

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**
Heavy Boxes
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ clear packing tape
 - ✓ duct tape
 - ✓ eighty pounds of small exercise weights
 - ✓ two cardboard boxes: one small box (just large enough to fit the weights) and a second box at least twice as big as the first
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
David and Jesus
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Eight Sons
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Line up the Sons
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ simple costume items such as a few inexpensive fake beards, a couple of old flat sheets, rope for a belt, and a few large branches for staffs

TOTAL 80 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Heart

When God tells Samuel that he looks at the heart, he does not mean he looks at the muscle in David that pumps his blood. The heart is the center of our emotions, thoughts, and desires. The heart is where our sinful nature is (Matthew 15:18–19), but it is also where our love for God should be (Mark 12:33). It is in our heart that we believe (Romans 10:9). It is in our hearts that God is going to transform us, taking away our hearts of stone and giving us hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).

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

Heavy Boxes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ clear packing tape
- ✓ duct tape
- ✓ eighty pounds of small exercise weights
- ✓ two cardboard boxes: one small box (just large enough to fit the weights) and a second box at least twice as big as the first

Use this exercise to demonstrate that looks can be deceiving and you need the right person for the job.

Place the weights inside the small box, and seal it with clear packing tape. Seal the larger box with duct tape. Place the boxes on the floor.

When class begins read the Bible story. Recruit two volunteers—one tall and strong; the other, small and thin. Tell them that you need the boxes moved across the room. Pretend to be trying to decide which child will carry which box. Say to yourself, “Let me see, who should I give the larger box to?” Then, tell the smaller child to pick up and move the larger box. Tell them to be careful as it might be a little hard to lift.

After the smaller child moves the larger box, send the bigger child to pick up the smaller box. Tell them to be careful because it might be a little hard to lift.

Allow the exercise to play out. (Be careful they do not get hurt.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What was odd about what happened?**
(The smaller box was the heavier one.)
- **When I was trying to figure out which person to select to pick up the large box were you surprised I didn't ask {taller volunteer}.**
(Yes, the bigger box looked heavier than the smaller box.)
- **Why was my decision a good one?**
(You picked the stronger person to lift the heavier box.)
- **How is this like God choosing David?**
(David was smaller on the outside but better suited to the job God had for him. God was not interested in a king who could win battles on his own. God was interested in a king who would depend not on his own strength for victory but on God.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

David and Jesus

Find some similarities between David in 1 Samuel 16:1–13 and Jesus as described in Isaiah 53:2b. (Neither David nor Jesus appeared impressive on the outside. They were chosen because of their heart for God.)

Discuss with the class the following ways we typically look at outward appearances:

1. Which would you be more likely to purchase: a car with a sweet-looking body but with a clanking engine or a well-maintained, ugly brown car with a bunch of dents?
2. What types of people are pictured on magazine covers: those with godly characters or those who are handsome and beautiful? Why is that?
3. Who do we esteem more: rich people or poor? Why don't their characters figure into the evaluation?

Ask the class if they can think of other examples from their own lives. All of these examples show us that we look at outward appearances first.

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 15 MIN

Eight Sons

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Jesse's eight sons from tallest to shortest.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**Line up the Sons****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple costume items such as a few inexpensive fake beards, a couple of old flat sheets, rope for a belt, and a few large branches for staffs

Help the children act out the choosing of David. Recruit students to play the parts of Samuel and Jesse. Recruit eight students to play the parts of David and his brothers. Have them stand in height order and assign the part of the oldest, Eliab, to the tallest student. Assign the part of the second oldest, Abinidab, to the next tallest student. Continue assigning parts by height order all the way down to the youngest, David. Here are the sons of Jesse from oldest to youngest:

1. Eliab
2. Abinidab
3. Shammah
4. Nethanel
5. Raddai
6. Ozem
7. Zeruiah
8. David

Use the narrative in 1 Samuel 16 to guide the performance. Have Jesse's older sons ham it up, and as each name is called, have them flex their muscles and show off. When all the sons are brought before Samuel, David should come in from the side as though he had been out with the sheep. When the drama is complete, ask the class to tell you the main idea of the story. (Read 1 Samuel 16:7.)