



4TH-6TH GRADE

GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART (2.7) - CYCLE 3
JANUARY 6, 2019

TODAY'S STORY: SAMUEL AND DAVID

1 Samuel 16:1-13

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE:

"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"

Ephesians 1:4

NOTES OF KINDNESS

SUPPLIES:

- Index cards (1 per child)
- Pens or colored pencil

DIRECTIONS:

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: Who is the kindest person you know?

Have children gather into a circle or sit at a table. It's nice to hear your stories about kind people in your life! Let's spend time writing some kind notes to one another today. To begin, pass out an index card to each child and invite them to write their names on one side. Collect the cards, mix them up, and pass out the cards again. Be sure each student doesn't get their own card back. Encourage the children to write a positive note or affirmation about the person whose name is on the card. If students do not know the child whose name they receive, they can write a positive statement or general encouragement to that student. Once everyone has written on each child's cards, return the cards back to the students so they can read them.

MEMORY VERSE

SUPPLIES:

- Paper
- Pen
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS

Write the Remember Verse onto a sheet of paper in large print. Then, cut each word of the verse out. Invite students to sit together as you review the Remember Verse with the group a few times. Then, pass out one of the words of the verse in random order to each child. Instruct students to work together to put the verse in its correct order without speaking. They can use hand signals and other ways to communicate without talking to each other. When the children finish, check and see if they were able to put the verse in order.

JANUARY'S MEMORY VERSE

"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"

Ephesians 1:4

THE BIG GOD STORY

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Storytelling Technique: Demonstrations

God Looks at the Heart

SUPPLIES:

- Optional: Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Construction paper
- Stapler
- Stuffed animal
- Optional: bottle of oil

DIRECTIONS:

Roll the construction paper into a cone shape so that it looks like a horn. Staple the sides together. Our God is amazing! He loves us so much and knows each one of us so well. The Bible tells us that God knows us inside and out! Today in The Big God Story we're going to learn about how God chose a new king. God picked a king who would do a good job. God was able to do this because He knew this young man inside and out. This king was not the oldest or the strongest or the tallest, but those things didn't matter to God because God looks at the heart. He knew that what's important is what is on the inside and whether or not we have hearts to follow Him. God looks at our hearts and knows each of us personally. Let's take a minute to thank God for being an amazing God who looks at our hearts! **Lead the children in a Prayer to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.**

Invite the kids to turn to 1 Samuel 16 in their Bibles and follow along as you tell today's story. Samuel the prophet knew God very well. He was there when Israel's first king, Saul, was chosen. But Saul disobeyed God, so God was no longer going to let him be king. God wanted a king whose heart was pure and who would seek Him first. That means He wanted a man who loved God more than anything to rule over His people. **Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:1 aloud.** Samuel was sad that Saul wouldn't be king any longer, but God had a plan! He told Samuel to fill his horn with oil because He was going to lead him to a new king. In Bible times, kings were anointed by someone pouring expensive oil on their heads. This was a way for everyone to know that they were important and special. **Invite a child to come up and take the construction paper trumpet and the bottle of oil (optional). He can hold it up for all to see.**

Samuel was afraid that Saul would be mad if he knew he was searching for a new king. But God told Samuel to take a sacrifice to Bethlehem. Whom do you know who was from Bethlehem? Invite responses. That's right! Later on in The Big God Story we see the greatest king of all, Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem! And here in this part of The Big God Story, we get to meet the first important king who came from Bethlehem. When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem he found Jesse and asked him and his sons to worship God with him by sacrificing an animal as an offering to God. **Read 1 Samuel 16:5 aloud. Invite someone to come up and hold up the stuffed animal as a sacrifice.** Samuel looked at all of Jesse's sons, and he thought that one of them was going to be the new king of Israel! Read 1 Samuel 16:6 aloud. But God doesn't do things the way we would. We might choose the tallest, strongest, or best athlete. Invite different kids to demonstrate standing up tall, flexing muscles, and pretending to throw a ball. But God knows what's important. **Have a volunteer read 1 Samuel 16:7 aloud.** God knew the hearts of each of Jesse's sons and whether or not they would follow Him. God was going to choose a king who would love and serve Him first, and it didn't matter what he looked like! God looks at the heart.

Jesse had each of his seven sons pass in front of Samuel. **Invite seven kids to come stand at the front of the room from tallest to shortest.** If you have fewer than seven kids, just invite them to all come up and stand in a row. But with each one, Samuel would say, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." The Lord looks at the heart, and none of the seven sons were the one God had chosen to be king. **Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:11 aloud.**

There was still one more son that Samuel hadn't seen. Does anyone know who this was? Invite responses. That's right—it was Jesse's youngest son, David! They went and got David, who was caring for the sheep, so Samuel could meet him. **Have someone read 1 Samuel 16:12 aloud.** David was the one God had chosen. God knew his heart and knew that he would always try to love and serve Him. So Samuel took the oil and anointed David with it. He was going to be Israel's new king! **Ask a child to pretend to pour oil from the construction paper horn over the head of the last person in line.** From that day, David was filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to grow as a man of God! And next week in The Big God Story we'll see how God continued to use David and protect him when everything around him was going wrong.

David was the youngest of all his brothers. He's not the one whom anyone would have chosen to be king. But God looks at the heart. He knew that even though David would mess up sometimes, David would always try to follow Him first of all. God looks at our hearts too. It doesn't matter if we're the best at school or the worst at sports. What matters to God is our hearts and if we want to follow Him. And what is amazing is that when we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, God gives us His Holy Spirit to help us follow Him. He helps turn our hearts toward Him and shows us how to walk in God's way. What an awesome God we serve! He looks at our hearts! Consider sharing a time when you were grateful God looks at the heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where did God tell Samuel to go? 1 Samuel 16:1
- What did Samuel think when he saw Jesse's sons? 1 Samuel 16:6
- What do people see when they look at others? What does God see? 1 Samuel 16:7
- Why did God choose David?

SERVE

11:45AM - 12:15PM



FIND THE KING

SUPPLIES:

- Paper (1 sheet)
- Scissors
- Pen

DIRECTIONS:

Cut out a strip of paper for each child in the class. Write the word "king" on one strip of paper. Each of Jesse's sons was brought before Samuel where he listened to God to hear which one would be the next king. God eliminated each of the older sons and told Samuel that David, the young shepherd, would be the next king. Today we are going to play a game where we will try to find out who the king is.

Pass out a strip of paper to each child and instruct them not to share their card with anyone. One child in the group will receive a strip with the word "king" written on it. Then, students will have to walk around the room and shake hands with one another. The student with the king paper will squeeze the hand of the person when they shake hands. When a hand is squeezed, that person will be eliminated from the game and have to sit down. As the game continues, students can guess who the king is. If they are wrong in their guess, they are out of the game and the game continues. If they are right, the game ends. Play several rounds if you have time.