

**Supplies:** A way to project/show the images on pgs 5-8 (laptop - or even burn it to a CD and play on DVD/TV); 3 brown paper lunch bags; one somewhat unique everyday item to put into each paper bag (examples: an open compact mirror; deodorant; a Barbie doll);

**Setup:** Take one somewhat unique everyday item and put it into a brown paper bag. Roll the top closed and staple it shut. Do the same thing with the next two items and bags.

### OPENING PRAYER

#### TELL

- For the opening question, I'm going to ask you a question and then we'll go around the circle and say our names and then our answer to the question.
- I'll ask the question and then I'll answer first, ok?
- Here's the opening question: *Think of a food you didn't used to like, but now you do.*

### GO AROUND THE CIRCLE

#### TELL

- During this session, we're talking about the prophets and some of the first kings of Israel.
- All of these stories that we're hearing and talking about in this Session are from the Old Testament. That means these things happened well before Jesus was born.
- Last week we read about how Saul was anointed King of Israel.
- Because King Saul has not been obeying God, God has told the prophet Samuel to anoint someone who is not a son of King Saul to be king. That's the story we're going to read today.
- A "first impression" is when we look at someone or something and then make a decision about whether we like it or not.
- Our first impressions can often be wrong.
- In the story, listen for Samuel's first impressions.

### READ 1 Samuel 15:10-11; 16:1-13

15:10 The word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 "I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me, and has not carried out my commands." Samuel was angry; and he cried out to the Lord all night.

16:1 (Then) The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of

the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 Samuel said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When sons of Jesse came before him, Samuel looked on Eliab, the oldest, and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before me." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature; for the Lord does not see as humans see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, the second oldest, and made him pass before Samuel. Samuel said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah, the third oldest, pass by. And Samuel said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 Jesse sent and brought David in. Now David was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

### ASK

- Remember what a "first impression" is? (when we look at someone or something and then make a decision about whether we like it or not)
- What was Samuel's first impression of the oldest son of Jesse? (He thought that was who was going to be king)
- What did God tell Samuel about first impressions? (That humans look on the outside, but God looks on the inside/heart)

### TELL

- This story is another reminder that though we like to make decisions on our own, it would be better if we made decisions with God's help because God can see *more* than we can see.
- For our first activity today, we're going to look at some pictures.
- Each picture will be zoomed in on just a small part of the item. It is our job to guess what the item is by just looking at one small part of it.
- We'll see how good our "first impressions" really are!

### Do Activity #1 -- Guess the images!

(images taken from <http://www.whatsfordinner.net/Mystery.html>)

### ASK

- How did we do?
- Did we get a lot right? A lot wrong?
- Are our first impressions always right?
- If we got the answer wrong at first, what helped us answer the picture correctly later on? (being able to see more of the picture)

## TELL

- In the story we just read, Samuel gets some of his information from God.
- AND, Samuel ignores his own first impressions and instead obeys God.
- What Samuel did can sometimes be a really hard thing to do. In order to ignore his first impressions, Samuel had to trust God more than himself.
- Such trust in God doesn't just happen. We have to practice trusting God. One of the things we can do in practicing our trust in God is to remind ourselves that God can see more than we can.
- Our next activity will be another reminder of why its better to pay attention to God and God's leading instead of just making decisions on our own.

## If there's time... **Activity #2: What's Inside?**

Prep: Get two or three paper bags. In each bag, put one household item. Then roll the top closed and staple it shut.

## EXPLAIN Activity

- On the table here you see 2 or 3 brown bags.
- You will have four chances to guess what's in the bag.
- Each chance you have to guess, we'll call a round.
- Ready for Round 1?

### ROUND 1

- The Teacher holds up one bag and says:
  - Simply by looking at the bag, make your guess as to what you think is *inside* the bag.
  - Be as specific as possible. What is it? How big is it? What color is it? How old is it? What's it smell like?
  - Write it down

### ROUND 2

- The teacher picks up the same bag by the top and says
  - We're going to pass this bag around only by holding the bag by the top.
  - You may shake the bag, but you may not turn it upside down or sideways.
  - After holding the bag from the top, make your guess as to what's inside.
  - Write it down

### ROUND 3

- The teacher picks up the same bag and says
  - Now we're going to feel the item through the bag.
  - After feeling the item through the bag, make your guess as to what's inside
  - write it down

### ROUND 4

- The teacher picks up the same bag and says
  - I am opening up the bag.

- I'm going to look inside.
- I'm going to give you a ONE word clue as to what the item is.
- After I give you my clue, write down your guess.

### ASK/TELL

- How hard was it to accurately guess your object in Round 1?
  - Round 2? Round 3? Round 4?
- In which round did you correctly guess the object?
- Exactly how close did you come to guessing the details about your object?
- What made it so hard to guess in the first round?
- What made it easier to guess as time went on?
- On our own, making decisions can be like the 1st, 2nd or 3rd round.
- But if we invite God (who is everywhere and can see and know things that we cannot) into our decision-making, then our decision-making will be more like the 4th round, where we're receiving *insight* about the thing in front of us.
- This is what Samuel does in the story we read today. Samuel invites God into his decision-making.
- King Saul does not invite God into his decision-making once he becomes king, and that's a main reason why he didn't do so well as king.

If there's more time, do the 2<sup>nd</sup> activity again, using a different item/bag.

### TELL

- Again, our first impressions aren't always right, are they?
- And, again, if we do like Samuel does, and invite God into our decision-making, then we will make better decisions, for ourselves and for others.

### CLOSING PRAYER

#### TELL

- Let's close in prayer. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

Dear God, (Dear God)

Thank you for wanting to help us (Thank you for wanting to help us)

Help us to ask for your help... (Help us to ask for your help)

...and trust you like Samuel did... (and trust you like Samuel did)

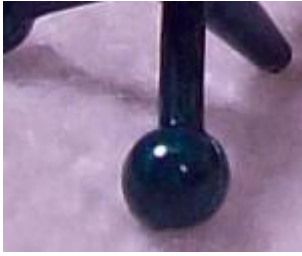
...with our decision-making (with our decision-making)

Thank you for loving us. (Thank you for loving us.)

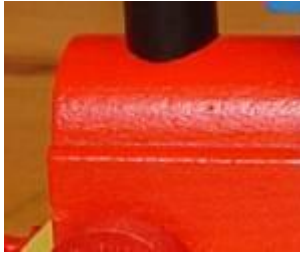
We love you too (We love you too)

Amen (Amen)

SHEET #1 for ACTIVITY #1



1) \_\_\_\_\_



2) \_\_\_\_\_



3) \_\_\_\_\_



4) \_\_\_\_\_



5) \_\_\_\_\_



6) \_\_\_\_\_



7) \_\_\_\_\_



8) \_\_\_\_\_



9) \_\_\_\_\_



10) \_\_\_\_\_



11) \_\_\_\_\_



12) \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS for SHEET #1



1) Jacks



2) Train



3) Cookie Monster



4) Clown



5) Truck



6) Toy Stove



7) Squirt gun



8) Piano



9) Monopoly Playing Piece



10) Toy Cash Register



11) A Poseable Human Figure



12) A Child's Pull Toy

SHEET #2 for ACTIVITY #1



1) \_\_\_\_\_



2) \_\_\_\_\_



3) \_\_\_\_\_



4) \_\_\_\_\_



5) \_\_\_\_\_



6) \_\_\_\_\_



7) \_\_\_\_\_



8) \_\_\_\_\_



9) \_\_\_\_\_



10) \_\_\_\_\_



11) \_\_\_\_\_



12) \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER SHEET #2



1) Snowmobile Crossing



2) A Yield Sign



3) One Way Street



4) Do Not Enter



5) A Dead End



6) School Crossing



7) Sharp Curves Ahead



8) No Left Turn



9) Stop Ahead



10) Duck Crossing



11) Railroad Track Crossing



12) Bikes On Roadway