

GOD'S VIEW

God Story:

Shepherd Boy and Musician | 1 Samuel 16

Big Idea:

God helps us see people the way he sees them.

Key Verse:

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart. | 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

Emphasize that God doesn't judge us the way that people do. He looks at what is in our hearts. Asking God to help us see people the way he sees them helps us love others better!

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **7 minutes**
Talk about times when the students have been mistaken about who someone is or what someone is like.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes ***
Play a game in which the students must guess one another's hidden identities, then introduce today's Big Idea.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

Ms My Story

- 4. Application Activity** **12 minutes ***
Apply today's teaching in an exercise that leads the group to compare how they view someone versus how God views them.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **10 minutes**
Reinforce the Key Verse for this series as the students work in groups to come up with ideas for how to teach it to younger kids.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal** **2 minutes**

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Be prepared to kick-start the discussion by sharing your own answers to the questions below.

Instructions:

- As the students arrive, greet them and gather everyone together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask:
 - Have you ever been mistaken about who someone is? Maybe they looked like someone you knew, but they were actually someone else. What happened?
 - Have you ever been mistaken about what someone was like? Maybe you thought they were nice, but they hurt you, or you thought they were mean, but they turned out to be a good friend to you. Could you share an example?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Markers
- Prizes

Leader Tips:

- Get creative! Encourage the group to think of ways to conceal the masked students' identities. For example, they could swap sweaters, shoes, or other identifiable pieces of clothing.
- If you have any masks at home, consider bringing them in.

Instructions:

- Review everyone's names, especially if you have any visitors today.
- Place the paper plates, scissors, and markers where everyone can reach them.
- Ask a few students to make masks using the provided supplies.
- Direct one student to leave your group's space so they cannot see what's happening.
- Choose students to wear the masks.
- Bring the isolated student back to your group.
- Instruct them to guess (up to three guesses per person) who the masked students are.
- If the student guesses correctly, give them a prize. If they have no idea, give the masked student two prizes.
- To follow up, ask the guesser how difficult it was to know who someone was just by looking at them.
- Play another round with different students.
- To wrap up, discuss: How often do we "judge a book by its cover"?
- Introduce the Big Idea: **God helps us see people the way he sees them.**



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Instructions:

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Shepherd Boy and Musician | 1 Samuel 16)
 - Life Story (Ayesha never felt good about herself—until God showed her how he sees her. Now she sees other people through God's eyes and tries to make them feel special!)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Ask:
 - How do these stories and today's Big Idea (**God helps us see people the way he sees them**) connect?
 - Do you have a story from your own life that also connects?



4. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Activity pages
- Pens
- Large container

Leader Tip:

- You may need to discuss the fact that God sees the bad in people, but he loves them anyway. Seeing people as God sees them doesn't mean ignoring the bad—it means loving them anyway.

Instructions:

- Give each student an activity page.
- Place the pens where everyone can reach them.
- Ask the students to think of someone who they don't like at the moment. It could be a friend or family member they've fallen out with or someone they've never had a good relationship with. Note that they don't have to share who it is!
- Instruct them to fill in the left column on their page with words that describe how they see this person. Explain that being honest is important.
- Under the Key Verse, direct them to write words that describe how they think God sees that person.
- Discuss the differences between the two columns.
- Guide the students to tear off the left side of the paper and throw it into the container.
- Encourage them to keep the right side of the paper. Suggest that they put it somewhere they'll see it during the upcoming week.
- Challenge everyone to pray for the people they described. They could also ask God to change their own hearts by helping them to see those people as God sees them.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse cards

Instructions:

- a. Explain that many of us learn best when we teach something to someone else.
- b. Divide the students into groups of three or four people.
- c. Give each person a Key Verse card.
- d. Direct the group members to work together to come up with a way to teach the verse to kids who are younger than themselves.
- e. After a few minutes, invite them to share their ideas with the rest of the groups.
- f. Challenge the students to teach the verse to at least one person this week.



6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses cards

Instructions:

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.