



Grace Church Elementary

# Camp Grace

## LESSON 33

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Principle:** God looks at the heart. Man looks at the outside.

**Bible Character(s):** David

**Scripture Reference:** 1 Samuel 16



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, please read 1 Samuel 16. God rejected Saul from his kingship and revealed to Samuel who the next king would be. God told Samuel to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. Samuel met each of Jesse's sons and guessed who the next king would be based on appearance, but God looked at the heart of each son.

God chose David to be the next king because God looked at his heart instead of his outward appearance. God cares more about the condition of a person's heart than what a person looks like on the outside. In what ways do you look at the outward appearance, instead of the heart, in your daily walk? How much of your first impression of others is based on outward appearance versus a person's heart? Spend some time meditating on 1 Samuel 16:7 and ask God to help you to care more about a person's heart than his outward appearance.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### Judging a Book By Its Cover

Supplies:

Book cover pictures (1 set per bin)

Go through the cards with pictures of book covers on them and ask the campers which book they would rather read just by looking at the covers. Keep a tally for each card showing which book received more votes.



### BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE

by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

## **The Bridge to Small Group**

Today, we will continue our study of 1 Samuel. We will learn about how God cares more about the condition of a person's heart than their outward appearance. We will examine the condition of our own hearts.

## **Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes**

### **Getting Started**

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

**What did you learn about in Big Group? How was the worship team trying to choose a new member? (Watching to see if they had a certain look to fit in.) Did they think about the person's heart or even if they could sing? (No, only looked at their outward appearance, not musical talent.)**

Over the past few weeks, we have been learning about disobedience. What did the other countries have that made the Israelites want it too? The countries around them had a king. The Israelites demanded a king so they could be like the other nations around them. Did the Israelites listen to what God wanted for them? They did not care that God told them it was not what was best; they wanted a king anyway. What did God do? God gave them a king, Saul, even though He knew it was not good for them. What did we see Saul do in our lesson last week? Saul disobeyed God by not fully obeying everything God asked of Him. What happened to Saul? As a consequence, God took away Saul's kingship. God demands complete obedience. God told Samuel that He had to search for a new king.

Today we are going to learn about this new king, and why God chose him. Let's begin reading the Bible in 1 Samuel 16 [NLT]

### **1 Samuel 16:1-6**

*1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."*

*2 But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."*

*"Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."*

*4 So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"*

*5 "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.*

*6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!"*

Why did Samuel think Eliab was the one that God had chosen to be king? (Allow responses.) Samuel thought this based on his first impression of Eliab.

## First Impression



The purpose is for the campers to see how they have a tendency to evaluate things on their first impression.

### Supplies:

Fancy gift bag filled with dull prizes (1 per session)  
Brown paper bag filled with fun prizes (1 per session)

Show each bag to the campers, and ask them their first impression of each one. What do they think about what is inside the bags? Which one would they chose to open? Why or why not?

Open their first choice bag and see what is inside. Was their first impression of this bag reflective of what was inside? Open the second bag. Was their first impression of this bag reflective of what was inside?

Children can take home the prizes at the end of class, but be sure to put them out of sight and reach until that time. Teachers, if there are multiple bags in your cabin's bin, please only use one for your service and only give one prize per camper. If you have leftover prizes at the end of class, you can put those in one of the other dull/prize bags for the next class.

## Tie It Together



Often, we look at people the same way as we did these bags; we judge them by how they look, or their outward appearance. If we do not like how the person looks or do not feel comfortable around the person because of how he/she looks, then we do not want to talk to them or be around them. Judging others by their outward appearance is sin. God calls us to love everyone, not just the people we want to love or feel comfortable loving. If we choose to only love the people we want to love, we are disobeying God. Jesus loved everyone, no matter what a person looked like. He saw each person as a creation of God, created in His image. We can look at other people as a creation of God, instead of judging by outward appearance. When we learn to love as Jesus loves, we reflect who Jesus is to others.

Samuel looked at Eliab and he expected Eliab to be the next king because of how he looked (his outward appearance). Do you think this was a good way to choose a king? (Allow responses.)

Let's see how God responds to Samuel's thoughts about Eliab and read the Bible.

### 1 Samuel 16:7

*7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

God warned Samuel not to judge by outward appearance. Remember our activity we did before Big Group time with the books? How many of you would say you judged the book by its cover? (Allow responses.) You judged whether a book would be good based only on the way the cover looked. Did

you think the book could be good, even though the cover did not make it look like a good book? Judging by outward appearance is not what God wants us to do. This is what God is trying to teach Samuel.

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Samuel responds to God's words.

### I Samuel 16:8-13

*8 Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen." 9 Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." 10 In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"*

*"There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."*

*"Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."*

*12 So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes.*

*And the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him."*

*13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.*

God had chosen David to be the next king. Why did God choose David? (Allow responses.) God looked on the inside, at David's heart, instead of judging him by his outside appearance.

## Expectations



The purpose is to show the campers that our expectations are not always what God has in mind.

### Supplies:

White board

Draw a line down the middle of the white board. On the left side, write "Characteristics of a King" at the top. Have the campers list out different characteristics that they think a king possesses (wise, powerful, strong, smart, worthy, leader). Then write "Characteristics of David" on the right side. Now have the campers list out characteristics of David (youngest, handsome, shepherd/leader of sheep, lowly position, character).

## Tie It Together

How many of David's characteristics line up with what you think a king is? Does that mean David will not be a good king? (Allow responses.) We have expectations of what we think is good and what is not. We make first-impression judgments based off of these expectations, but we forget that only God can judge what is good and what is not. God knew David's heart and chose him to be king. God did not care if David was king material based off of his outward appearance. God wants us to not make assumptions about people based off of our judgments from an outward appearance. Can you

think of any times you have judged anyone on a first impression? Do you think people have judged you on a first impression? (Allow responses.)

## Self-Portrait



The purpose is for the campers to understand that only God can see us for who we truly are.

### Supplies:

Worksheet - 1 Samuel 16:7 side (1 per camper)

Hand mirror (3 per bin)

Crayons/markers

Give each camper a worksheet and tell them to turn to the side with 1 Samuel 16:7. Have them look in the mirror and draw pictures of themselves.

## Tie It Together



What does this picture show about you? It shows what you look like on the outside. Does it show everything about you? Does it show what kind of person you are on the inside? Does it show what you are thinking or feeling? God is the only person who can see you for who you really are. He sees more than what is reflected in the mirror. He can see what you are like on the inside, how you are feeling, what you are thinking. God can see the condition of your heart. Have them read the verse on the paper with you a few times - "People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

## Clean Hearts



The purpose is to show the campers that only God can make our hearts clean.

### Supplies:

Worksheet – heart side (1 per camper)

Tell them to turn the worksheet over to the heart side. Ask them to write down things that show evidence of a clean heart (confesses sin, apologizes, shares toys, speaks kindly) in a color and write some things that they might do that does not show a clean heart (speaking disrespectfully, not sharing, being mean, using bad words) with black. Go over the verse with them a few times - "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me" Psalm 51:10.

## Tie It Together



If you could hold the mirror up to your heart, what reflection would you see? (Allow responses.) Sometimes a mirror shows us that we have a dirty face and we need to wash it. Our hearts get dirty from our sin and need to be cleaned. We all have sinful hearts and we all need God to change our heart. Jesus died to pay the price for our sins, and He can help us to live in a way that is glorifying

to God. He can help us to not judge people by their outward appearance, but instead learn about who they are as God's child. Think about some things in your heart that are dirty and let's spend a few minutes asking God to change our hearts to make them more like His.

## Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to our change hearts and help us not judge others based on how they look.



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