

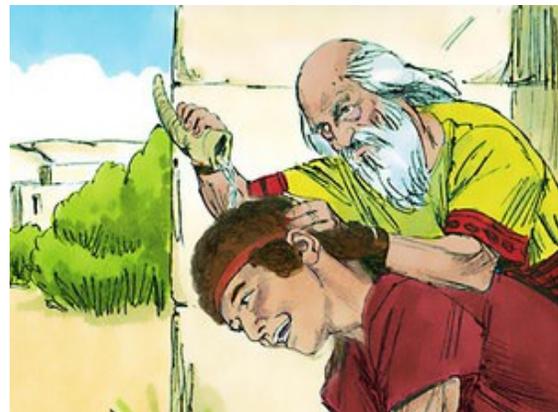
# God's Special Plan For Children

**Aim:**

Focus on the consequences of forgetting God's grace and concentrating on one's own achievements. Nothing to boast on our ability, but it is God's gift.

## Teacher's Preparation

- Begin the class by asking the students if they know someone who has been singled out from others because of how they look/talk/have a disability.
- Ask the students if they have ever been excluded because of their appearance/disability and how they felt.
- The focus of this lesson is to show students that no matter the outward appearance, God cares for our hearts and intentions - not how nicely we dress or the friends we hang out with.
- God cares that we treat each other fairly and with love.



# God's Special Plan For Children

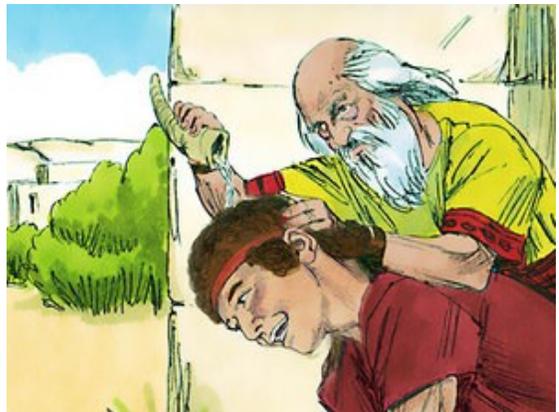
## Aim:

**God cares for our thoughts and actions, not our outward appearance and we should not judge people either.**

## 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.



FreeBibleImages.net

## Student Introduction

Mother Teresa entire life was fully devoted to helping the poor, the sick, the needy, and the helpless.

### **Where did Mother Teresa grow up?**

Mother Teresa was born in Uskub, Ottoman Empire on August 26, 1910. This city is now called Skopje and is the capital of the Republic of Macedonia. Her birth name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Her father died when she was eight and she was raised by her mother. She was raised as a Roman Catholic and decided to devote her life to God at a young age. She joined the Sisters of Loreto at the age of 18 to become a missionary to India. She started her missionary work in Darjeeling, India. She learned the local language, Bengali, and taught at the local school. She soon took her first vows as a nun and took the name Teresa. She would teach for many years in India becoming the headmistress at a school in eastern Calcutta.

### **What did Mother Teresa do?**

When she was 36 years old she felt the call from God to help the poor of India. She received some basic medical training and then set out to help the sick and needy. This wasn't an easy task in 1948 India. She had very little support and, while trying to feed and help the poorest of the poor, she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food.

Soon other women joined her and she formed the Missionaries of Charity. Mother Teresa described the purpose of the Missionaries of Charity as an organization to take care of "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved and uncared for throughout society".

## Main Ideas

God had rejected Saul as king of Israel. God wanted a new leader for the Israelites so the Lord asked Samuel to go to Bethlehem so that he could anoint a new king. Samuel feared that King Saul would kill him if he knew that Samuel was looking for a king to replace Saul. God told Samuel to tell the people that he was going to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Samuel was then to invite Jesse to the sacrifice and the Lord would instruct what to do.

Samuel did as the Lord instructed him and he met Jesse of Bethlehem and waited for the Lord to point out who should be anointed.

Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel but the Lord told Samuel that none of them were the chosen one. Samuel asked Jesse if he had other children and Jesse showed him the youngest, David the shepherd boy.

David did not look like a king. He was young and did not look like a king. Samuel was looking for someone who looked like a king but God selected the next king based on his heart. We think we know a person based on how a he/she looks. God looks at something that no one else can see: a person's heart.

Do we judge others based on how they look or what they wear? God wants us to treat everyone equally regardless of their skin color, beliefs or ideas. God can use anyone, even a young child. God was more interested in the least likely of Samuel's selection because He knew there was something very special about David.

## Activities

*This will take advanced preparation:*

Have students anonymously write down secret hobbies, favorite things to do, and/or favorite things to eat that others may not know about. Compile these into a fill-in-the-blank type of printed quiz (each will be identically the same). Have each student go around and ask others questions to determine who identified the item on the list and have this person sign next to it. Whoever collects all signatures first wins.

Discuss at the end if some of the things listed make the students look at each other differently - do they like each other any more /any less?

## Lesson Review

1. Who did God reject as King of Israel?
2. Which of Samuel's sons did Samuel finally anoint?

## Values For Life

God looks at all the same - regardless of our skin color, hair, height, popularity at school, etc. He is concerned only with your true heart and how you can serve Him.

## My Decision

- I will try my hardest not to judge others by the way they look / their differences from myself.
- I will treat everyone fairly and with respect just as I would like to be treated.

## Memory 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 16:7b**

## Closing Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for creating us all different from each other - from how we look to how we sound. Help us to understand that you care about our loving hearts and desire to serve you instead of first impressions. Let us look at our friends and others we do not know in the way you want us to. We want to live a life that makes You happy. Amen.