

Bible Point ▶

# God doesn't judge us by the way we look.

## Bible Verse

“People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that God knows more about them than they know about themselves,
  - discover that judging by appearances can lead to disappointment, and
  - learn that God can make something special out of something ordinary.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Samuel anoints David.

**1 Samuel  
16:1-13**



First Samuel 14–15 describes Israelite victories under the leadership of Saul and his son, Jonathan. But Saul again made a big mistake. God wanted Israel to avenge the Amalekites' cruelty and to destroy them entirely. God also knew that some of the valuables the Israelites might want to keep would include the Amalekites' idols, and God wanted to protect his people from practices of idolatry.

Instead of wiping out everything, Saul spared the king's life and kept the best of the sheep and cattle. Once again, Saul disobeyed a direct command from God, doing what he thought would be most profitable for himself. As a result, God decided it was time to select another king.

God again directed Samuel to the one who would be king of Israel. Samuel did what God told him to do and found himself looking over Jesse's sons for the one who would replace Saul. Even Samuel was apparently expecting someone strong and tall, as Saul had been, but God had other plans. His statement should echo in our minds today: “People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b).

Apparently, David didn't look very kingly at this point in his life. The evidence suggests that he may have been only about 12 when he was anointed by Samuel to be the next king. However, he had apparently developed in strength and courage as he tended his father's sheep. The fact that God chose David after emphasizing the importance of his heart tells us that David's heart must have been right before God.

### Prayer

- Read Psalm 138:8; Isaiah 46:3b; and Ephesians 1:4.
- You are loved and chosen to complete a special purpose for God. How can you work to accomplish such a purpose?
- Knowing that the Lord looks at your heart and not your appearance, pray that God will help you focus on him as you serve him in your class, rather than on other small things we tend to worry about.

## Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	“Outside-Inside Name Tags” (p. 70), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins	
<b>Attention Grabber</b>	<b>What Does It Do?</b> —Think of games to play with a ball, and learn that the ball can do more than they think it can.	Paper, pencil without an eraser	
<b>Bible Exploration &amp; Application</b>	<b>Who Are We?</b> —Design costumes and a personality for the foam person, and talk about the qualities inside that make each individual special.	Bible, colored paper, markers, scissors	
	<b>David Is Anointed</b> —Act out 1 Samuel 16:1-13 in which God chooses David as the next king of Israel.	Bible, scissors, paper, marker	
	<b>Cross My Heart</b> —Consider how God looks at us, and make a craft that shows how we want to look on the inside.	Bible, colored permanent markers, iron-on transfer paper, 4x6-inch index cards, masking tape, paper towel tube, black permanent ink pad, scissors, pencils	
<b>Closing</b> 	<b>Outside-Inside Hearts</b> —Share about the special things each one has inside, hear Psalm 139:14, and thank God for looking beyond the way they look to see what's in their hearts.	Bible	

## Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** “Outside-Inside Name Tags” (p. 70), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson or take-home page. Use questions such as “What promises did you and a family member make to each other?” and “What kind of trouble happens when friends break promises?”
- Say: **Today we’ll learn that ► God doesn’t judge us by the way we look.**
- Help children make name tags. Photocopy the “Outside-Inside Name Tags,” and follow the instructions.
- Tell children that the attention-getting signal you’ll use during this lesson is clapping your hands three times. Ask children to respond to your claps by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.



## Attention Grabber

### ■ What Does It Do?

**SUPPLIES:** paper, pencil without an eraser



Have children sit in a circle. Pass around the *brilliant ball*, and let each child look at it and feel it.

Say: **It would be fun to play a game with this ball. Let’s see how many ideas we can think of to do with it. I’ll write down all your ideas. What can we do with this ball?**

Have children think of ideas such as finding out who can roll it the farthest or who can bounce it the highest. Write down each idea, and be sure you use a pencil instead of a pen. When the children have thought of several ideas, misspell a word and say: **Oh no! I made a mistake.**

Ask: • **Where can I find an eraser?** (Find another pencil; with the supplies; the ball can be an eraser.)

Erase the misspelled word with the ball.

Say: **This brilliant ball has a hidden talent. Most people wouldn’t expect a ball to be an eraser, too. You know, I have a hidden talent, and I bet each of you has a hidden talent, too.**

Ask: • **Can you guess my hidden talent?** (After children guess a few possibilities, share with them a special talent you have, such as decorating cakes or playing softball.)

Say: **In just a moment, we’ll talk about your hidden talents. Today’s lesson is good news because ► God doesn’t judge us by the way we look. God cares about what’s inside each of us. God cares about our thoughts and our feelings. Today we’re going to learn about the special traits and talents that we have hidden inside us. Let’s find out more.**

Return the *brilliant ball* to the Learning Lab.



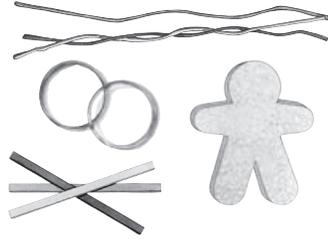
If you have time, play one of the games the children thought of.



# Bible Exploration & Application

## Who Are We?

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, colored paper, markers, scissors



Form groups of three. Give each group some of the *felt strips* and *Wikki Stix*, along with a *plastic ring*, colored paper, markers, and scissors. Put the *foam person* on a table where everyone can see it.

Say: **This foam person doesn't have much of a personality right now—it doesn't even have a face. Let's create costumes for the person that show who it is and what it's interested in. You'll decide if the person is a boy or a girl, what it looks like, and what its interests and hobbies are. You'll have five minutes to work. Then each group will attach its costume to the foam person with the Wikki Stix and tell us about its interests and hobbies.**

Give the children five minutes to work. While they're working, ask individual groups questions such as "What name have you given the person?" "How old is the person?" "What does the person like to do?" "What job does the person have?"

After five minutes, call time by clapping your hands three times to get children's attention. Wait for the children to respond by clapping three times and focusing their attention on you.

Have each group take a turn putting its costume on the *foam person* and telling the class about its personality.

Ask: • **How is dressing up our foam person like God making us special?** (God makes us who we are; God gives us our talents; God makes us look the way we do.)

Say: **God decided what we would look like. And what's even more important, God decided what we'd be like on the inside, too. Listen to what the Bible says about God making us.** Read **Psalm 139:13, 15-16** aloud.

Ask: • **What does this psalm say about God?** (That he created us; that he made us; that we are how he wants us.)

• **What's an interesting quality or special talent you have?** (I can wiggle my ears; I can play the piano; I'm a good soccer player.)

• **What's your favorite thing to do?** (Watch TV; play video games; play football; play with my Barbie dolls.)

• **What's your favorite thing to eat?** (Pizza; tacos; spaghetti; brownies.)

• **What do you want to be when you grow up?** (A lawyer; an astronaut; a basketball player; the president.)

Say: **God made each of us. Look around the room. Each person looks different from everybody else. Even twins look a little bit different, because we can tell them apart. But God doesn't judge us by the way we look. God looks at what's inside of us—that's what really makes us special. And we can use those differences to serve God.** Open your Bible to **1 Samuel 16:7b**.

Say: **The Bible says: ► "People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b).**

Ask: • **How does God know what we are thinking?** (God made us; God knows us.)



**BIBLE POINT** ►

**BIBLE VERSE** ►

• **Why do you think God pays attention to what we're thinking instead of what we look like?** (Because he loves us; God knows what we are really like; God pays attention to what we're good at.)

Say: **God knows us and loves us. He knows everything about us. That's how God knew that David, the person in our story, would be good at the job God had picked out for him.**

## HANDS-ON BIBLE

You'll need a roll of nice wrapping paper and some old newspapers or paper bags. Have scissors, tape, construction paper, and markers available to the class. Give each child two pieces of construction paper and some markers.



Say: **We're going to see how different the outside appearance and the inside of something can be.**

Have kids create a nice card out of one piece of construction paper (to give to a family member, telling that person how special he or she is). Then have kids scribble on the other piece of construction paper. Have kids wrap their nice cards in the newspaper or brown bags, wrinkling the paper as they wrap. Have them wrap their scribbled cards in the nice paper. When kids have finished wrapping, help them find the "I Choose..." activity near **1 Samuel 15** in their *Hands-On Bibles*. Have them follow steps two and three when they go home today.

Ask: • **Why does God look at the inside of us instead of the outside?** (We look better on the inside; it doesn't matter what I look like on the outside, God wants to see my heart.)

## ■ David Is Anointed

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors, paper, marker



Cut a sheet of paper into seven strips. Write "Son 1" on one strip, "Son 2" on another, "Son 3" on another, and so on until all seven strips are labeled with "Son 1" through "Son 7."

Have children sit in a circle. Distribute the seven strips of paper to the first seven children, and have them put the strips on the floor in front of them. Have the next child in the circle be Samuel, and have the next person be David.

Say: **If you have a slip of paper, you'll need to know these actions. When it's your turn, the class will say, "He's tall," and you'll lift your hand up in the air. Let's practice that. Class, say, "He's tall." Pause to practice the action. Then the class will say, "He's handsome," and you'll wave your hand in a circle around your face. Let's practice that. Class, say, "He's handsome." Pause to practice the action. Then the class will say, "He must be the one," and you'll pound your fist in your hand. Let's practice that. Class, say, "He must be the one." Pause to practice the action.**

To Samuel say: **Every time you hear the word *Samuel*, cup one hand to your ear to show that Samuel listened to God.**

To David say: **Every time you hear the word *David*, make trickling motions over your head and face with your fingers to show that David's head was anointed with oil.**



If you have fewer than nine children in class, allow students to play more than one role during this activity.

Give the *foam person* to the child with the slip labeled “Son 1.” Open your Bible to **1 Samuel 16:1-13**, and show the passage to the children.

Say: **One day, God said to the prophet Samuel (pause), “I am sending you to Jesse’s house in Bethlehem. He has many sons, and I have chosen one of them to become the next king of Israel.”**

**Samuel (pause) listened and obeyed God. He took a young calf for a sacrifice and a container of olive oil and started out for Bethlehem.**

**When Samuel (pause) arrived, he found Jesse and said, “I’m going to offer a sacrifice. Come and bring your sons to the feast.”**

**When Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Jesse brought the first son to Samuel (pause). Samuel (pause) thought, “Surely God has chosen this young man.”** Have the first child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But God said to Samuel (pause), “Don’t look at how handsome or tall Eliab is. I haven’t chosen him to be the new king.” So Samuel (pause) said no.**

**Jesse brought another son.** Give the *foam person* to Son 2. Have the second child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But Samuel (pause) said again, “God hasn’t chosen this man.”**

**Jesse brought another son.** Give the *foam person* to Son 3. Have the third child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But Samuel (pause) said again, “God hasn’t chosen this man.”**

**Jesse brought another son.** Give the *foam person* to Son 4. Have the fourth child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But Samuel (pause) said again, “God hasn’t chosen this man.”**

**Jesse brought another son.** Give the *foam person* to Son 5. Have the fifth child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But Samuel (pause) said again, “God hasn’t chosen this man.”**

**Jesse brought another son.** Give the *foam person* to Son 6. Have the sixth child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But Samuel (pause) said again, “God hasn’t chosen this man.”**

**Jesse brought another son.** Give the *foam person* to Son 7. Have the seventh child do the actions while the class says, “He’s tall (pause). He’s handsome (pause). He must be the one (pause).”

**But Samuel (pause) said again, “God hasn’t chosen this man.”**

**Seven sons were brought to Samuel (pause), and seven times Samuel (pause) said, “No, this isn’t the right one.”**

**Samuel (pause) asked, “Are these all the sons you have?”**

**Jesse said, “I still have the youngest son. He is out taking care of the sheep.”**

**Samuel (pause) said, “Send for the boy. We won’t sit down to eat until he comes.”**

Jesse sent for his youngest son. When *David* (pause) came into the room, God said to *Samuel* (pause), “Go and anoint him because he is the one I want to be king of Israel.”

*Samuel* (pause) took the container of olive oil and poured it on David (pause) to anoint him, which showed that he was the one chosen by God. From that day on, God’s Spirit worked in *David* (pause).

Ask: • **Why do you think God chose David to be the next king of Israel?** (Because God knew that David was the best person; because God knew all about David; because God could see in their hearts.)

Say: ► **God doesn’t judge us by the way we look. God picked David to be the next king even though David was the youngest and the littlest of Jesse’s sons. God picked David because David was the best one for the job. Now let’s talk about what God knows about you.**



## ■ Cross My Heart

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, colored permanent markers, iron-on transfer paper, 4x6-inch index cards, masking tape, paper towel tube, black permanent ink pad, scissors, pencils



Before class, use index cards to prepare heart patterns that are about 4 inches in diameter for teams of four children to share. Cut sheets of T-shirt transfer paper into four squares each; you’ll need one square for each child.

Create a stamping tool for every team by wrapping masking tape with the sticky side out around a 3-inch section of paper towel tube. Place a row of four *plastic letter beads* down the center of the tape. On each side of the second bead, add another bead to create the shape of a cross. It doesn’t matter if the letters on the beads are in any particular sequence or angle.

Have children work together in groups of four. This craft is easiest to do on a flat, hard surface.

Say: **When people look at us, they see what is on the outside. They may even think they know what we are like just by how we look. When Samuel was sent to see the new king God had chosen, he thought a man named Eliab would be a good king because he was tall and looked nice.**

Ask: • **What would you look for in a king?** (Someone who is strong; someone who is caring.)

Encourage the class to repeat today’s Bible verse, **1 Samuel 16:7b**, with you:

► **“People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

• **According to our Bible verse, how does God look at you?** (He looks at the inside; he sees what we think; he knows our feelings.)

• **Why is what people think and feel more important than how we look?** (God made us special inside; we have special talents.)

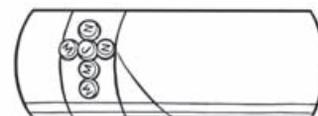
Say: **There is a place inside each of us only God can see. We call that place our hearts. People can see us on the outside, but God can see us on the inside, too. He knows everything we think and feel in our hearts. Let’s make a heart that reminds us of our love for God.**

Give each child a section of the T-shirt transfer paper, a pencil, and a heart pattern.



As you teach this lesson, some children may have trouble understanding the meaning of God looking inside us. As concrete thinkers, children may understand that to mean God looks at our blood and organs. Help kids realize that when we say, “God looks at the inside,” we really mean that God looks at what we feel, think, and believe.

## ◀ BIBLE VERSE



Let children take turns tracing the heart onto the center of the paper. Ask them to draw over the pencil lines with a brightly colored permanent marker. Let them create two or three other lines inside the heart using different colors, like a rainbow.

As children are coloring, ask: • **What does God know about you?** (God knows what I think and feel; God knows what's inside my heart; God knows everything about me.)

• **What does God like to see when he looks at you on the outside?** (A smile; he likes to see me doing kind things.)

• **What does God like to see when he looks at you on the inside?** (Love for others; love for Jesus; no sin.)

Have children stop what they are doing and look at the hearts they are coloring.

Say: **Look at the special hearts you are making. They remind me of how special you are and how much you love God. But something is still missing.**



Show the class one of the stamping tubes you created earlier from the *plastic letter beads*. Hold up an extra, single bead.

Say: **This tiny little bead, when put together with other beads, forms a special picture on my stamping tube.**

**Can anyone tell me what picture we can make with this?**

Have children call out answers. Point out the shape of the cross on the stamping tube.

Ask: • **Do you see the cross shape on the stamping tube? What does the cross remind you of?** (Jesus; God's Son.)

• **How can people know what our hearts look like on the inside?**

(When we talk about Jesus, they can know how much we love him; they can tell we love Jesus because we act nice.)

Say: **The cross reminds us of what Jesus did for us. God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we can have our sins forgiven and share God's love forever in heaven. When God's love is in our hearts, it will show on the outside in the things we say and do.**

Hand out the stamping tubes to the groups, and let the children take turns rolling the stamping tube over an ink pad to lightly coat the beads with ink. Show children how to roll the tube one time over the center of the heart so that the cross pattern is transferred onto it. Let dry for a minute or two.

When children have finished using the stamp, remove the beads and wipe the ink from each one with a tissue or damp cloth. Return the beads to the bag for use in Lesson 9.

Say: **What beautiful hearts you have! God loves you inside and out. Every one of you is special to him. Take your Cross My Heart craft home, and ask an adult to help you iron it onto a T-shirt, a pillowcase, or a piece of fabric to remind you that God doesn't judge us by the way we look. He looks at our hearts.**

### teacher tips

• A very Ink Jet T-shirt transfer paper works well for this craft.

• Since the squares of transfer paper are to be sent home with the children, it will be helpful to prepare a note instructing parents to iron the transfers facedown and to place a light cloth over the surface while using a very hot iron.

• If possible, also prepare a finished sample of a T-shirt with the Cross My Heart pattern ironed onto it to show the class at the end of the activity.

### teacher tips

As you ask questions, first allow children time to think for themselves. Then, only as needed, use the answers provided to guide children to discover their own answers. Students learn through self-discovery.



**BIBLE POINT** ▶

## Closing

### ■ *Outside-Inside Hearts*

**SUPPLIES:** Bible



Hold up the *foam person* and ask:

• **How does this *foam person* help us remember that God looks inside us?** (God doesn't look at the outside; the outside of the person is plain and ordinary; God gives us special talents like we gave the person a personality.)

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Today we talked about how God looks at what's inside of us. The Bible calls that place the heart. We're not talking about pumping blood. The heart we're talking about is the place inside us where we think and feel. To remind you of the place inside of you, I'm going to show you a heart that you can see.** Use the margin diagram to guide you in making a heart with your hands.

**Place the fingernails of one hand against the fingernails of your other hand. Now cup your hands so that the heels of your hands touch. See the heart shape? There's a space inside of the heart that you make with your hands. Let's pretend that space is where God looks. Let's talk about the things we have inside our hearts that please God.**

Start with the child on your left. Have the child hold out his or her heart shape. Have the other children mention inner qualities the child has that please God, such as being helpful or cheerful. As the children mention those inner qualities, have them pretend to tuck the qualities inside the child's heart shape. Repeat this process for every child in the circle. Think of at least one quality for each child in case the rest of the class can't think of anything. It's OK if the same quality is mentioned more than once.

Say: **Any time you need to remember how special you are, make the heart shape with your hands and remember what your classmates told you about what's inside you. Listen to what the Bible says about how special you are.**

Read **Psalm 139:14**. Then have kids make the heart shape with their hands again. Go around the circle, asking each child to thank God for a special talent or ability he or she has. Then close: **God, we're thankful that you don't judge us by the way we look. We know that you've made us exactly the way you want us. Help us please you with what we do and with what we think. In Jesus' name, amen.**



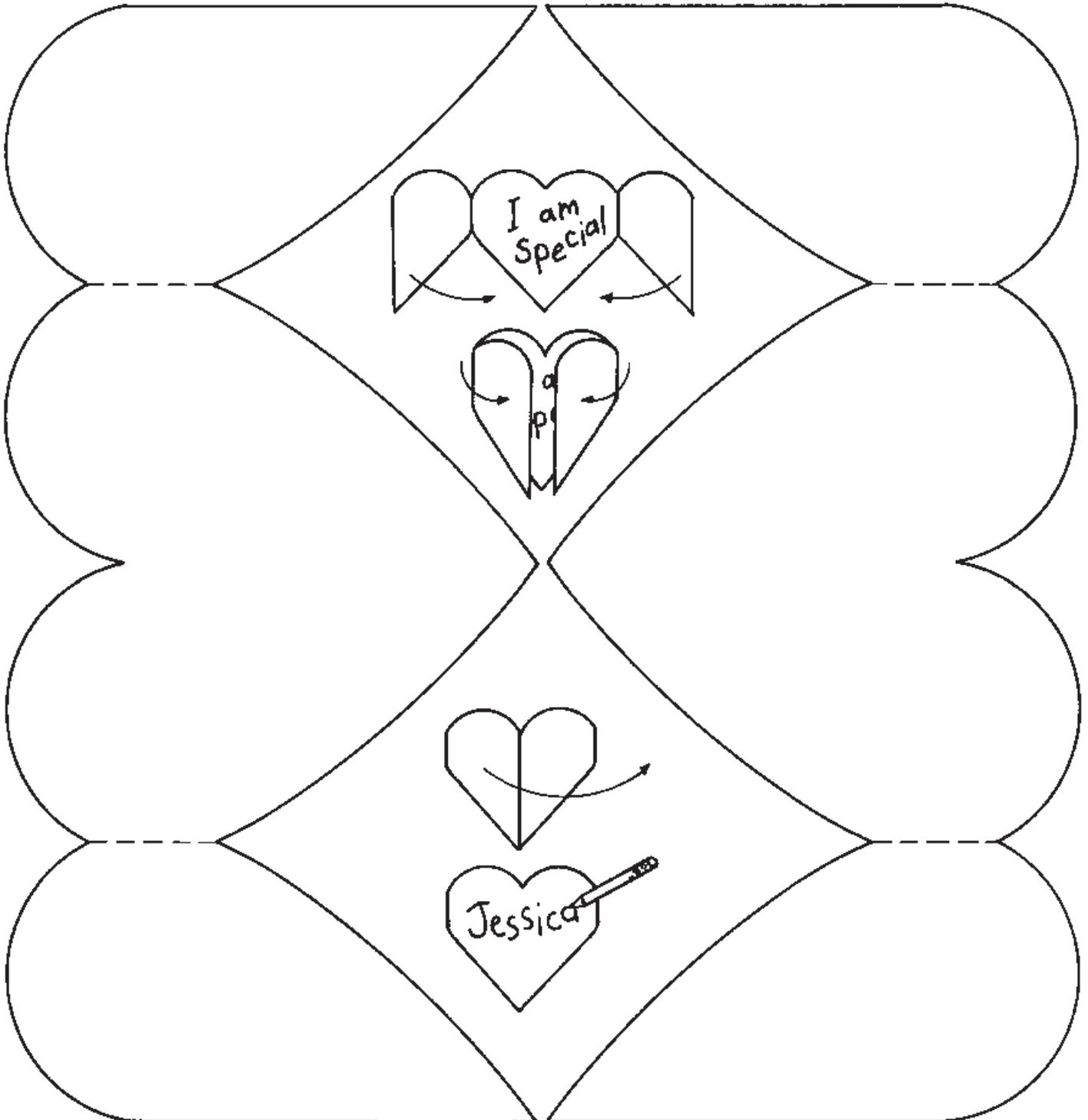
### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

# Outside-Inside Name Tags

Photocopy this handout so there is one pattern for each child (each handout contains two patterns). Cut the handouts in half vertically to separate the patterns. Have children cut out the patterns on the bold lines. On the inside of the hearts, have children write something that's special about themselves. Then have them fold the flaps so that special thing is hidden—this becomes the back of the name tag.

Have children turn their hearts over and write their names on the front side.



# Growing Together

**Bible Story**  
Samuel anoints David.  
(1 Samuel 16:1-13)

**David 5:**  
God doesn't judge us  
by the way we look.

**Bible Verse**  
"People judge by outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks at the heart"  
(1 Samuel 16:7b).

## In Touch

Today your child learned that God looks past our appearance to what's in our hearts. The children learned that God made them with special talents and abilities and that God knows everything about them. Use these activities to teach your child that what we are inside is what matters to God.

### Shared Secrets

Read 1 Samuel 16:7b with your child. Then enjoy getting to know your child as an individual. Talk about your favorite foods and your favorite colors. Talk about your favorite pastimes and your wildest dreams. Share stories from your life, connecting them to your child's life. Read your favorite childhood books to your child. Ask your child what's been on his or her heart.

### Plain Old Rocks?

Take your child to a store that sells polished rocks, visit the rocks and minerals section of a museum, or check out a book about rocks from your local library. Compare how rocks and gems look before and after they're polished. Talk to your child about potential—a rockhound knows how pretty a plain rock will be once it's polished. God knows how beautiful we can be, so he works in us. Compare the inside of a geode to the outside. A geode looks like a plain, rounded rock on the outside, but there are beautiful crystals on the inside. Talk to your child about hidden abilities and talents. Collect an assortment of rocks with your child as a reminder that God knows our potential and he knows how beautiful we are on the inside.

### Gifts Galore

Buy identical gifts, such as a candy bar that everyone likes, for each member of the family. Have your child decorate lunch bags to be used as gift bags for the gifts. At least one bag should be decorated beautifully, and another as ugly as possible—your child could crumple it into a wad. Put a gift into each bag, and staple each bag shut. Gather your family, and have one family member choose a bag without opening it or shaking it. The next person can take that bag or choose another. Continue until everyone has a bag. Then open the bags. Talk about how looking beyond appearances to what people have inside is what is truly important.

### Hidden Treasure

Line the bottom and sides of small, clear glasses or bowls with whipped dessert topping. Mix your family's favorite pudding with small candies. Nestle spoonfuls of the pudding mixture in the topping-lined bowls, and cover with another layer of the whipped topping. Serve the dessert, and talk about the treasures that people have inside them.

Refer to these verses with your family throughout the week:

- Psalm 138:8. What does this verse tell you about the way God sees you?
- Isaiah 46:3b. Why would God not worry about our looks?
- Ephesians 1:4. How can you purify your heart for the Lord?

