

Take a look from God's point of view at yourself and others.

Text: 1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

Supplies:

- ✍ Measuring tape
- ✍ Two clear glasses, see-through cool drink, soda water, food colouring
- ✍ Two cans of food of the same size: one dog food, the other fruit, and a can opener
- ✍ Modern images of Samuel, Jesse, the brothers and David
- ✍ Felt board, washing line, or wall and prestik
- ✍ Copies of the small hearts
- ✍ White hearts from paper folded into envelopes
- ✍ Copies of the crown
- ✍ Punch, ribbon/string/wool, creative things for decorating, glue
- ✍ Various types of pasta, glue, paint, brushes, card board



We are going to play a game today. This game's name is "Who is the best Christian here among us?" Let the children stand in a row and use a (soft/clothes) measuring tape. Measure each child's head. Announce that the best or biggest Christian is the person with the largest head. Ask the children for their reactions. Ask them, "Do you think the best or biggest Christian can be measured in this way?" Let them now stand from tallest to shortest. The tallest one is the biggest Christian. Again ask them: "Do you think the best or biggest Christian can be measured in this way? Can we measure who is the best or biggest Christian? No! This is not something we can measure!"

Delicious cool drink: Make two jugs of cool drink; one should be clear (see-through, to look like water). It could be lemonade or something sweet. The other one should look very tasty and colourful but have to taste bitter. It could even be plain soda water/water with food colouring. Ask the children which one they want to taste and why. Let them taste and watch their reaction. Did it taste like you thought it would? What we see on the outside is not always what it seems.

Canned food: Get two cans of food that are the same size and use the same colour metal. In the one you can have something tasty and in the other something bad like dog food. Take off the labels carefully, without tearing them, so that you can swop them. The children can choose which one to open by voting. Once they have voted, ask them why they chose that specific one. After they had opened the canned food, ask them for their opinion. What we see on the outside is sometimes misleading.



WORSHIP

Sing "Open the eyes of my heart"

Listen to "More than Gold" by Britt Nicole (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9PjrtcHJPo>)

Sing the **theme song** and do the **settle down ritual**.



WORD

(The presenter should prepare modern pictures or interpretations of the descriptions of David and all his brothers, as well as Jesse and Samuel. Hang them up on a washing line with pegs, or stick them up with prestik – all of them except the picture of David.

Then, while the story is being read, ask the children to guess which character best matches each image.)

God asked the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king for Israel. Anoint means to pour special oil on the new king's head to show that he is special, that he will be king. *(Let the children choose an image for Samuel.)*

God sent Samuel to Jesse, who had many sons. God told Samuel that He would show him which son he would choose. *(Let the children choose an image for Jesse.)*

First, Jesse showed his oldest son to Samuel, called Eliab; he was tall and strong. Samuel thought that this son would be the new king. *(Let the children choose an image.)* What do you think: Does this look like the perfect king? God, however, said **no**.

The next son was Abinadab. *(Choose an image again.)* Do you think he was king? No, again, he wasn't chosen. The next son that Jesse brought to Samuel was Shammah. *(Choose an image.)* But again, he wasn't the one.

Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel, but none of them were chosen by God. Oh no! Samuel was quite confused because he didn't see any more sons. Jesse finally said he had one more son. *(Take out the image of David.)* This son was the youngest, the smallest and he was least important. But God told Samuel to look at him too. What do you think of this son? Does he look like the perfect king? Who do you think he was?

His name was David. God chose him as king; not the one who looked like the strongest or smartest if we look on the outside, but the one that God thought to be perfect.

The children get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how Samuel felt when 7 of Jesse's sons had been shown to him and God didn't choose any of them.
2. I wonder who you would have chosen, if you were honest with yourself.
3. I wonder what people don't see in you.
4. I wonder what you look for when you are choosing friends.

Listen to "Shepherd Boy" by Ray Boltz (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkNhPbol-5Y>)



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

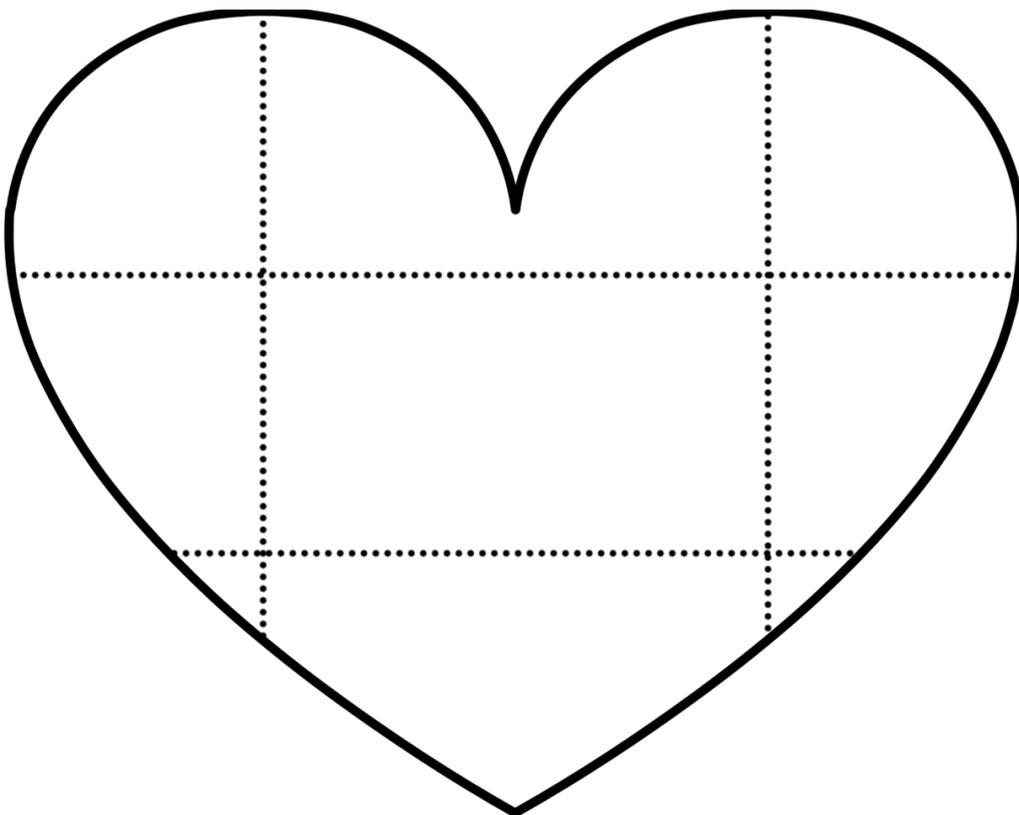
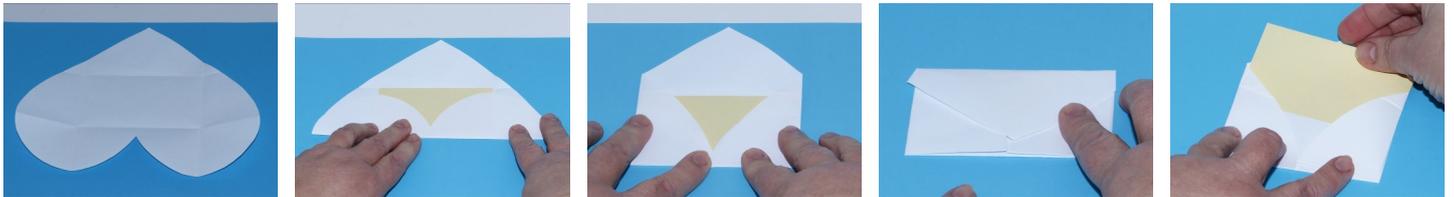
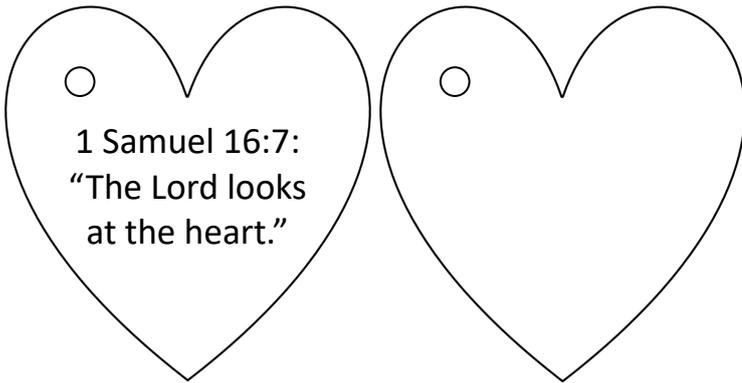
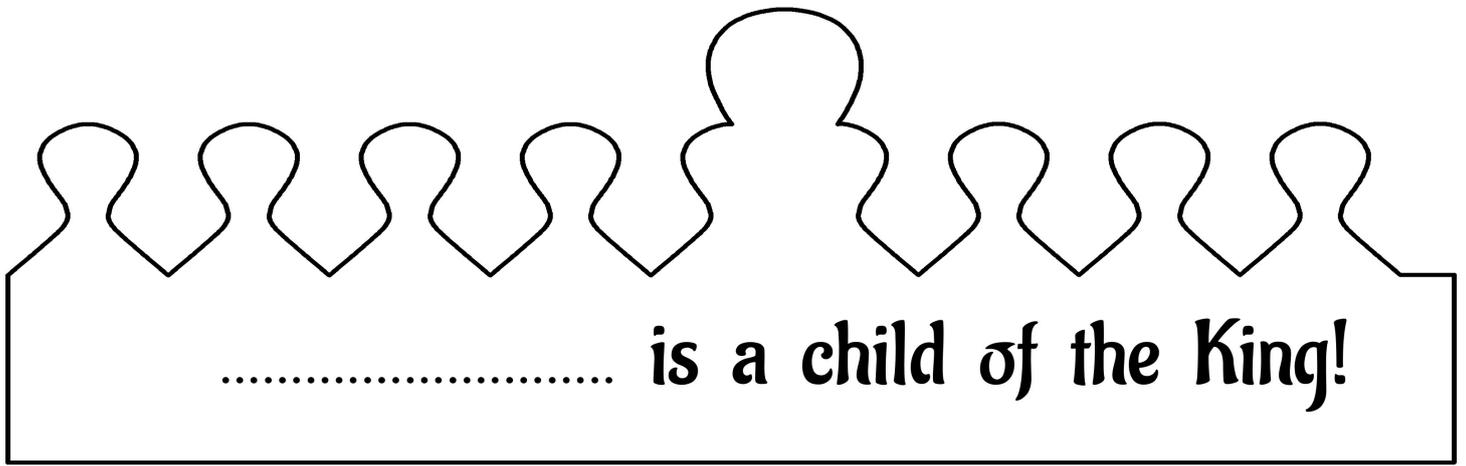
- ◆ Cut out the two hearts, place them on top of each other and punch a hole in one corner. Put a piece of wool/string through the holes to attach the two hearts to each other. Make sure that the one with the text verse is beneath the other one so that it can be opened to reveal the verse. Let the children write, draw or decorate their own hidden qualities that other people might not see around the text verse. The topmost heart can also be decorated in any way.
- ◆ Pasta people: Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil to draw with. Let them draw themselves on the piece of paper, and then give them glue and dry pasta. The children can then paste the pasta onto the drawing (various different types of pasta makes it more interesting). They can also paint or colour the pasta there (or at home if there is not enough time). While everyone is working, let them talk about these or similar points: Who made people? Who are the people in today's story again? Talk about the ways in which the characters differ from each other. Talk about what God sees when He looks at us, and what people see when they look at us.
- ◆ Make envelopes: Beforehand cut out and fold heart shapes into envelopes. (See the photos as reference.) Open up the envelopes again. The children can write or draw what people see/think of them on the outside, while on the inside the children can write or draw what God sees in them. They can decorate the insides with bright colours. Glue the envelopes at the bottom afterwards.
- ◆ Make **crowns**. On the front, write "_____ is a child of the King!" (with space for their names). On the back, those who are old enough can write down their hidden qualities that others might not see in them. Let the children decorate these crowns in any way.

Close with this blessing:

Let the children stand in one long line. Rub/wipe a little bit of olive oil (or any other nice oil) on their foreheads while you say the blessing:

"May God bless you today; may you see how precious you are to God; you are a child of the King! May God help you to live out, on the outside, what makes you special on the inside. May you share God's amazing smell with others. May God bless you also to see the beautiful things on other people."

All the children can then say after the presenter: "I AM WORTH MORE THAN GOLD; I AM A CHILD OF THE KING!"



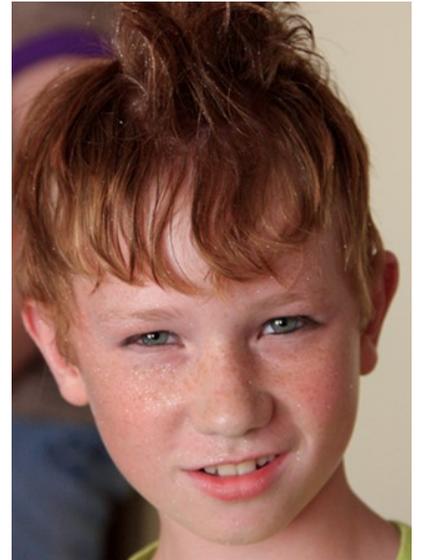
Examples of pictures which can be used:



Samuel



Jesse



David

Some of Jesse's other sons:

