



The mask

AT A GLANCE



Bible

1 Samuel 16:7



Topic

Being real before God



Takeaway

God sees behind my masks – and loves me as I am



8 minutes



Object: a mask (e.g. a carnival mask) and small paper masks with pens



Preparation: 5 min



indoors or outdoors



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



How the devotion works

1 min

Opening

Put the mask on and say nothing. Ask: What do you know about me now – and what not? What "masks" do people wear in everyday life?

2 min

Bible text

God sends the prophet Samuel to Jesse to anoint a new king. The eldest son, Eliab, is tall and impressive – Samuel immediately thinks: "This is him!" But God says: "Do not look at his appearance. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Seven sons pass by – none of them is the one. Only the youngest, David, who is out with the sheep, is anointed.

3 min

Thought

We often show a mask: cool, strong, always in a good mood – in the class chat, on Instagram, even in the group. That takes energy. God does not need our masks. He sees the heart – including what is unsure, sad, unfinished – and loves it. Everyone writes on the inside of a paper mask what they sometimes hide. No one has to show it; the masks are folded and put in a basket.

2 min

Conversation

Where do you find it hard simply to be yourself?



The mask



Prayer to read aloud

God, you see my heart. Thank you that I do not need a mask with you. Help me to be real – and to accept others without masks. Amen.



To think further

- Are masks always bad – or do they sometimes protect us?
- What do we need in the group so that no one has to wear a mask?



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: Object lessons. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.