isaiah 53:2b?

1. Which would you be more likely to purchase, a car with a sweet looking body that has some engine knocking or a well-maintained car with a bunch of dents and an ugly brown color?

2. What kind of women are pictured on magazine covers, those with godly character or those with beautiful appearances? Why is that?

3. Who do we esteem more, tall or short people? Why doesn't their character fit into the evaluation?

4. What are some other examples in own lives?

All of these examples show us that man looks to the outward appearance first.

