

INTRODUCTION

The heart of God and what He looks for in those who are wholly devoted to Him is clearly seen when studying the first kings of Israel. What does a man after God's own heart look like? What does he say? What does he think? In 1 Samuel 16 we find the answer. David, the youngest son of Jesse, apparently lacked the impressive kingliness of his older brothers. And yet, from an obscure sheepfold, God called the young man David to be the next king of Israel. Why? Because God found David to be a man after His own heart who would follow His will (Acts 13:22). God looks at the heart, not at outward appearance or qualifications. As the life of David unfolds in 1 and 2 Samuel, we see what God truly values.

The following concepts should be clearly conveyed during the club hour:

- **God:** Omniscient—God knows all things.
- **Bible:** Effect on Me—God's Word changes my heart.
- **Bible:** Using the Bible—I can find passages in the Bible using the Table of Contents, chapters and verses.

Demonstrations of
the lessons and songs in
this series are available at:
cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc

SMALL GROUP TIME

"God Knows Everything" (Optional discussion)

God is all knowing—He knows everything! What kinds of things does God know? (*Allow response.*) He knows all of those things and more! God knows everything about you, and He cares about everything that happens to you. **God sees and cares about what is in your heart.** God cares about whether you love Him or not. He cares about if you obey just on the outside or if you are obeying because you love Him. Even though God knows everything about our hearts, He loves us more than we could ever imagine! Let's talk to God and thank Him for knowing everything about our hearts. (*Pray and have several children pray if you desire.*)

WORD UP!

"God sees my heart!"

Do you ever wish sometimes you had x-ray vision and could see inside things? It would be helpful to be able to see how much cereal is left in the box or to see through walls! None of us have the ability to see inside things or people without the help of machines. But the Bible tells us God sees and knows *everything*—what you think and feel and even what goes on inside your body! That's how powerful God is! God sees the heart in your body that beats and pumps blood and He also sees your heart—the part of you that thinks and feels and loves. This is also called your "heart" in the Bible. That's what we're going to be talking about today. Say with me, **"God sees my heart!"** (*Say with children.*)

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: **"God sees my heart!"** Tell them that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

If you want to add actions to the Word Up! point up when you say "God." Point to eyes when you say "sees." Take both hands and make heart shape over chest when you say "heart."



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Since the Gospel is condensed in a Christian Growth Bible lesson, you will want to reinforce the message of salvation elsewhere in the club hour. This can be done through a Gospel song. Emphasize the message of salvation truths as you explain the words and concepts of the song. If using a growth song, share the Gospel when applying the song to the unsaved child.

Preschool Activity

Have the children make a sad face while you describe several things that would be disappointing for small children (broken toys, dropping their ice cream on the ground, getting sick).

Preschool Song

"Nothing but the Blood"

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

On Timeline point to "Jesus is alive."
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Have you ever been disappointed? (*Allow response.*) Maybe you were disappointed when you were excited to go to the zoo but it rained that day, and you couldn't go. Or maybe one of your friends didn't invite you to their birthday party, and you were sad and disappointed. Sometimes disappointing things happen in life. In our Bible lesson today we are going to learn about something that made Samuel feel disappointed and sad.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 1

King Saul had disobeyed God's clear commands several times. Do you remember what Saul's punishment was for his disobedience? (*Allow response.*) The kingdom was taken away from Saul's family. God told Saul, "I have chosen a man after my own heart to be king." Samuel was sad and disappointed that Saul had not followed God as King of his heart.



Our hearts do not naturally want to follow God. In fact, our hearts are born going against God and His ways. We are born knowing how to think, say, and do things that do not please God. That is called sin. (*Read Romans 3:23.*) You and I have sinned and deserve to be separated from God forever. Because God sees and knows everything, He sees the sinfulness of your heart and mine.

Slide 2

Say with me, "**God sees my heart!**" (*Say with children.*) We cannot hide anything from Him but He still loves you and me! We need someone powerful to change our hearts and take away our sin. The only one powerful enough to do that is God. God made a way for our hearts to be changed by sending His perfect Son Jesus to take the punishment for your sin and mine when He suffered, bled and died on a cross. (*Read Romans 5:6.*) We are powerless to save ourselves so Jesus died to save you and me. But Jesus did not stay dead! On the third day, He came alive again. He showed His power to change hearts by doing this! We need Jesus to change our hearts because we do not naturally want to follow God.

Slide 3

King Saul had sinned and made the choice not to follow God as King of his heart. Because of Saul's choices, the kingdom was taken from Saul's family. This made Samuel incredibly sad. Can you show me your sad face? (*Do with children.*)

But God had a message for Samuel. (*Read 1 Samuel 16:1.*) God understood Samuel's sadness, but now it was time for God's plan for Israel to move ahead.

Slide 4

God wanted Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint a new king.

Slide 5

Last time we talked about how kings were anointed. When a prophet poured oil on someone's head, it meant he had been chosen for a special job. But Samuel was scared when he heard God's instructions.

"How can I go?" Samuel asked. "If Saul hears of it he will kill me." Since Saul had disobeyed God, a change had come over him. He was often angry. God told Samuel, "Take an animal for a sacrifice and invite Jesse's family to come. Saul won't know that the sacrifice is not the only reason for your going. I will show you which of Jesse's sons I have chosen."

Slide 6

Samuel obeyed the Lord and journeyed to Bethlehem. Everyone stand up and let's walk to Bethlehem. *(Lead the children in walking in place. For variety, have them turn to the right and the left as they walk and then face forward and sit down.)* The leaders of the town of Bethlehem were concerned when they saw Samuel entering their city. They knew he was God's prophet and thought that perhaps he'd come to tell them they were doing something wrong and God was going to punish them. They were glad to hear that Samuel had come to worship the Lord and offer a sacrifice.

Slide 7

Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice and the meal that would follow. When Jesse's seven older sons came before Samuel, he immediately noticed Eliab (*ee-LIE-ahb*). He was Jesse's oldest son and perhaps the tallest and most handsome. Surely this is the one! Samuel thought Eliab looked like a king the way Saul did. But the Lord cautioned Samuel, *(read 1 Samuel 16:7)*. God was teaching Samuel that the way a person looks on the outside isn't the most important thing. What matters is what is in a person's heart.



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **God sees and cares about what is in your heart.** God knows who you are and cares about every part of you.

Slide 8

This is because God is omniscient, which means He knows everything! "Omni" means *all* and "scient" means *knowing*. God is all knowing. Often people put value on another person by their looks, talents, or how much money they have. Every person is valuable because God made them and loves them! When God sees you, He sees your heart—what you are thinking and feeling. *(Read Jeremiah 17:10a.)* Your value is not in what you look like or what you own. God wants His children to have hearts that love and obey Him. Perhaps you sing loudly in club because you want everyone to

Materials

Point to Bethlehem on Bible Map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack and Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

The children would enjoy seeing and smelling a small container of olive oil.

Preschool Activity

Lead the children in pretending to travel to Bethlehem. Walk in place or have them follow you around the room before returning to their seats.

Preschool Activity

Have the children pretend to count Jesse's seven sons.

Preschool Song

"God Is So Good" v. 2

Teacher Help

If desired, every time you say "omniscient" use both fingers to point to your head.

Materials

"Omniscient" card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Lesson 2

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Hold up seven fingers and have the children shake their heads “no” as you put them down one at a time.

Preschool Help

If possible, you could play harp music for the children to hear.

think you are wonderful, but your heart is not full of praise to God. Maybe you try hard to be obedient because you want to be known as the “good kid,” but you are doing that so other people will talk about how good you are, not to please God. If that is true, you are not loving God wholeheartedly. God sees the motivation of (the reason behind) why you do what you do.

Slide 9

Say with me, “**God sees my heart!**” (*Say with children.*) He wants you to do things because you love Him with all your heart.

Slide 10

What matters to God is what is in a person’s heart. Samuel was learning that God looks at what’s on the inside of a person and not on the outside. Samuel would wait for God’s direction in choosing a new king.

Jesse’s second son came before Samuel. “No, not this one,” Samuel said. He looked at the third, the fourth, and the fifth sons, but each time God said no. The sixth and seventh sons passed before Samuel, but God said no to them as well. All of Jesse’s sons were fine young men, but Samuel said to Jesse, “God has not chosen any of these.” Some of Jesse’s sons looked like kings, but because God is omniscient, He could see their hearts. None of them had the heart God was looking for.

Perhaps by this time Samuel was puzzled. God had said He’d chosen one of Jesse’s sons. “Are these all of your sons?” he asked Jesse.

“There is still one more,” Jesse replied. “He is the youngest.” In those days the youngest was the least important in the family. “He is out tending the sheep,” Jesse told Samuel.

“Have him brought in,” Samuel said. “We will not continue with the meal until he comes.”

Quickly a servant was sent to bring the youngest son, David. The servant found David in the fields with the sheep.

Slide 11

David was a shepherd. He was strong and always ready to protect his sheep from danger. David would often relax with his musical instrument, called a harp, making up songs of praise to the Lord. Can you pretend to play a harp with me? (*Do with children.*) He must have been surprised when the servant came rushing out to the field calling for him. “David, your father wants you right away. The man of God, Samuel, is asking for you. They are waiting for you to join them for the feast.”

David hurried toward his father’s house, most likely wondering why it was so important for him to be there. Hurry with me to Jesse’s house! (*Do with children.*)

Slide 12

Samuel may have been surprised to see David was young! But by now Samuel knew better than to judge this young man by how he looked. What was David like on the inside? God could see David's heart because God is omniscient.

The Lord said to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him, for this is the one!"

One reason God chose David is because God could see David's heart. David was a man after God's heart.



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **God sees and cares about what is in your heart.** People sometimes look at the outside of others, but **God sees and cares about what is in your heart.**

Slide 13

Say with me, "**God sees my heart!**" (*Say with children.*) (*Read Psalm 139:23-24.*) This verse was written by David. He wanted God to tell him what his heart was like. When you think about your own heart, do you want to love and obey God? Do you do things just to be seen or so people think of you in a certain way? What you think in your heart will eventually show up in how you act. When you love God, God the Holy Spirit will work in you to help you obey Him. He will help you do things with the right motivation. The Holy Spirit will help you care about the things God cares about. He will help you love God with your whole heart, caring more about what He wants than what you want. You can memorize and say Psalm 119:9-10 to remind yourself how important it is to seek God with your whole heart. (*Quote Psalm 119:9-10 with children.*) Reading God's Word will help you know God, and you will begin to learn the things that matter to God. **God sees and cares about what is in your heart.**

That is why God chose David—God knew that David was a man after God's heart. David cared about the things God cared about. David cared more about what God wanted than about what he wanted.

Slide 14

God was going to use David to lead His people. Samuel took a ram's horn filled with oil and poured it on David's head. Samuel was honoring David by showing that God had chosen him for a special job.

CLIMAX

David was anointed as the next king of Israel because his heart was right with God!

CONCLUSION

David knew the special meaning of this anointing. The Bible says the Spirit of the Lord came upon David that day. He knew he would be the next king of Israel. But no one else seemed to know. It was not yet God's time.

Materials

"Omniscient" card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Song

"God Is So Good" v. 2

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy pretending to pour oil on someone's head. Explain that Samuel wasn't being mean to David. He was honoring David by showing that God had chosen him for a special job.

Samuel returned to his home in Ramah, having completed the job God had sent him to do. David returned to the fields to care for his father's sheep. He would continue to be faithful in the job he had and continue to seek God with all his heart. David was a man after God's heart because he cared about the things God cares about.

CHALLENGE



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **God sees and cares about what is in your heart.** Instead of only caring about what he wants for himself, a person with a heart after God cares more about what God wants. As the Holy Spirit helps you love God with your whole heart, your attitude and actions will show it. God will help you do things for the right reasons. You can say our memory verses to yourself to help you remember to seek God with your whole heart. (*Quote Psalm 119:9-10 with children.*) As you read your Bible, ask God the Holy Spirit to help you care about the things He cares about. This week, will you ask God to help you have attitudes and actions that show you care about the things He cares about?

Slide 15

Say with me, **"God sees my heart!"** (*Say with children.*) Next week you can tell any of the teachers how God is helping you care about what He cares about.

INVITATION



We've talked a lot today about how God sees everything, including what is in your heart. If you haven't believed in Jesus as your Savior, God sees that your heart is far from Him and is separated from Him because of your sin. But He wants to change you and bring you close to Himself. (*Read Romans 10:13.*) To call on the Lord means to believe—to put your whole trust in Jesus as the only one who can forgive your sins and change your heart. When you do that you will be saved—no longer separated from God! God will change your heart, so you will want to care about the things God cares about. Then one day you will go live with Him forever in heaven. **You can believe in Jesus as your Savior!** Will you believe in Him today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you would like to believe in Jesus today or you have questions about that, show me by raising your hand. (*Acknowledge responses.*) If you raised your hand, meet me (*designate time and location*) and I will show you what the Bible promises about believing in Jesus as your Savior.

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:36a and "believe on" terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing on Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)