



Section Three: Practice Devotions

Week of January 30 - February 3 – Honor

Central Truth for the Month – Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

February Verse – Romans 12:10 – “Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.”

Week 1 Verse – 1 Samuel 16:7b – “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

In 1 Samuel 16:1-13, God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem to see Jesse’s sons because God had chosen one of his sons to be the next king of Israel. In verse 7, God tells Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature...” God knows Jesse had older sons that “looked” like a king, but God was not looking at his appearance, God was looking at his heart.

After Jesse’s seven oldest sons were presented and God had not chosen any of them, Samuel asked Jesse if all of his sons were there. Jesse said his youngest son was out keeping the sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to send for him. David was brought in and the Lord told Samuel, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one.” David was only 10-15 years old. He did not outwardly look like a king. Our verse this week says “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Discussion - Do you have friends at school that don’t look like the “cool kids (dress, popularity, economic status, etc)?” God wants us to look at the heart. That means to consider what people do and why they do it. There are many people of all ages that don’t look “perfect”, but they are kind and try to please God. God wants us to see their kind hearts and let them know they are loved and valued.

Bottom Line - Honor others by letting them know how valuable they are.

Wrap Up - We all need to be careful to not be deceived (“tricked” or “fooled”) by the world. God’s ways are very different from the world’s ways. When we do not spend time with God, we forget His ways and the world’s ways seem ok to us. Spend time with God this week and ask Him to show you how He sees your heart. Practice seeing the hearts of others. . . not only their outward appearance.

Prayer - “Sear me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24