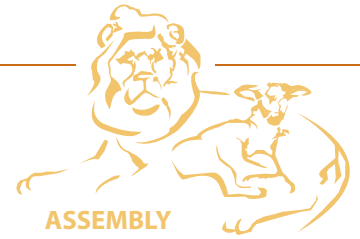


GOD CHOSE A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART TO BE KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I SAMUEL 16:1-13



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

WHO CAN KNOW THE HEART?

Supplies:

make one heart out of gray felt and another heart out of red felt, cut out enough hearts from colored paper for the number of children in the classroom, make the hearts of black, brown, blue, and red paper

Have the children line up shoulder to shoulder and ask them to close their eyes and place their hands behind their backs. Randomly give each child a colored heart. Explain to them that without opening their eyes they need to guess what color heart they have. Tell them the colors and then see how many children can guess their correct heart color.

Afterwards, ask them the following questions:

- Did you know what color heart you had?
- Who knew the color of heart you had? (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.)

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OUTER APPEARANCE CAN BE DECEIVING

Supplies:

- a bag of M&M's™
- straw or shredded paper
- soda straws

Wrap up the straw in two larger boxes with fancy wrapping paper. Wrap up the M&M's™ 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.

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 before Samuel, but God was looking at the inside, at their hearts.

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 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 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).