



God Sees David's Heart

1 Samuel 16



LESSON GOAL

Students will seek to have hearts that please the Lord.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- God chose David to be the next king of Israel.
- Samuel looked at Eliab's appearance rather than his heart.
- Man looks at the outside, but God looks at the heart.

KEY VERSE

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7).

APPLICATION

- Praise God, who knows your heart.
- Learn what pleases the Lord.
- Do not judge others by their outward appearance.

NEXT WEEK

David Defends God's Honor
Read 1 Samuel 17.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Despite Samuel's warnings, Israel rejected God as their king and demanded that Samuel set a human king over them. Perhaps Samuel had been hopeful when God confirmed His choice of Saul. Instead of rejecting His people, the Lord had sovereignly decided who would lead Israel. After being empowered by the Lord's Spirit (1 Sam. 11:6), Saul conquered the Ammonites and gave glory to God (11:13). Despite his initial humility, however, Saul soon revealed a prideful heart. He was more willing to listen to his own desires and the desires of his people than to God's commands (13:1–14; 15:1–35). When confronted with his sin, Saul offered excuses rather than true repentance. Because Saul ignored the Lord's commandments (13:13; 15:11), the Lord rejected first his descendants (13:14) and then Saul himself as king (15:22–23). The Lord promised to instead set over His people "a man after His own heart" (13:14). First Samuel 16 reveals the man whom God chose to lead Israel.

The Lord's Purpose (1 Sam. 16:1)

First Samuel 16 begins with Samuel still mourning for Saul. There were many possible reasons for Samuel's mourning. Emotionally, Samuel seems to have cared deeply for Saul. Spiritually, Saul had rejected the Lord, and his repentance seemed unlikely. Nationally, Israel, so prone to disobedience, was now being led by a king in rebellion to God. Samuel would never again go to Saul or tell him the Lord's word (15:35); their relationship had been sundered. The Lord allowed Samuel to mourn for a while, but now the time had come for God to fulfill His sovereign plan. Samuel already had told Saul that God had picked "a man after His own heart" (13:14) and had given the kingdom to a "neighbor" of Saul's (15:28). The Lord roused Samuel from his mourning, commanded him to fill his horn with oil for anointing, and sent him to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem (16:1). The sovereign Lord who had rejected Saul had provided Himself a king from among Jesse's sons. The Lord's mysterious and perfect plan included both anointing and rejecting a king who followed his own heart and then anointing a king after God's heart.

The Lord's Plan (1 Sam. 16:2–5)

Samuel was concerned that Saul would kill him when he found out what he was doing (1 Sam. 16:2). His concern reveals exactly how deep Saul's rejection of God went. The Lord did not rebuke Samuel for his fear; instead, He told him to offer a sacrifice in the town. Doing so would both settle Saul's curiosity and provide a venue for the anointing of one of Jesse's sons (16:3). The Lord told Samuel, "You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

Samuel obeyed the Lord. When he arrived in Bethlehem, "the elders of the town trembled" and wondered whether Samuel came peaceably (1 Sam. 16:4). Perhaps they feared being seen as aligning with Samuel, or perhaps they worried that he

was coming in his previous role as judge. The exact reason is not mentioned. Samuel told them to sanctify themselves and come to the sacrifice. Jesse and his sons also were invited (16:5). The people likely consecrated themselves by washing their clothes and refraining from sexual relations and other uncleanness (Ex. 19:10,14–15).

The Lord's Person (1 Sam. 16:6–13)

When Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab, he quickly assumed, "Surely, the LORD's anointed is before Him" (1 Sam. 16:6). The reason for Samuel's assumption is seen in the Lord's response: "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him" (16:7). Samuel had expected God to choose another king like Saul, someone tall and handsome. The Lord quickly told Samuel that He does not evaluate as man evaluates; while "man looks at the outward appearance...the LORD looks at the heart" (v. 7). Samuel's assumptions would have led him astray in anointing a king; he could not choose a man after God's heart by looking at the outside. The Lord alone knows the heart. The Lord had known the heart of Saul and sovereignly chosen to give Israel a king who both outwardly and inwardly was like the kings of other nations. Now God was going to give Israel a king after His heart.

Samuel patiently waited as Jesse's others sons were brought before him. After each one passed by, Samuel announced that the Lord had not chosen him (1 Sam. 16:8–10). When none of Jesse's children were chosen, Samuel asked Jesse if all of his children were there. Jesse announced that the youngest was tending the sheep (16:11). Stressing the importance of the youngest son's presence, Samuel said that they would not eat the sacrifice until he came (16:11). The narrator describes the youngest son as "ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking" (16:12). ("Ruddy" refers either to reddish hair or a bronze complexion.) Samuel had already learned that the son's good looks could not be an indication of whether the Lord had chosen him. Knowing the son's heart, the Lord told Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" God had revealed the man whom He had chosen. After Samuel poured the oil on his head, the Spirit of the Lord came upon David, the youngest son of Jesse and the great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth (16:13). God had chosen for himself a king who desired to do His will. The Spirit came on David as He had on Israel's previous leaders, to divinely empower him for leading His people.

The Lord's Placement (1 Sam. 16:14–23)

The Lord's anointing and empowering of David began a long journey toward David becoming king. Although David did not rule all of Israel until he was 30 years old (2 Sam. 5:4), the Lord gave David early confirmation of his being chosen. When the Spirit of the Lord came on David, the Spirit left King Saul (1 Sam. 16:14); Saul was left to rely on his own strength and wisdom to lead Israel. Instead, God allowed a "distressing spirit" (demon) to trouble him. Even Saul's servants recognized that his emotional state was caused by this "distressing spirit" and suggested that music could calm him (16:15–16). Liking the idea, Saul told the servants to bring someone who could play the harp well (16:17). A servant recommended David, "a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him" (16:18). David, although he had not yet battled Goliath, already had a growing reputation as a godly musician and warrior.

When Saul sent for David, David was still humbly and faithfully shepherding his father's sheep (1 Sam. 16:19). David came and played before the king, who "loved him greatly, and [David] became his armorbearer" (16:21). Saul was so relieved when David played his harp that Saul asked Jesse to allow David to stay with him

(16:22). The irony is startling. God had sovereignly ordered the situation so that He sent a distressing spirit on Saul, placed in Saul's court a servant who had heard of David, and sent David to serve the king whom he had been anointed to replace! Still more startling is that Saul loved David and cherished his company. Even Saul approved of the man whom God had chosen to be king over Israel.

Conclusion

The Lord always knows man's heart. He knew Saul's heart and what Saul would do when presented with God's commands. Saul was more concerned with pleasing himself and other men than with pleasing God. God also knew the heart of young David. David had been changed by God's grace into a man after God's heart. David longed to know God, sought to obey Him, and repented when he disobeyed. Although far from perfect, David was inherently different from Saul. Even as a youth, David wanted what God wanted. God was divinely directing the course of Israel according to His plan. That plan included the promise God gave to David to have a descendant of his reign forever (2 Sam. 7). The Lord was pleased with David, a young shepherd, who had a heart to know God, please God, and glorify God. Believers should strive not for man's approval, but for the Lord's commendation that he is "after God's own heart."

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Who were the Israelites at war with?

The Philistines.

How long did Samuel tell Saul to wait?

Seven days.

Was Saul obedient to Samuel's instructions?

No; he decided to offer the sacrifice without Samuel.

What was the consequence for Saul's disobedience?

His family would no longer be in the kingly line.

What was Saul told to do next?

Saul was told to destroy the Amalekites.

Was Saul obedient?

No; he destroyed only some things and not everything as he had been commanded.

What happened because of his disobedience?
Samuel told Saul that he would lose the kingdom to another man.



Pick by Appearance

Talk with the students about how they are chosen for games. Who usually is chosen first? Sometimes they are chosen because of their talent and sometimes because of the way that they look. Set up a scenario where children are in a street. One child looks strong and cool, and the second looks small and not very athletic. The children decide to play kickball. As captains choose their players, the cool-looking child is picked first and the small child is picked last. As they begin to play it is quickly evident that the cool-looking child has never played kickball and in fact is not particularly good at sports. The second child is the star player and scores the most runs for the team. Tell the students that a similar kind of event is going to happen in our lesson today. David, the youngest of Jesse's sons and the most unlikely to be chosen, is selected by God to be the new king of Israel.



Anoint a King

Materials: five male dolls or pictures of men, five red hearts, masking tape, one small crown

Directions: Before class, cut out the hearts and number them 1–5 in large, bold numbering. Write the following on the backside of each heart: 1—Disobedient to God's commands, 2—Greedy, selfish, 3—Rebels against authority, 4—Man after God's own heart, 5—Lazy, sluggard. Tape the hearts to the chest of each doll. Make sure that heart 4 is taped to an average or poor-looking doll. Cut out the small crown and make sure it will fit on each doll's head.

During class, display the five dolls or pictures in front of the class so the students can see them as they enter. Explain that the students are going to decide which doll is going to be the next king over Israel. Have the students examine the physical appearance of the dolls. Take a private vote by having the students close their eyes and raise their hands when each number is called. Assign a teacher to count the vote for each doll. After the vote, anoint the king the students chose by placing the crown on his head. Next, reveal each man's heart by turning them around to the back side. Ask the students if they still would like the same man to be anointed king. If not, have them revote based on the men's heart condition. This activity should lead to a discussion of the key verse, 1 Samuel 16:7.



After God's Heart

In today's lesson, we will learn about a man after God's own heart. Discuss with the students what it means to be a man after God's own heart. Ask the students how they can practice these things throughout the week.



Heart X-Ray

Each day people fall and get hurt. Sometimes these people are taken to the hospital, and a picture called an X-ray is taken to see whether any of their bones have broken. This X-ray sees part of us that can't be seen with human eyes. But God can see things that not even an X-ray can see. He sees our hearts. He knows what our motives are—why we do what we do. He knows us and requires obedience from the heart. In today's lesson, we will see that God took a look at David's heart and liked what He saw. David desired the same things as God and had a spirit of repentance when he sinned. This pleased God.



Things We Can't See

Begin this activity by talking with the students about things that we can see. We can see the ceiling, the floor, the teacher, the Bible, etc. Then talk about body parts that we can see, such as the face, arms, and legs. Discuss parts of our body that are inside and that we can't see, such as the stomach, liver, and brain. Explain that there is another part of us that we can't see but that only God can see. That is our heart. Discuss what the heart is. Explain that it is not our physical heart but it is the part of us that makes decisions and that knows right and wrong. God knows our heart, and that is what He cares about.

Variation: To allow the students to work independently, have them divide a page in half and draw things that we can see on one side and things that we can't on the other. Then lead into a discussion of God seeing our heart.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Even though Samuel had warned the Israelites not to reject God as their king, they asked for a human king. So Saul became their king. God set Saul over the people and promised to bless them if they and their king obeyed Him, but King Saul disobeyed God. First, God punished Saul's disobedience by taking the kingdom away from his son, and then when Saul disobeyed again, God said that Saul was not going to be the king of the Israelites anymore. God would give Israel a new king. He said that this time He would give them "a man after His own heart."

The prophet Samuel was still very sad about Saul. He cared about him very much, and he knew that Saul's disobedience and rejection of God was very serious. Samuel was also sad for the Israelites, because they were so easily led to sin. Samuel knew he would never again go to Saul to give him a message from God, because Saul was rebelling against God. God allowed Samuel to be sad for a while, but then it was time to stop. God had work for Samuel to do; he was to go find and anoint the new king over Israel. Samuel prepared for his journey as God had told him to: he filled his horn with oil for anointing, and set off to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem. God had said he would find the new king, the "man after His own heart" there. The first king, Saul, had followed his own heart by doing what he wanted to do instead of what God told him to do. But the next king would follow God's heart, instead of his own.

Samuel set off to Bethlehem but was afraid that Saul would kill him when he found out that he was going to anoint a new king. God calmed Samuel's fears. He told him that he should offer a sacrifice in Bethlehem, which would keep Saul from being curious about what Samuel was doing. It would also be a good place to have the anointing ceremony. Samuel obeyed the Lord. When he arrived in

Bethlehem, he told the leaders of the town to cleanse themselves and come to the sacrifice. He then made sure that Jesse and his sons were invited, just as God had commanded him to do.

Everyone gathered for the sacrifice. When Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab, he thought that surely this was the man God had chosen to be king. Eliab was very tall and handsome. But God said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him." Samuel had expected God to pick another king like Saul, someone tall and handsome. But the Lord quickly told Samuel that He does not evaluate man the way man evaluates other men. He said, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Only God, then, could choose the king, because He is the only one who knows a person's heart. When God chose Saul, he gave the Israelites what they had asked for: a king like the other nations had. And Saul had been just that. On the outside, he was tall and good-looking, and on the inside he was wicked, just like the kings of the other nations. But this time God would choose the Israelites' new king based on His requirements—that is, someone who was "after His own heart."

After God told Samuel that He had not chosen Eliab, Samuel patiently waited as he met each of Jesse's other sons. But Samuel knew that God had not chosen any of them either. So he asked, "Are all of your children here?" Jesse said, "No; my youngest son is out tending the sheep." Samuel said that they would not eat until this other son arrived, and Jesse sent for him. When he finally arrived, Samuel noticed his appearance. His name was David, and he was ruddy and good-looking and had bright eyes. But Samuel knew that this was not important to God. God would not choose him because of his good looks, but because of his heart. God saw David's heart and was pleased. God said to Samuel, "Arise and anoint him, for this is the one!" David was anointed king, and God's Spirit came upon him and gave him the power he needed to lead the Israelites.

David had a long journey ahead of him in becoming the king of Israel. He didn't rule over all Israel for a long time. God had a plan for David, and David had to be patient and trust Him in the meantime. Even though God had rejected Saul as the king of Israel, Saul was still sitting on the throne and ruling the people. But as soon as David was anointed king, God's Spirit left Saul and came to David. Saul was left without any help at all from God in leading Israel. Even worse, God allowed an evil spirit to come and torment him. Saul was so distressed by this evil spirit that his servants suggested they find a musician to come and play music for him, to help calm him down. They thought someone who could play the harp would be best. Saul liked that idea. One of his servants said he knew of a young man named David. He said, "He is the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skilled in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech and a handsome person, and the Lord is with him." David had already gained a good reputation among the Israelites, and God was using David's skills as part of his plan. So Saul sent for David. Saul did not know that God had already anointed David to be the next king. David left his job as shepherd and came and played his harp for King Saul. Whenever David played his harp, the evil spirit left Saul, and he was calm. Saul liked David so much that he asked Jesse to let him stay there permanently. Jesse agreed, and David became the king's armorbearer. None of this was an accident. God always has a plan, and this was God's plan in motion!

The Lord always knows a man's heart. He knew Saul's heart and what Saul would do when presented with God's commands. Saul was more concerned with pleasing himself and other men than with pleasing God. God also knew the heart of young David. David had been changed by God's grace into a man after God's heart. David wanted to know and obey God. He was very different from Saul, because he wanted what God wanted. God had a plan for Israel, and David was going to be a



big part of it. God promised that a descendant of David would be the King who would reign over the earth forever, and that was Jesus Christ. Just like David, we should not look for approval from other people, but for approval from God.

Lesson Questions

What did God tell Samuel to do next?

God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint a new king.

Was Samuel obedient?

Yes.

What did Samuel first think when he saw Eliab?

Samuel looked at his appearance and thought that he would be the next king.

What did God tell Samuel about Eliab?

God said that He did not choose Eliab as the next king. God told Samuel not to look at his outward appearance because that is what man looks at, but God looks at the heart.

Who did Samuel anoint?

Samuel anointed Jesse's youngest son, David.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Seeing through the Eyes of God

Bring in two different pairs of glasses, one labeled "Man's View" and the other labeled "God's View." Alternate wearing the glasses throughout the lesson when talking about people who saw David with a worldly perspective and others who saw him with God's eyes.



Choices

Ask the students how they choose particular things. Bring in examples of some choices. For example, how would they choose a dog from the pound, a book from the library, or a friend to play with? Now ask them how they would choose a king. In today's lesson we will see that God uses Samuel to anoint the next king. Samuel thought he knew who the next king would be just by looking at him, but Samuel was wrong. God did not use the methods of choosing a king that we would choose, but instead, He chose a king with a special kind of heart.

Praise and Worship

Change My Heart, Oh God

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

Oh, Be Careful



God Chooses David

Samuel went to Bethlehem to do a special thing.
(Use two fingers to make walking motion on palm of hand.)

God had told him, "There you will anoint the future king."
(Pretend to place crown on head.)

To Jesse's house the prophet went, to see his seven sons.
(Hold up seven fingers.)

He thought the oldest, Eliab, must surely be the one.
(Hold hand up to indicate height of tall person; nod head.)

To his surprise, the Lord announced that Eliab was not it.
(Make surprised face; shake head.)

As one by one he saw each son, God said they were not fit.
(Point outward and shake head; do this several times.)

The youngest one was then brought in; they thought, "No! Could it be?"
(Hold hands out at sides, palms up; make surprised face.)

When David stood before him, God told Samuel, "It is he!"
(Point and nod head.)

For God looks not at outward things, like clothes or height or hair.
(Point to clothing; hold hand up to indicate height; point to top of head.)

God sees inside a person's heart and knows what's hidden there.
(Place hand over heart; nod head.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"What's Your View?"

Materials: photocopy of glasses frames (at back of lesson) on cardstock for each student, copies of the view lens on transparency paper for each student, clear tape, scissors

Directions: Before class, photocopy the glasses frames and lenses on the appropriate paper type. During class, pass out the glasses frames to each student. Instruct the students to cut around the outer edge, and cut a hole for each lens. Pass out one of each lens type to each student. Instruct them to cut out the lenses, insert them in the glasses frame, and tape in place. Have students put on the glasses and see how different Man's View is from God's View.



God Looks at the Heart

Materials: copies of "God Looks at the Heart" craft sheets, crayons, scissors

Directions: Give each student copies of the craft pages, and have them cut out the picture along the dark lines. Color the heart and David. Fold the paper in on the dotted lines to bring the ends together. Have older students write characteristics of a godly heart inside the heart.



"Examine Your Heart!"

Materials: heart copied on red paper for each student, scissors

Directions: Pass out a heart to each student and instruct him to cut it out. Have each examine his heart privately. Then have the students write down one thing they do that they believe is pleasing to God on the front side of the heart. Next, have the students turn the hearts over and write down one thing they do that is not pleasing to God so they can pray about it this week and repent of this sin. Students should take their hearts home as a reminder to pray for God to change their hearts. Use the following lists to help guide the students.

God-Pleasing Heart

Wanting to please God
Having humility
Doing right when only God is watching
Helping others because it pleases God

Man-Pleasing Heart

Wanting to please man
Having pride
Doing right when others are watching.
Helping others when it benefits you



5

The Faces of Saul

Materials: two paper plates per student, stapler, glue, Saul's faces (at back of lesson), large wooden craft sticks

Directions: Help the students create a "Faces of Saul" flip mask. Begin by stapling two plates together in several places. Leave room between the plates to insert a large craft stick. Insert and attach the craft stick to form a handle. Instruct the students to cut out the Saul heads and glue one to each side of the plate.

This craft can be used during the lesson. After Saul sinned and God rejected him as king, God sent a "distressing spirit" that would come on Saul and trouble him. His servants suggested that music could help him. They sent for David to play the harp for Saul. At the appropriate times, the students can show which face represents what Saul was doing. This can also be used in next week's lesson.



David's Harp

Materials: empty tissue boxes, rubber bands, decorations

Directions: Students can stretch rubber bands around their tissue boxes to create harps. Then they can decorate their harps and play music as David may have done. It may be helpful to create a sample harp so the students can see what they are going to create. Demonstrate how they can make music with their harp once they are finished.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b).

What's Your View?

“Man looks at the outward appearance...”

Man's View

God's View

“...but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

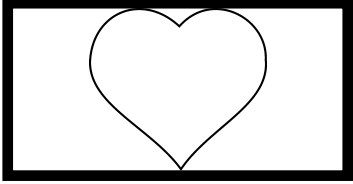
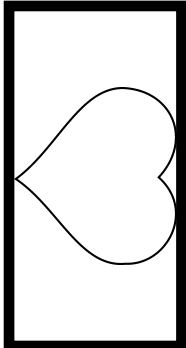
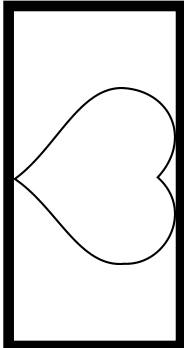
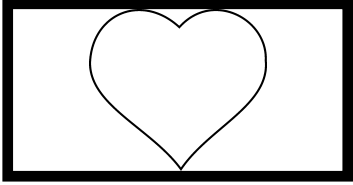
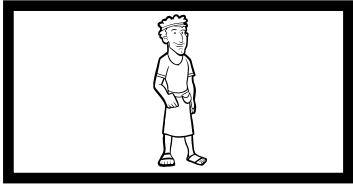
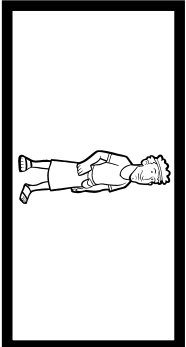
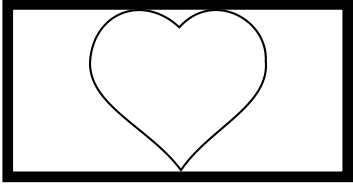
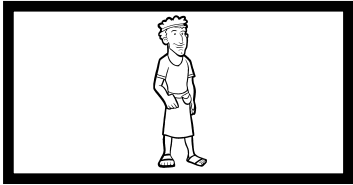
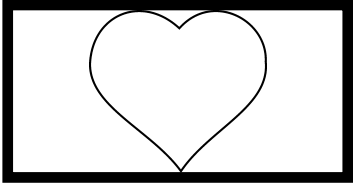
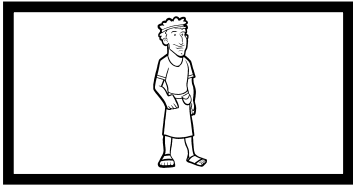
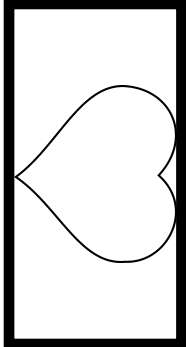
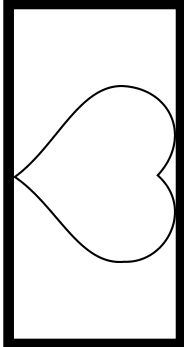
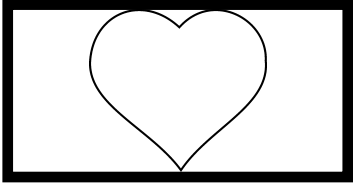
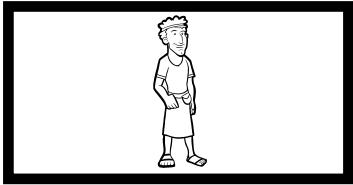
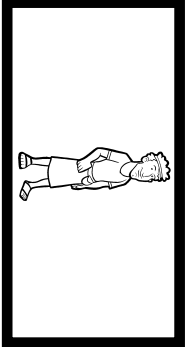
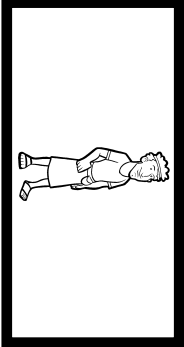
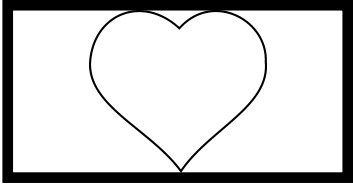
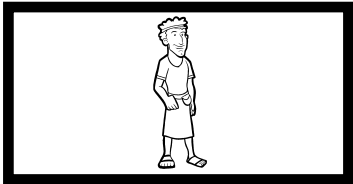
“Man looks at the outward appearance...”

“...but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

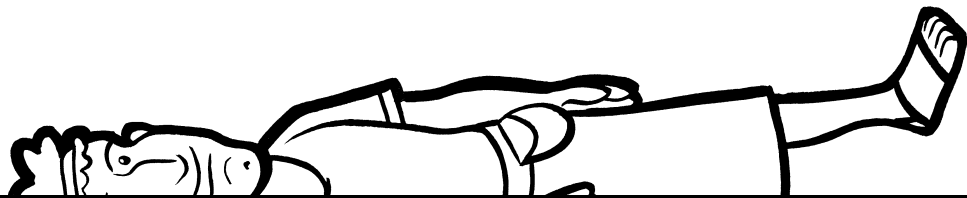
God's View

Man's View

What's Your View?



looks at the
appearance...

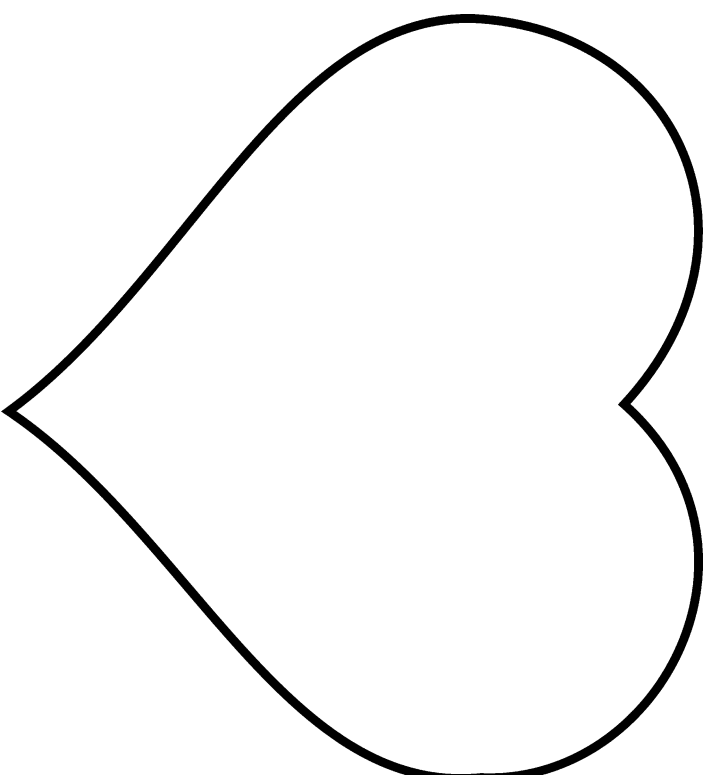


“For man
outward

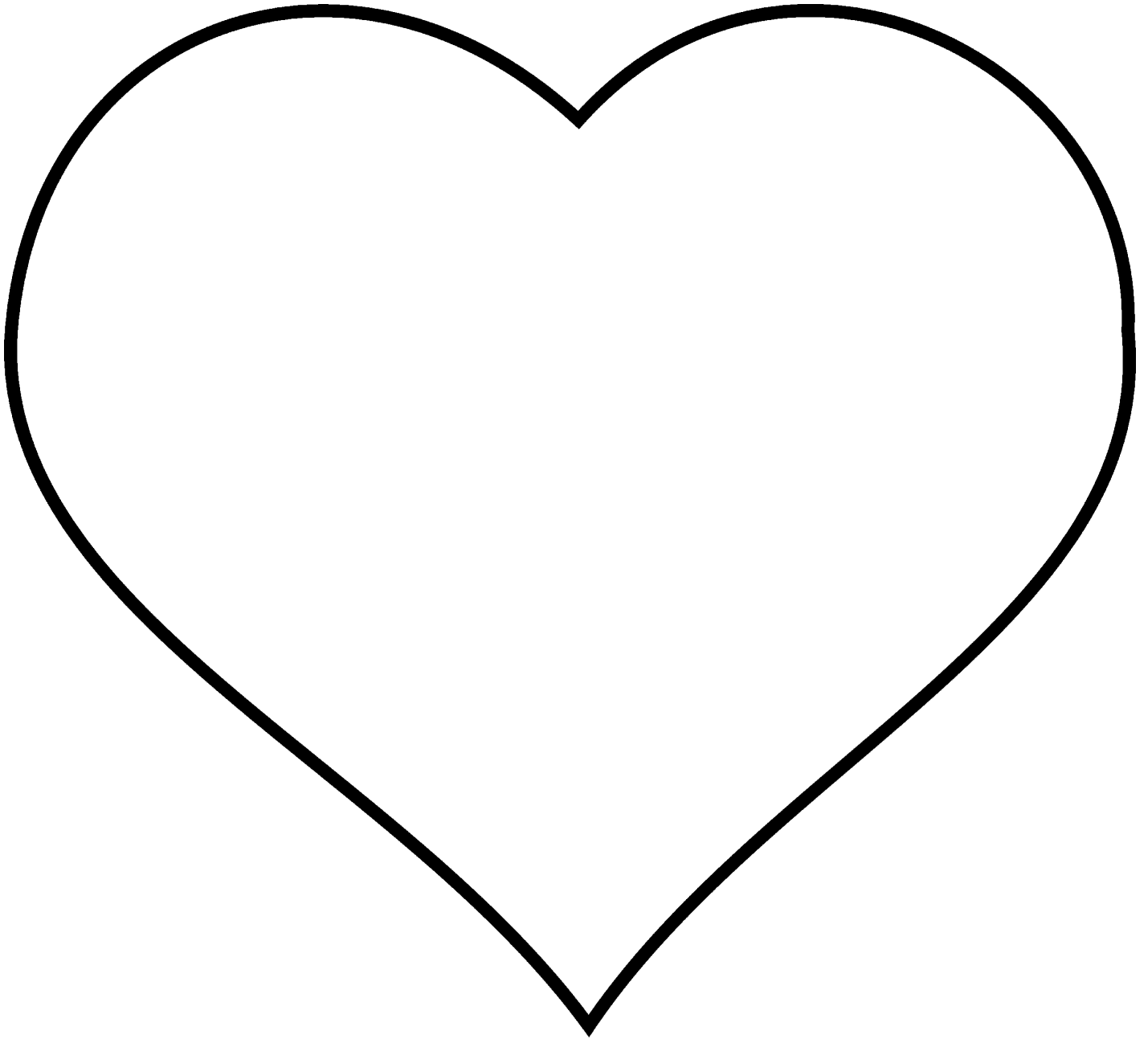


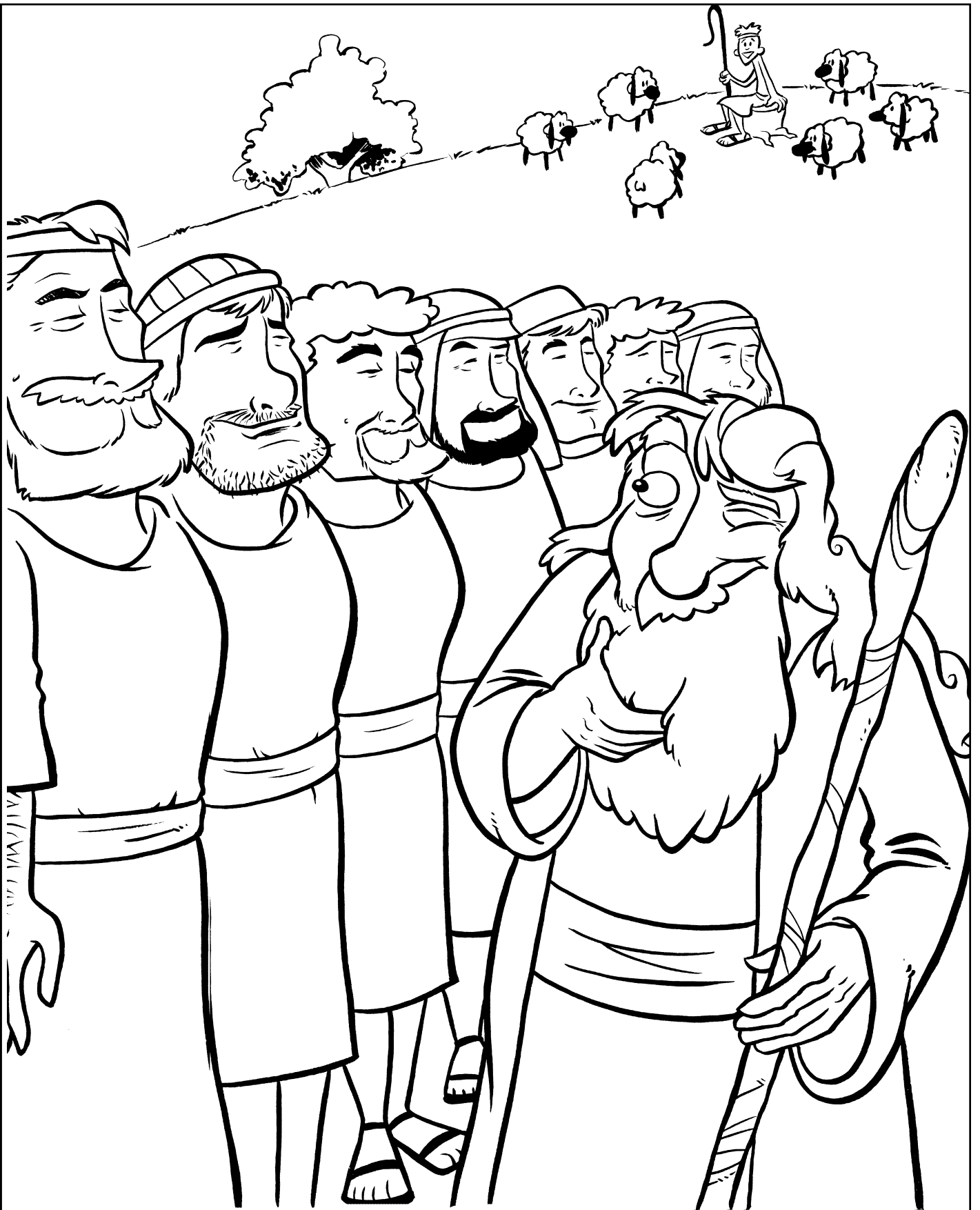
but the LORD looks
at the heart”

(1 Samuel 16:17).



Examine Your Heart





“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature....For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart’” (1 Samuel 16:7).



“And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take his harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him” (1 Samuel 16:23).

