



God Chooses David to Replace Saul

1 Samuel 16:1-13

While immediate family members and other important adults, such as teachers and relatives, still hold the most influence over them, first- and second-graders are entering the realm in which peer acceptance is tantamount to a strong sense of self-worth, and where one's own appraisal of others is overwhelmingly influenced by outward appearances. This is a perfect age for discussing the importance of loving and accepting behavior, supported by the assurance that we are strengthened to do so because God first loved us.



► Bible Point


Our hearts are what matter to God.

Key Verse

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Weaving Faith Into Life


Children will have hearts for God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Youngest, Oldest, and In Between <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Name one of their special gifts; learn that no matter what their age is, God has given everyone gifts; and sing a new song.	Bible, scissors, sheets of paper, CD player, pens, one lyrics page per child (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Cut enough sheets of letter-size paper in half so that you have one piece for each child.
2 Bible Exploration	The Right Person for the Job <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Take on the names of Jesse's sons and be interviewed for a special construction project by the prophet Samuel.	1 small tool per child, 1 name tag per child, paper, marker Teacher Pack: "David and His Brothers" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Write name tags for Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, David, and other Old Testament names, one per child.
	The New King <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear the Bible story and relate it to the game just played.	Bible	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>What Do You See? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn about the difference between looking at outward appearances and looking at the heart.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, crayons Teacher Pack: “Everyday Folks” figures</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Separate the “Everyday Folks” figures.</p>
	<p>God Loves Me Inside and Out <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create a self-portrait, focusing on both matters of the heart and outward appearances, and sing the new song.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pencils, crayons, paper, stapler, scissors, CD player, one lyrics page per child (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Trace the figure on the bottom of today’s My Bible Fun page. Cut out the shape, 1 per child.</p>
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Youngest, Oldest, and In Between Supplies

Bible
scissors
sheets of paper
CD player
pens
one lyrics page per child (at the end of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Lord Looks at the Heart"
(1 Samuel 16:7b)
(track 12)

Youngest, Oldest, and In Between Easy Prep

Cut enough sheets of letter-size paper in half so that you have one piece for each child.

1 GETTING STARTED

Youngest, Oldest, and In Between

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Every one of us has special gifts from God—things that we do well. Every one of us is good at lots of things because God gave us the ability to do those things well. I want all of you to close your eyes. Think about one thing you do really well. Think hard about all the things you do at home, at school, at church, and with your friends. Think about all the things you do well and pick one. When I touch you on the shoulder, I want you to open your eyes and whisper to me that one thing you do well.** Make a quick list so you can refer to it later.

Say: **Birthdays are special events for everybody. One at a time, I will ask you when your birthday is, and then I will write it down for you. Please hold on to your paper until we are ready to use it.** Write the birthdays on the half-sheets of paper.

Everyone hold up your birth date, and let's take a look at the year each of you was born. If all the years are the same, order the children by month, starting with January and working forward.

Ask:

- **Who is the youngest in the class?**
- **Who is the oldest?**

Point out that no matter how old we are, each of us has gifts; we each can do something well. Give examples, referring to your list of things the kids said they do well. For instance, you might say, "Sarah is the oldest, and she's a good soccer player. Miguel is in the middle, and he's good at drawing. Daniel is the youngest, and he is his dad's best helper in the workshop."

Say: **As you can see, it doesn't matter how old we are—we each have special gifts and talents. In Bible times, people usually thought the oldest son in the family would be the best choice for an important job. But in today's Bible story, we'll see that wasn't necessarily true! You can't tell how good a person will be at a job just by looking at the person or knowing how old he or she is. But God knows! Let's open up the Bible and see what God says about appearances, or the way we look.**





Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16:7, and read the Key Verse slowly so that the children can follow each word: **“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).**

Ask:

- According to this verse, what matters to God?
- What does God see when he looks at our hearts?

Say: **Let’s turn on the music and listen to a song that will help us remember today’s Key Verse.**

Play “The Lord Looks at the Heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b) (track 12 on the CD) a few times until kids are familiar with the words and melody. Then lead kids in singing the song. (Refer to the copies of the lyrics if necessary.)



**When we look at each other,
We can only see the outside.
When we look at each other,
We can only see the outside.**

**But the Lord can see past all that,
So much more, as a matter of fact.
The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.**

**The Lord looks at the heart,
Man looks at the outward appearance;
The Lord looks at the heart.
The Lord looks at the heart.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.
The Lord looks at the heart,
Man looks at the outward appearance;
The Lord looks at the heart.
The Lord looks at the heart.
The Lord looks at the heart.
The Lord looks at the heart.**

“The Lord Looks at the Heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





The Right Person for the Job Supplies

1 small tool per child
1 name tag per child
paper
marker

Teacher Pack

“David and His Brothers” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

The Right Person for the Job Easy Prep

Write name tags for Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, David, and other Old Testament names, one per child.

Say: **Now that we know our Key Verse, let's see how it applies to our Bible story!**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Right Person for the Job

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Lay out the tools and name tags, placing one tool with each name tag. Any tool can go with any name tag except for David's. David's tool has to be a blank piece of paper.

Say: **The people of Israel went to Samuel and demanded a king. The Lord was disappointed because this meant that the people didn't want God for their king. But God chose Saul to be the Israelite king. Saul looked like a king, but Saul wasn't such a good king, was he? Because Saul didn't follow the special instructions Samuel had given him, God decided to choose a new king for the Israelites.**

When God decided it was time to choose the new king, he told Samuel to go to the house of a man named Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. God said that one of Jesse's eight sons would be the new king God had chosen.

Show the “David and His Brothers” poster.

When Samuel saw Jesse's sons, he assumed that the oldest, Eliab, would be the new king. That wasn't God's plan, though. You'll see what happens because we're going to put on a little play to learn how God helped Samuel choose the new king. But in our play, instead of choosing a king, our Samuel will be trying to find the right person with the right tool for a special construction job. I'll be Samuel, and you'll be Jesse's sons interviewing for the job.

Explain to the kids that, one at a time, you will ask each child to choose a tool and name tag. Make sure that someone chooses to be David and someone chooses to be Eliab! Ask the kids to put on their name tags and to think about what their tools or materials are used for. If they aren't sure, or at any time during the activity they are uncertain about an answer, suggest they ask a classmate for ideas. Again, accuracy isn't important.

Say: **Okay, everybody! Listen up! My name is Samuel, and I'm a prophet. We're doing an important construction project, and there is one job opening left. It's a special job, and it will take someone with a special tool. The Lord has sent me to pick the right person for the job. I came to talk with all of you because you belong to the family of Jesse, an important family that can help me with an important job. Now, I'll talk to each one of you to see if any of you has the right tool and could be the right person for the job. Okay? Start with Eliab. Save David for last!**

Okay, Eliab! You're Jesse's oldest son! You must be the right person for our job!



Ask:

- What tool/building material do you have?
- What does it do?
- Why is it important for construction jobs?

Say: **You're right, that tool is important in construction projects, but that's not the tool we need. I'm sorry—you're not the right person for this particular job, but I know the Lord will need you for another special job! Who's next?**

Have the child playing Eliab sit down. Repeat the interview process until David is the only one left. Using the tone of voice that is usually used to address toddlers or babies, interview David.

Say: **Hello, David! How is Jesse's littlest boy doing today? Have you been busy playing today?**

Ask:

- What do you have there? Is that one of your little toys?

Now use a more serious tone.

Ask:

- **What do you do with paper?** If necessary, suggest the idea that we can write on paper. Use lots of surprise and excitement to respond.

Say: **Paper is the perfect tool for our special construction job! And you must be the person for our job! We need someone who can write down the plans so that all the walls meet in the corners and the roof is the right size. Everybody has tools that are important to construction jobs, but David had the tool we were missing. Without paper to help us plan, we would make lots of mistakes in our construction project!**

Lead the class in a round of applause for everyone's participation. Then collect all the tools so they don't pose a distraction.

Say: **In the Bible, Samuel's job wasn't to pick someone for a construction job, as in our game. His real job was to pick the new king. Let's see what happened!**

The New King

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

Say: **In the Bible, Samuel's job was to pick the new king, with God's help. We're going to hear how Samuel did it, but first let's recite our Key Verse together.** Recite the verse slowly: **"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"** (1 Samuel 16:7).



The New King
Supplies

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Bible





Now I'll read the story from the Bible. Listen carefully, and when you hear the Key Verse, raise your hand. Point in the Bible as you read 1 Samuel 16:1-13, acknowledging kids as they raise their hands at the Key Verse.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was this Bible story like our construction job game?**
- **Why did Samuel expect Eliab to be the new king?**
- **Were you surprised that God picked David for king? Why or why not?**
- **Do you think Samuel was surprised at God's choice of David as king? Why or why not?**
- **What matters to God?**

Say: **In our Bible story, just as in our construction job game, the person who was best for the job was a bit of a surprise. Samuel thought that Jesse's oldest son would be God's choice for the new king. But that wasn't the case. God knew which son had the tools for the job because God looks at the heart, not at outward appearances. ► OUR HEARTS ARE WHAT MATTER TO GOD. God knew that David had the inside qualities he wanted in a king. Let's look at some inside and outside qualities ourselves.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

What Do You See?

What Do You See? Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons
Teacher Pack
"Everyday Folks"
figures

What Do You See? Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Separate the "Everyday Folks" figures.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Spread out the "Everyday Folks" figures on a table, colored side up. Choose one figure to focus on.

Ask:

- **What do you notice about this person?** Discuss characteristics of each of the figures, eventually emphasizing that each of the figures has different physical characteristics.

Ask some questions about the Everyday Folks that can't be answered by looking at the figures, such as "Which of these people loves animals?" "Which of these people is afraid of spiders?" "Which of these people enjoys visiting at a nursing home?" and "Which of these people is often angry at his or her next-door neighbor?"





Say: **We can't answer these questions because the pictures don't give us enough information. We can't tell anything about people's interests, fears, or gifts just by looking at them. What does our Key Verse say about outward appearances?** Recite together the Key Verse: **"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"** (1 Samuel 16:7).

Turn the Everyday Folks over and mix them around. Then ask specific questions about the outward appearances of the Everyday Folks, such as "Which one of the Everyday Folks has wavy hair?" "Which one has peach-colored skin?" and "Which one has brown eyes?"

Say: **We can't tell now because we are trying to see the Everyday Folks the way God sees them: by looking at the heart.**

Have kids turn to the "What Do You See?" activity in today's My Bible Fun pages, and provide crayons.

Say: **Look at the pictures of the Everyday Folks on your page. Draw a circle around the Everyday Folks who are shown the way people see them. Pause. Now draw a box around the Everyday Folks who are shown the way God sees them. Pause. Now draw a heart next to the Everyday Folks who God loves. Pause.**

Have kids form pairs, and have partners show each other what they drew. Then invite volunteers to share their drawings with the rest of the class.

Say: **As our Key Verse tells us, God looks at what's inside a person—the feelings and thoughts of a person. People can only see the outside of a person. But God sees our hearts, too! Let's make something to help us remember that ► OUR HEARTS ARE WHAT MATTER TO GOD!**

God Loves Me Inside and Out

What You'll Do

Say: **Look at the figure at the bottom of your My Bible Fun page. We can't tell who this is the way the picture is now. Each of you will turn this picture into a portrait of yourself, inside and out! Each of you has feelings and thoughts inside of you. You can turn this person into a picture of yourself by writing down or drawing some of your thoughts and feelings.**

Distribute pencils for kids to write or draw with. After students have filled in some of their thoughts and feelings, have kids cut across the horizontal line above the activity. Then distribute the paper people you cut out before class and crayons.

Say: **Now it's time to think about what you look like on the outside. What color is your hair? What color are your eyes? Do your best to make this person look exactly like you do on the outside.**



God Loves Me Inside and Out Supplies

My Bible Fun
pencils
crayons
paper
stapler
scissors
CD player
one lyrics page per child (at the end of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Lord Looks at the Heart"
(1 Samuel 16:7b)
(track 12)

God Loves Me Inside and Out Easy Prep

Trace the figure on the bottom of today's My Bible Fun page. Cut out the shape, 1 per child.






When kids have completed both figures, help them to staple the two figures together on the left edges, with the picture of the outside characteristics on top. Show kids how to open their self-portraits like a book.

Say: **People look at the outside of a person, but God looks at the inside. Let's sing a song to help us remember all week long what matters to God.**

Play "The Lord Looks at the Heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b) (track 12 on the CD) for kids. When kids are familiar with the words and melody, lead them in singing the song. (Refer to the copies of the lyrics if necessary.)

 **When we look at each other,
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4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► OUR HEARTS ARE WHAT MATTER TO GOD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Take a walk in your neighborhood and pray for people who don't know Jesus.**
- **Tell a friend at school that God looks at our hearts. Then eat lunch with someone in your class you don't know.**
- **Each night before you go to bed, pray and ask God to give you a heart for him.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Let's show that we know that ► OUR HEARTS ARE WHAT MATTER TO GOD as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how our hearts are what matter to God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for seeing what's inside of us, instead of just the outside. Help us to try to look at people's hearts, not how they look. We love you and thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun





Lyrics

The Lord Looks at the Heart

(1 Samuel 16:7b)

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