

David

1) Ritual

"In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." We are more than what we seem on the outside. We belong to God. Just as the candle shines on the outside, God's light glows on the inside.

2) Check-in

Joys and struggles; blessings and bruises. **Give everyone a time to think first, at least one full minute.** Everyone benefits from a little bit of quiet to get in touch with themselves. Please ensure that kids are not interrupting one another during their sharing time. Giving each other space builds trust.

3) Review the Story

Please invite your kids to share their first impressions from today's Bible story.

GOD'S BOTTOM LINE PROMISE

"Humans look at outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." [1 Samuel 16:7]

BACKGROUND [1 Samuel 16 – God anoints Jesse's youngest son, David, king of God's people.]

God sent the prophet Samuel to choose one of Jesse's sons as the next king. Samuel was initially attracted to Eliab, Jesse's eldest son, because of his impressive physical appearance. God warned Samuel, however, that a person's stature is not a reliable measure of an individual's qualifications. Compare King Saul, who was also remarkable for his height (9:2; 10:23) but also rejected by the Lord (15:23).

Samuel's limited perspective arose out of his inability to see beyond outward appearances. Since Eliab (and Saul!) had apparently been blessed with good looks, it was natural to assume that God's blessing would extend to leadership. But God states very clearly: "The LORD looks on [better: "into"] the heart." To our ancestors, the "heart" represents what we would call "the mind"--the seat of the will, the intellect, and decision making--attributes that Samuel could not "see," but which were of the utmost importance and divinely discernible. God will be the one to choose Israel's king, and it will be on the basis of God's criteria. [Adapted from enterthebible.org]

Videos

- *Read Scripture: 1 Samuel* (The Bible Project): This video really gives the whole context for God choosing David to be king, his humble trusting heart. <https://youtu.be/QJOju5Dw0V0>
- *Word Study: Lev - "Heart"* (The Bible Project): Understanding **heart**, helps us know why God is so keen on looking past to appearances and into our hearts. <https://youtu.be/aS4iM6KpPYo>

4) Start with Sharing—Appearances and First Impressions

Retell the story [1 Samuel 16:1-13]. It is pretty short, just a half of a chapter. Perhaps start by reading it again. Then, discuss the *Start with Sharing* questions.

Bonus Ice-Breaker: Talk about your experience of trying-out for something or applying for something, adults and kids.

5) Activity—Inside Out

Again, give kids 5-7 minutes to draw. **Guides**, talk about pressures you experience to present with a good appearance. BONUS: What emotions are feel OK to express? What emotions do you sometimes feel like hiding? When do you feel pressure to pretend? (TIP: Use the Rainbow of Emotions handout.)

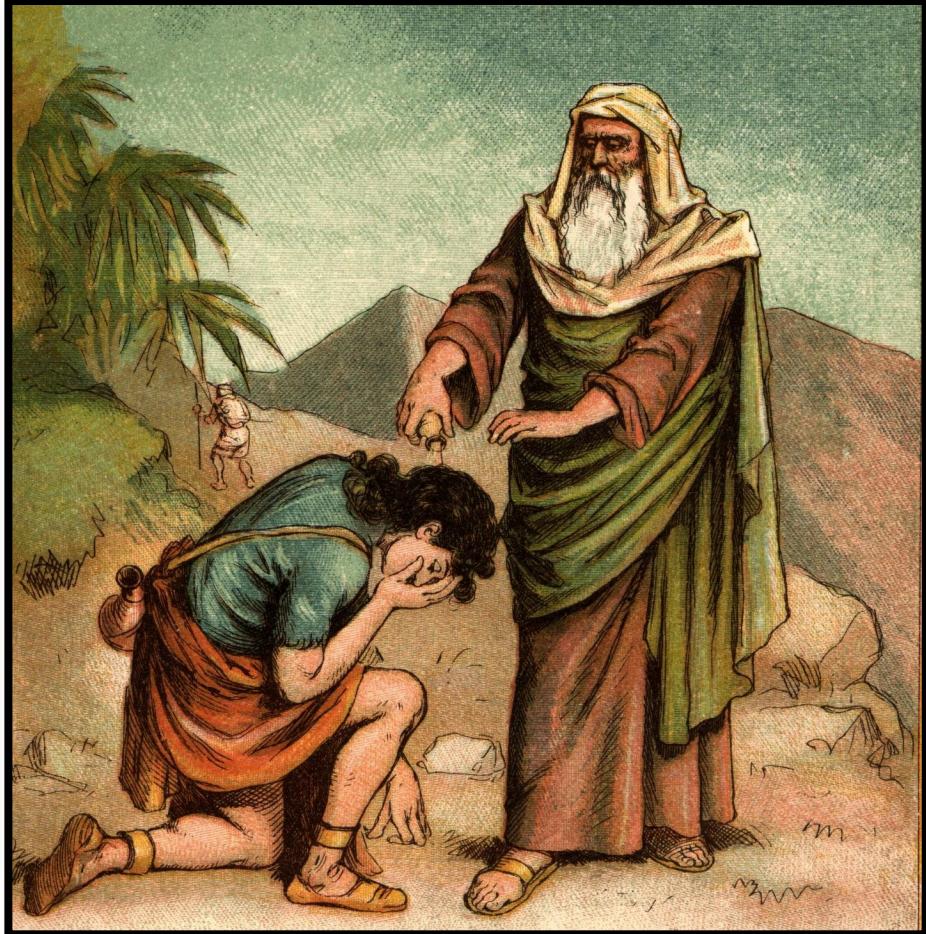
6) Further Discussion—Back to the Story

If you have time, read the Bible verse and discuss the question.

7) Pray and Bless

Take time if you can to ask for prayer requests and perhaps ways the group can pray for each other. This week ask kids where they would like prayers perhaps changing first impressions. Pray over and bless your kids.

Write or draw about things you liked or learned from the story. What surprised you? What do you wonder about?



Blessings and Bruises; How were you with God today? How was God with you today?
Questions? Wonderings? Write or draw here.

A photo

The Story of Our People

STORY SEVEN: DAVID

1 SAMUEL 16

START WITH SHARING

- + When have you bought or received a product or gift that turned out worse (or better) than you expected?
- + If you had been one of David's brothers, how would you have felt watching your younger brother get chosen? If you were David, how would you feel to be chosen by God to be king?
- + When has someone misjudged you based on first impressions? When have you misjudged someone else?



GOD'S BOTTOM LINE PROMISE

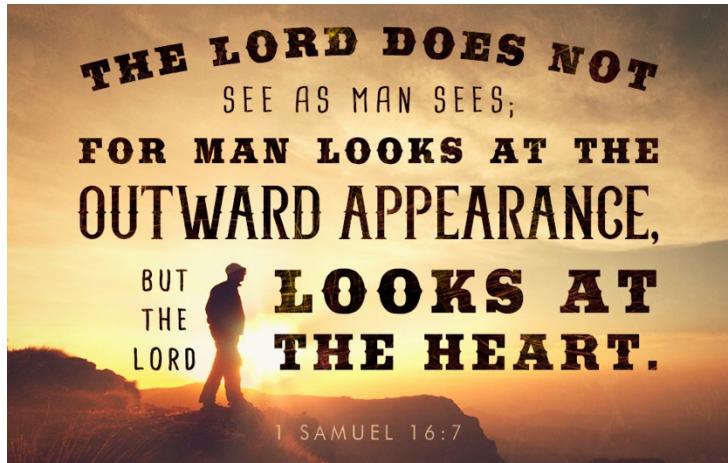
• "Humans look at outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." [1 Sam 16:7]

← ON THE LEFT

Draw pictures or symbols of how people see you on the outside. What image do you try to present? What assumptions do people make about you? (For example, you might draw some sunglasses if you feel pressure to act cool.)

ON THE RIGHT →

Draw pictures or symbols of how you see yourself. What parts of yourself do you keep more hidden or people do not see or know about you? (For example, you might draw notes if you really like singing but feel self-conscious about it.)



"The LORD has not chosen this one either." [1 Sam 16:8]
What does it feel like to be rejected? How does God use a 'no' to guide us to a 'yes'?

The Story of Our People

STORY SEVEN: DAVID



"The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.'" [1 Sam 16: 12]

What are some things people KNEW but then turned out to be wrong? What are some big questions you wonder about, but others seem to be super confident?

You are a precious child of God! And we love you very much!