

**Theme:** It is what we are like on the inside that matters to God.

**Games:** Play games about knowing people such as:-

**Back to Back:** Divide the group into pairs, and give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil. The pairs sit down back to back. Prepare some questions designed to find out how much each person knows about his/her partner (e.g. what are your partner's shoes like, what colour eyes does he have, is he wearing a watch? Does he have a pet ? etc.) After you have asked all the questions, partners mark their own answers. The pair with the highest joint score are the winners.

**Famous personalities:** Think of four famous personalities (e.g. Batman, Spongebob Squarepants etc.) You need to think of at least four facts about each one (e.g. Batman has a secret hideaway underground, Spongebob Squarepants best friend is called Patrick etc). It would be good if some of the facts are not well known. Designate one corner of the room to each personality (you could write signs with the names on.). You then call out a fact and the children have to go to the personality to whom they think that fact applies. You continue calling out facts and the children go to the appropriate corner. The children can keep their own score - one point for each correct guess. The player with the highest score after all the facts have been called out is the winner.

**Memory Verse:** *"Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart."* 1 Samuel 16 vs 7 (The Message)

**Introduction:** Thoroughly clean out an empty baked bean tin, and put around it the wrapper of a tin of dog/cat food, so that it looks like a tin of dog/cat food. Chop up 2/3 Mars Bars into small squares and fill the tin with them. Cover with a plastic lid. You could then 'wax lyrical' on how good the contents of your tin are (don't admit that it isn't cat food!). Then ask for volunteers to try the contents - if you don't get any, you will have to pick on a leader! After the leader has tried, you should get a scrum of volunteers! Explain that things are not always what they seem!

**Story:** Tell the story in your own words (1 Samuel 16 vs 1-13) or see outline in resources section.

**Application:** Refer back to the games and the 'cat food' to help explain that so often we judge people by the way they look. God showed Samuel that he didn't judge by what Jesse's sons looked like (or he would have picked Jesse's eldest son!), but what was on the inside - whether they loved and trusted him. What does God see when he looks 'inside' us, and how do we judge others?

**Prayer:** "Thank you, God, that you know what I'm really like inside". Amen

**Resources:** Outline of story; Funsheet

**Song:** "Father God you love me and you know me inside out" (Powerhouse CD)

## God chooses David as king

Week 5

King Saul had stopped following God and didn't do what God wanted. This upset God and He decided to choose another king. He knew that one of Jesse's sons would make a good king.

God sent Samuel, the prophet to show everybody who the new king would be. Jesse had eight sons. He called them to come to see Samuel and wondered which one God would choose. His eldest son was strong and handsome - Samuel would surely choose him for king at once, but God said, 'NO'.

Then the second son came up to Samuel. He was tall and well dressed but God said, "NO" again!

It was the same for all the rest of the seven brothers Samuel shook his head and said, 'No, not this one.'

When Samuel had seen all of Jesse's sons, he said, 'God has not chosen any of these. Don't you have any other sons?' 'There's the youngest,' Jesse answered. 'But he's very young and he is out in the fields looking after the sheep.' Surely it couldn't be him! Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'It's not important to God what a person is on the outside. It's what the heart is like that counts.'

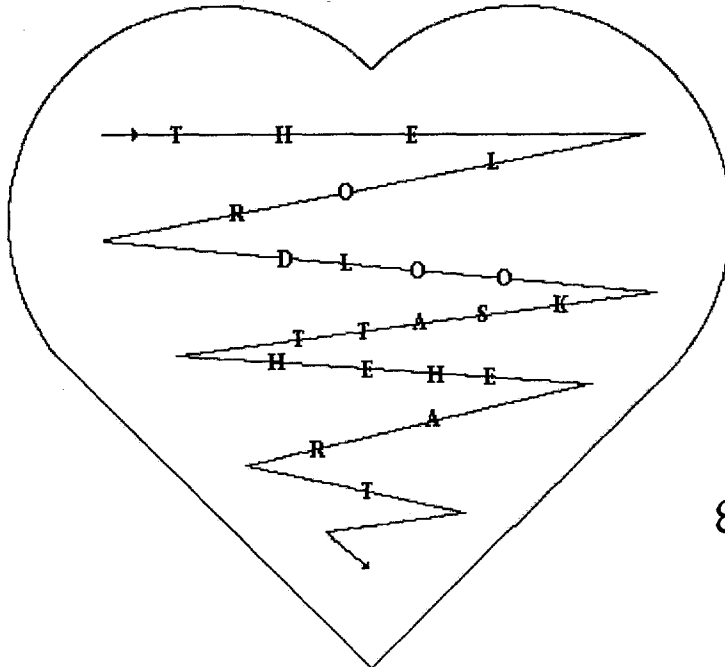
So Jesse sent for David. When he walked in, Samuel knew he was the king that God had chosen, and he told the others that David was their new king. From then on, the Holy Spirit worked in David in a very special way. He made David strong so that he could be a good king one day.

# Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart

(1 Samuel 16:7)



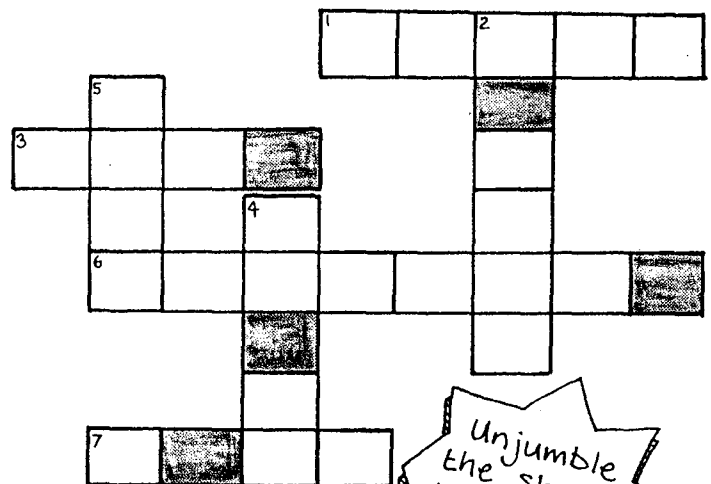
Write down the letters as you come to them on the lines below



Now try this crossword.

(1 Samuel 16:1-13 will help you.)

- 1 He lived in Bethlehem (v.1).
- 2 He was God's servant (v.4).
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ told Samuel to visit Jesse (v.1).
- 4,5 Jesse brought \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ to Samuel (v.10).
- 6 Jesse's youngest son was a \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11).
- 7 One of Jesse's sons would be the next \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1).



Unjumble the shaded letters to see who would be the next.

Why did God choose David to be king?

- Because he was good looking.
- Because he was strong.
- Because God knew what he was like inside.
- Because God likes shepherds.

