

Alley SG - March 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: Faith My Eyes (Samuel and David) • 1 Samuel 16:7

Bottom Line: God wants me to see what really matters.

Key Question: Why is it important to look on the inside?

Memory Verse: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14, NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Sticky notes (approx. 40 per group per service), pens/ markers

What You Do:

- **Give** kids sticky notes and pens.
- **Ask** kids to think of ways we describe people or ways we identify people.
- **Challenge** kids to write each example they think of on a separate sticky note and stick the notes on the wall or table.
- **Work** together to group similar examples together.
- **Discuss** the examples. Potential discussion questions could be:
 - What are examples of positive ways to identify people? Why are they positive?
 - Dig deeper if necessary. For example: What about people's possessions or clothes? Is that a way we identify people? Or what about grades in school? Do we identify people by their friends? What about people's religion? Give kids an opportunity to add to the list of notes.
 - What ways would you want someone to identify or describe you? Encourage the group to pick five ways.
 - What ways would you not want to be identified by? Encourage kids to pick three ways.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, red paper (1 sheet per student), scissors, markers, pens

What You Do:

- **Read** 1 Samuel 16:7.
- **Ask:** What do you think it means "God looks at what is in the heart"? What about a person is important to God?
- Working together, have your students **group** the notes from the Take a Snapshot Activity into examples of "looking at the outward appearance" and examples of "looking at the heart."
- **Ask:** Why is it important to look at what is in someone's heart versus his or her outward appearance?
- **Divide** group into two teams.
- **Give** kids paper, a pen, and scissors and **instruct** them to cut out a paper heart. ***Each kid needs one paper heart.***
- **Ask** kids to think of someone they know and then to think of descriptive words that would identify that person by what is in his or her heart. If necessary, prompt kids to consider the ideas from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- **Ask** kids to write their words on a paper heart.
- **Challenge** students to fill their paper heart with words.
- **Save** the paper hearts for the Make it Personal with Prayer Activity.

3. Origami Hearts

What You Need: Origami Paper (1 sheet per student), Origami Heart Instructions (10 per group-reuse each service)

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a sheet of Origami Paper and the Origami Heart Instructions.
- **Allow** students time to fold the paper into a heart using the instructions given.
 - **NOTE: *If students are having trouble, allow them to fold the paper however they desire, and draw a heart on their creation.***
- **Instruct** students to keep the origami heart as a reminder that God looks at the heart.

What You Say:

“Good job everyone putting these origami hearts together. As you take these hearts home, put them somewhere in your room that you will see them every day. When you look at the heart, remember that God looks at the heart. He doesn’t look on the outside appearance like we do. He is concerned with how we live our lives for Him.”

4. Discussion Questions

- If people tried to determine what’s in your heart, what do you think they’d say? Would they be right? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to look on the inside, to look at what is in a person’s heart?
- For a visual, pass around a box with any object (that won’t break) inside. Have them shake the box and try to guess what is inside. How is guessing what is inside a box the same and/or different than determining what is inside a person’s heart? How do we determine what is in a person’s heart?
- What do actions, words, emotions, and attitudes tell you about someone? Give example how they can show you what is inside a person’s heart.
- When is it wise to try to determine what is in a person’s heart? Is it ever un-wise?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Hearts from Bible Story Extension Activity 2

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Lay** out the hearts from the Bible Story Extension Activity.
- **Encourage** kids to select a heart with a description of someone they know. It can be any heart; it doesn’t have to be the one they specifically wrote for the Bible Story Extension Activity.
- **Pair** kids up and **ask** kids to share with each other why the person they know fits the description on the heart.
- *Optional:* Especially if you know your group well, **select** a word for each of the kids that describes their heart and give an example why you chose the word for them.
- **Close** with prayer.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!