

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B– Proper 6
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Background

In some ways, God is re-establishing his authority of the choosing of the kings of Israel. When Saul was chosen, the people had begged for a king and God took it as rejection of his authority. He granted their wish and later regretted his choice. Now he sends Samuel to Jesse and a big deal is made of bringing out all the older sons first. God makes his message clear: it is what is on the inside that matters most. David is found by God to be the right one, even though he is young.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

We do best when we remember that God chooses us and calls us into leadership, and that our outward appearance does not matter. God sees what is in our heart.

Theme: The Lord Looks on the Heart

Before Class: Gather the materials to make cards and letters. Learn the songs.

Gathering: Gather the children in a circle and invite each person to share something about themselves that others would not know just by looking at them. Celebrate together the wonderful gifts and experiences shared and wonder together about the significance of getting to know someone on a deeper level than just what is visible.

Opening Prayer: O God, you know us and love us. Help us to see what really matters in our friends and family. Amen.

The Story: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 Read the story from a child-friendly Bible. You could begin with verse 16:4. Or read “David Is Anointed” in the Children of God Storybook by Desmond Tutu.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how Samuel felt as each son was brought out to him?
- I wonder who was most surprised to learn that David would be the next king?
- I wonder what God saw in David that helped him choose David to be king?
- I wonder what God sees when looking at me? At you?

Activity:

Character Appreciation Cards - Talk about the importance of seeing people for who they really are and not just reacting to what they look like. Say that God values our characteristics of kindness, courage, helpfulness, faithfulness, etc. Invite them to think about someone close to them (a family member, neighbor, close friend, etc.) and consider their “invisible” qualities. Ask them to name one quality they appreciate and create a notecard for that person affirming that characteristic. A simple template could be “Dear _____, I am glad to know you and thank

God for your _____.” The children can add the name of the person and the attribute, then decorate the card and take it with them to share with the person.

Inside and Out Cards

Take a piece of paper and fold the left and right edges to the middle. Now the paper has two flaps that open out to show the inside. Have children draw or write known/visible things about themselves on the outside, then open the flaps and draw or write interior/invisible things about themselves on the inside.

Game: Stand Up/Sit Down

This is a simple “follow directions” game. The leader calls out a characteristic (either seen or unseen). The children stand up if that characteristic applies to them. Examples could include: wearing black shoes, is kind to family members, likes to sing, wears glasses, etc.

Closing: Save time during the closing circle for students to share the cards they made. Sing Thuma Mina (Send Me Jesus) from My Heart Sings Out, or “Here I Am” from Wonder Love and Praise.

Closing Prayer: God of grace, thank you for creating us in your image and helping others see in us the gifts we have to serve you each day. Bless us as we leave this place and help us to see and appreciate the qualities and gifts each person has. Amen.

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