

Bible Lesson



High School/Young Adult Bible Lesson: God Looks at the Heart

God Looks at the Heart

by Sue Hart, DCE

Materials Needed

- Index cards, drawing utensils, activity sheet

OPENING ACTIVITY:

- Split group into groups of three.
- Have each group find three things they have in common (not physical – e.g., not eye color).
- If they need suggestions, examples could include: favorite holiday, favorite season of the year, hobby, a sport they enjoy, a book or video game they like, favorite phone app, favorite movie, etc.
- Have one person introduce their small group and list the things they have in common.
 - ▶ You can make it a bit silly by asking the person who does the introduction to use a voice like a talk-show host.

Icebreaker credit to: Julie David- <https://www.signupgenius.com/church/youth-group-icebreakers.cfm>

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear God our Father, You have brought us together and into Your presence to study Your Word and grow in our faith. Fill us with Your love and move us to love others. Help us see others the way You intended us to see them, as Your creations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FOCUS:

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the LORD looks at what is in the heart.

-1 Samuel 16:7 NIV



LESSON:

- Hand out index cards and drawing utensils.
- Students may use their phones for reference if needed.
- Directions: Draw at least three emojis to describe yourself.

Do these emojis really represent who you are as a person? As God's dearly loved?

Let's face it, emojis provide only a quick judgement or glimpse into a moment. Emojis do not completely tell the depth of who you are to God.

Discuss in your group of three:

- What emojis would those around you use to describe you today?
- Are they the same as the ones you drew about yourself?

Read: 1 Samuel 16:6-13

What we know:

- God sent Samuel out to anoint the new king from Jesse's family.
- Jesse had eight sons; David was the youngest.
- All of Jesse's sons were present during the first meeting except David who was tending the sheep.
- Samuel passed by all the sons and anointed David.

Discuss:

- What qualities do you look for in a good leader?
- What qualities would you find in an ineffective leader?

Read and discuss the following Bible verses.

What does the Bible say about good leaders?

- Matthew 20:26
- Proverbs 29:11
- 1 Timothy 4:12
- Philippians 2:3
- John 13:13-17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Reread: 1 Samuel 16:7

When choosing a leader, God said He looks at the heart. God is not concerned with how we look on the outside, but rather who we are on the inside. Unfortunately, the world does not often see what God sees.

- Have you ever found yourself defining someone by how they look?
- Has anyone ever judged you by your appearance?
- If so, how does it feel to be judged by your appearance?
- Think about people with disabilities. Do you think the world often judges them by their disability?



MEET CHASE

 https://youtu.be/2JKU_ej-OSw

or

 <https://vimeo.com/352783082/0cc0904f9a>

- Think back to the qualities of a good leader from the Bible. Did any of the verses suggest leaders should not have a disability?
- What stood out for you in this video?
- What does Chase rely on when it comes to his anxiety?
- What leadership qualities did you see in Chase?
- Do you see some of the same leadership qualities in yourself?
- Does this video help you see life from a different perspective? If so, how?
- How could you make a difference for someone with a disability?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God our Father, You have looked into our hearts and You call us Your children. At times, we have looked at appearances and made snap judgements about the people around us. Forgive us when we shut people out because of our own assumptions. Help us have eyes that see the heart of each person we meet face to face. Help us not judge. Give us the courage to lead others to see Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Resources

If you would like resources for disability ministry, go to BethesdaLC.org and cph.org/Bethesda.

Resources for reference or viewing during a service or Bible class.

 Nikki Celebrates Communion (2:23) <https://youtu.be/O5tIHW3pXd8>

 Alana Celebrates Confirmation (4:25) <https://youtu.be/DIXCD1ajtJc>

 We are Indispensable (2:19) https://youtu.be/3n0OI-WJ_98

 Psalm 139 (2:18) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFGOWJmnB9Y>

 Psalm 46 (2:01) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC9L0DoG7e>

 Chase Becomes a Leader (3:49) https://youtu.be/2JKU_ej-OSw

© Copyright, 2020, Bethesda Lutheran Communities. All rights reserved. This content is intended for educational use only. Copies may be made to support your classroom or place of learning.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, Nlrv® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. www.zondervan.com The "Nlrv" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

God Looks At The Heart



Directions: Write at least three things everyone in your group has in common. (not physical—e.g., not eye color).

- Examples: favorite holiday, favorite season of the year, hobby, a sport they enjoy, a book or video game they like, favorite phone app, favorite movie, etc.
- Have one person introduce their small group and list the things they have in common.
