



God looks at the heart

AT A GLANCE



Bible

1 Samuel 16:1–13



Topic

How God sees people



Takeaway

God does not judge by appearance but looks at the heart



8 minutes



Object: adverts from magazines or sample images of social media profiles



Preparation: 5 min



indoors or outdoors



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic "How God sees people". Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

1 min

Opening

Lay out some adverts. Ask: What does a picture like this say about a person – and what does it not say?

2 min

Bible text

Samuel is to anoint a new king. God sends him to Jesse and his sons. When Samuel sees the eldest, Eliab – tall, strong, impressive – he thinks: "This must be the one." But God says: "Do not look at his appearance. People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart." Seven sons pass by and none of them is the one. Only the youngest, David, who had been left outside to look after the sheep, is fetched – and anointed.

3 min

Thought

We are constantly rating: looks, clothes, likes, followers. Ourselves too. God looks differently. He sees who you really are – and he does not overlook anyone others leave outside. That is both a relief and a challenge: we can learn to see people through God's eyes.

2 min

Conversation

Where do you feel judged by your appearance – and where do you judge others that way?



God looks at the heart



Prayer to read aloud

God, thank you for seeing my heart and not just my appearance. Give me your eyes for the people around me. Amen.



To think further

- By what standards do you judge others – and yourself?
- Who in your circle might others be overlooking?



For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.
- Encourage them to say the prayer themselves – the written prayer gives confidence.



Section: Well-known Bible stories. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.