

Lesson #4-7

GOD CHOOSES DAVID

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14



Key Verse:

“For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

The Point:

God sees beyond the exterior to what is within our hearts.



INTRODUCTION

God rejected Saul as king because of his disobedience, and sent Samuel to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as the next king. Jesse presented seven sons to Samuel, but God had not chosen any of them. Instead, God chose Jesse’s youngest son, David. Samuel anointed David in front of all his brothers. God reminded Samuel that God does not judge people based on outward appearance; instead God looks at our hearts.

As David grew older, he did become king, and he also made some big mistakes. But God was right about David’s heart and David’s devotion to God. Today’s psalm reading gives us a glimpse of David’s character.

When he messed up, David asked God to make his heart clean, and renew him into the person God created him to be.

The Point

God sees beyond the exterior to what is within our hearts. Sometimes we are too focused on our failings or what we currently lack. We spend energy dreaming about what we might become when we are older or more educated or something other than we are now. The story of David reminds us that God calls us for who we are. God does not judge us based on our outward appearances, our accomplishments, or even our mistakes. God looks at our hearts and sees the true essence of who we are.

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

INTRODUCTION

WHAT YOU SEE

Create a portrait.

10 MIN.

- † Colored paper
- † White paper
- † Glue sticks
- † Scissors

LEARNING THE STORY

SURELY IT IS ME

Pretend to be the sons of Jesse.

15 MIN.

- † Bible

ACTIVITIES

VALENTINES

Share Valentines with others.

10 MIN.

- † List of homebound congregational members
- † Colored paper
- † Envelopes
- † Markers or pens
- † Glitter
- † Glue
- † Scissors
- † Optional: buttons, decorative hole punches, heart stickers, lace, paper doilies, ribbon, rickrack, washi tape



ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

ACTIVITIES

1 SEE YOUR HEART

Affirm one another.

10 MIN. † None

PRAYER

- † Anointing, olive, or jojoba oil
- † Small dish or bowl
- † Paper towels



GOD'S STORY @ HOME



INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

WHAT YOU SEE

Create a portrait.

Supplies:

- † Colored paper
- † White paper
- † Glue sticks
- † Scissors

Preparation:

1. Cut colored paper into various shapes, including large circles and ovals in a variety of flesh tones for faces; brown, green, and blue circles for eyes; triangles in flesh tones for noses; half circles in shades of red and brown for mouth; strips of different colored paper for hair; etc.
2. Create an example of a portrait made from colored paper shapes.

Instructions:

1. **We are going to explore what a person can tell about you just by looking at you.**
2. **Partner up with another person. Using the art materials provided, create a portrait of your partner that shows basic details of their appearance. This might include eye color, hair length and color, the shape of someone's face, etc. Show the example portrait you have made. Some basic shapes have been cut that you can glue together to create a portrait, or you may wish to cut your own. If you prefer to draw the portrait, that works, too.**
3. **Share your partner portraits with everyone. What were you able to tell about your partner just by looking at them? Do you think a person's appearance tells us everything there is to know about them? Why or why not?**
4. **Today's lesson focuses on how God see us: not based upon outward appearances, but on our hearts.**

LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SURELY IT IS ME

Pretend to be the sons of Jesse.

Supplies:

† Bible

Instructions:

1. Choose one person to read the passage from 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Choose one person who is considered wise to play Samuel. Choose a small child or young person to play David. Use any additional people to play all the other sons of Jesse.
2. **As the story is read, we will become part of a living statue to help illustrate it.**
3. Explain that as each brother is named, the person playing Samuel will shape that person into a statue that represents what a king might look like, strong, fierce, tall, etc. The narrator should read the passage slowly, pausing after verses 6, 8, 9, and 10a for Samuel to shape the statues of Jesse's sons.
4. Continue the pause after verse 10a. Ask, **If you had to choose, which of Jesse's sons would you pick to be king? Let's continue the story to hear who God thought would make the best king.**
5. Instruct the narrator to pick up the story again at verse 10b. When David is called, the person playing David should stand normally beside the other brothers, without being shaped into anything.
6. **Let's take some time to talk about the story. Share what you did and did not like about it. Which character did you feel most connected to? What qualities do you think are most important in a good leader? Talk about what you think it means for God to judge us by our hearts.**

ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

VALENTINES

Share Valentines with others.

Supplies:

- † List of homebound congregational members
- † Colored paper
- † Envelopes
- † Markers or pens
- † Glitter
- † Glue
- † Scissors
- † Optional: buttons, decorative hole punches, heart stickers, lace, paper doilies, ribbon, rickrack, washi tape

Preparation:

1. Print a list with mailing addresses of members who are homebound.
2. If your church has a prayer list, print copies along with mailing addresses for the people listed on the prayer list.
3. If distributing lists of names and addresses is not possible due to privacy or other concerns, ask the appropriate church staff member how these Valentines can be given to those who would appreciate receiving one.

Instructions:

1. **There are times in life where it is especially helpful to hear that God sees us for who we are and that God loves us.**
2. **We are going to share affirmations of God's love by creating valentines for homebound congregational members and people on our prayer list.**
3. **We have valentine making supplies and address lists and envelopes for you to use.**

ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

I SEE YOUR HEART

Affirm one another.

Supplies:

† Nothing

Instructions:

1. **Celebrating who we are as individuals is helpful as we identify how God calls us to serve in the world. It helps us to see past our accomplishments—as well as our mistakes—and to focus on what God sees in our hearts.**
2. **Many of us struggle to accept affirmations when they are given to us and find it hard to simply say thank you. Even David may have questioned what God saw in him.**
3. **We acknowledge what God sees in our hearts when we give and accept affirmations with grace. Let's practice doing this together. Affirmations can be as simple as: "You are kind," "You are creative," or "I appreciate the way you help me when..."**
4. **Each one of you will share affirmations with each other. Look the person in the eye, say their name, and share your affirmation. When someone gives you an affirmation, respond by looking them in the eye and saying, "Thank you."**
5. **Optional discussion items:**
 - **What did it feel like to affirm others?**
 - **What did it feel like to be affirmed?**

- Was it difficult to simply say thank you?

PRAYER

Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Supplies:

- † Anointing, olive, or jojoba oil
- † Small dish or bowl
- † Paper towels

Please join me by standing together in a circle. Moving around the circle, we will each bless the person on our left, anointing by dipping our thumb in the dish of oil and making the sign of the cross their forehead or hand, whichever they prefer. As you do so, say, “God loves you and calls you by name.” Show participants how to lightly place their thumb in the oil as you start the blessings and anoint the person on your left. Pass the small dish of oil around the circle for participants to use. **We anoint one another as Samuel anointed David to help us remember that God sees past both our accomplishments and our mistakes, and recognizes what is within our hearts.**