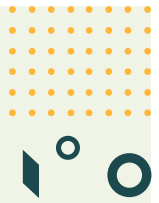


FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

APRIL 5-11



Scripture Reading

1 SAMUEL 16

Main Idea

GOD LOOKS AT MY HEART

Have you ever heard someone say, "Don't judge a book by its cover?". When people say that they mean that you shouldn't base your thoughts about someone just by their outward appearance. People are more than just what they look like on the outside.

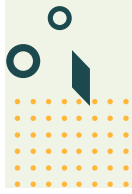
In today's story, God was ready to chose a new king of His people, the Israelites. This was a super important position and God knew exactly who was needed to lead His people. So God sent a prophet named Samuel to a man's home named Jesse to choose one of his sons to be the next king. But Samuel, like you and I, was looking at outward appearances.

He was looking for the oldest, tallest, strongest, most handsome person to be king. Samuel may have thought that those qualities were the most important to be a good king, but God had something different in mind. He told Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

God was looking deeper than what everyone else was looking for. And that's how a young boy named David became the next King. David was the youngest, smallest brother. He wasn't anyone's first choice to lead an entire country. But God saw what others couldn't. God saw that David loved God and he loved others. David may have been small on the outside, but inside, he had a giant faith in God.

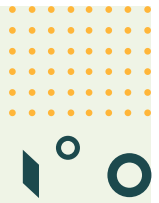
Now God didn't chose David because of his physical heart. When the Bible talks about our heart, it means our desires and choices. So when God saw David's heart, He saw that David's desires and choices were focused on God and following Him each day. And God looks at and cares about our desires and choices too.

It can be easy to spend our lives trying to do good things to impress God or impress others. On the outside we may look great, but God is far more concerned that we love Him and seek to be more like Him everyday. Obedience to God is much more important than just doing a bunch of good things. If we spend our lives living for ourselves instead of following God's plan, nothing we do in life will matter very much.



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

APRIL 5-11



Discussion

Preschool

- What do you want to thank God for today?
- Who did God chose to be King?
- How can we be obedient to God today?

Elementary

- What is your favorite part of this story?
- Why did God chose David to be King?
- What do you think it means to have a good "heart" for God?

Students

- What does this story tell you about God?
- Do you ever feel like you aren't enough for God to use in His Kingdom?
- Does this story give you a new perspective on God, yourself, and where your priorities should be?
- Do you ever find yourself judging people based on outward appearances rather than getting to know people for who they truly are?

Pray.

Dear God, we thank you that you see us for more than what's on the outside. We know you look at our hearts and we pray you would help us live for you and put you first in everything we do.

Help us to see the world and those around us the way you do. To love others and never judge based on outside appearances.

We thank you in Jesus Name, Amen.

Be Consistent

Create a family devotion plan and stick to it. It may be new to you and might take a few weeks to get off the ground, but consistency builds stability. Build this into your family life and over time, your family will look forward to it and your discussions will go deeper.

Be Authentic

Sometimes the best thing we can do to convey truth to others is to be real and vulnerable. It's easy to put up a facade with our kids, but they will learn from you most when you talk about your struggles and mistakes and how God brought you through.

Be Creative

You know your kids the best. So leverage that. Explore different locations, styles, games and whatever God lays on your heart. Jesus was creative when He spoke and we can be too!