

LESSON 56

God Chooses a New King

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13



BIBLE TRUTH

MAN LOOKS ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 56, “God Chooses a New King,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
A Little Bit Afraid
SUPPLIES:
✓ a pack of gum
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Man Looks on the Outward
SUPPLIES:
✓ two large bags of potato chips
✓ one carton of grapefruit juice
✓ one bag of individually wrapped candies, enough for the whole class
✓ small plastic bowls
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ coloring page 56—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Rotten to the Core
SUPPLIES:
✓ three apples
✓ several large prunes or figs
✓ apple corer or sharp knife
✓ knife and cutting board

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God rejects Saul—Saul has shown he is more concerned with doing what looks good on the outside than with acting out of love and obedience toward God. After disobeying God and not killing King Agag, Saul did not say he was sorry for anything until he was told that God had rejected him from being king. Only then did he say that he sinned (1 Samuel 15:24).

Samuel fears Saul’s reaction to a new king—Samuel is sad over Saul’s sin and God’s rejection of Saul. But God tells Samuel that it is time to anoint a new king. Samuel appeals to God, saying he is afraid that Saul will kill him for trying to anoint a new king. So God tells Samuel what to do so Saul will not become suspicious.

Samuel learns that God looks at the heart—At first Samuel looks at Jesse’s sons’ outward appearance, but God has a different plan. He is looking for a king who will run after the heart of God. After God instructs Samuel not to look at the outward appearance, Samuel becomes more discerning. One by one, Jesse’s sons are brought before Samuel, but each time Samuel says “No.” Finally, Samuel asks if all the sons have come. When Jesse mentions that David has been left behind, Samuel insists he be brought to them. David is so young he was not even invited to the sacrifice!

Samuel has learned his lesson. After all, God has been the power behind all of Israel’s victories. He doesn’t need a handsome leader; he needs a man who will trust in him.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Isaiah 53:2b.

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 form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). God's choice of David to replace Saul as king over Israel should make us think of another king, King Jesus. Jesus would have a perfect heart for God 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).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 56, "God Chooses a New King," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

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, and then very sternly call up one of the children in the class. Say something like:

{Child's name}, 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 {child's name} 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 [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.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Man Looks on the Outward

SUPPLIES:

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

The object of this lesson is to demonstrate that appearances 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.)

Holding up one of the potato chip bags, ask children who want a snack to raise their hand. Open up the bag and start distributing the contents. After objections, do the same with the other bag.

Then, holding the carton up, ask if anyone is thirsty and would like a drink. Most kids don't like grapefruit juice so they will probably refuse. If no hands go up, 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.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 56—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is Samuel doing?

(He is anointing David as king.)

What is he pouring on his head?

(oil)

Why is he doing this?

(God told Samuel to anoint David to show God's choice for king of Israel.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Rotten to the Core

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three apples
- ✓ several large prunes or figs
- ✓ apple corer or sharp knife
- ✓ knife and cutting board

Prior to class, carefully hollow out two of the apples from the bottom up taking care not to disturb the top of the apple. Push the prunes or figs into the hollow of the apples. Now set the apples up in a row on a table.

Without allowing the children to touch the apples have the class line up in front of the apple they think is the best apple. Then tell the class you are going to allow the children to sample the apple they picked. Start with one of the cored apples. Cut it in half and show it to the class. They should react thinking it is rotten.

Do this for all the apples. Then connect it to our Bible story where God tells Samuel not to look at the outward appearance but at a man's heart instead.

LESSON 56 - GOD CHOOSES A NEW KING

