

The Family Of God

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Family of God

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7

Memory Verse: God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. - 1 Samuel 16:7

The Children's Sermon

You'll need:

- Three varieties of apples that look different; a drawing of a tree; leaf cutouts of different shapes and colors with words written on them as listed below.

(Hold up three varieties of apples that are noticeably different.) Raise your hand if you think these three apples all came from the same tree. You're right. They did not.

This Golden Delicious came from a tree where all the apples looked like this one. This Red Delicious came from a tree where they all look like it, and the same with this little Fuji apple. In nature, you would not find one tree that had all three different kinds of apples. The Bible teaches us in Genesis 1:11 that every seed will bring forth a fruit of its own kind.

Now let's think about people. Have you ever had someone say to you, "Boy, you look just like your sister, or your brother, or your mom or dad."? Who thinks they look like someone else in their family? (Call on a couple children) Or maybe you have seen a picture of your mom or dad when they were your age, and they looked back then just

like you do right now. I saw a picture of Mrs. Smith's husband when he was younger, and he looked just like their son John. I have seen Katie Trott's younger sister here at school, and I knew she was Katie's sister. Even though they are not twins, they look alike. I could tell that they were sisters.

Just like with the apples, people from the same family tree will have the same looks – the same skin color, eyes, hair, height, shape of the nose, body shape, and many other things. This happens because all these physical characteristics are passed on from one generation to another. You may have red hair and your parents don't, but maybe your grandmother or grandfather had red hair. Isn't that cool?

Now as you know, there are exceptions to the families that I have been talking about. There is a wonderful thing called adoption, where parents have a special desire to bring a child into their family who probably doesn't look physically like the other members of the family. We know that Allison has a sister Abby who was born in China. But we also know that a miracle happened for the Martin family, when they discovered that Abby's biological sister from China was also adopted and now lives in New Hampshire. How did that happen? They found Abby's sister when they saw Marie's picture on the Internet. The two girls looked so much alike, they felt Marie had to be Abby's sister. And they were right! God has a plan when He makes family members look like each other. It is just one of the ways that helps to bring you together as a family. It makes for a special connection. For Abby and Marie, their similar looks brought them together on the other side of the world from where they were born. Isn't God wonderful?

But, without being adopted, there is another kind of family tree that we can all belong to no matter what our last name is. In this family we will not all look like each other.

Which family am I talking about? -Pause- Yes, God's family. No matter what your last name is, what you look like, or what country you live in ~ you can be apart of God's Family Tree.

(Turn around easel w/ a drawing of a tree - "God's Family Tree.")

Now, let's think about something really special. Even though we all look different (different skin color, eyes, nose shape, height, and many other things), there's a way we can recognize our brothers and sisters who belong to God's family. How will we know that someone is my sister or brother through Jesus Christ? - Pause - We can recognize each other by the special things in our hearts, the things that make us act like God wants us to. These things are not about how we look. The Bible tells us in I Samuel 16:7, "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I am going to put some leaves on God's Family Tree that will show us how we can recognize each other.

Have a variety of leaf shapes, sizes, and colors with one of the following words written on each leaf: loving, caring, sharing, forgiving, love Jesus, help others, humble, praise God, pray, read the Bible, giving, and grateful spirit. (Attach each leaf to the tree as you mention them.)

When we see someone being kind, helping others, or talking about how much they love Jesus, it's like they are shining a big, bright light from their heart that says, "I'm part of God's family!"

Let's imagine you're at the playground, and you see someone who is all alone, looking sad. If you go over to them, ask if they want to play, and share your toys, you're showing

the heart characteristics of God's family. You're being loving and caring. That's how others recognize you as part of God's family, too.

Sometimes, recognizing God's family through Heart Characteristics means looking for the good in others, even when they make mistakes. If a friend accidentally breaks your toy and says sorry, and you forgive them, you're showing a heart like God's. Forgiving is a big word, but it just means not staying mad and still being friends even when something goes wrong.

So, next time you're with your friends, at school, or even at home, remember to look for those special heart characteristics. And don't forget to show them yourself! By doing so, you're not just recognizing God's family; you're being an important part of it.

Bible Memory Verse

God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. - 1 Samuel 16:7

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Stickers

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Prepare a sample heart decorated with markers and stickers to show as an example.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and access to markers and stickers.
2. Encourage the children to decorate their hearts while explaining that just like they are making their hearts beautiful, God looks at how beautiful our hearts are on the inside.
3. As they work, remind them of the memory verse, emphasizing that God cares more about our inner beauty, like kindness and love, than how we look on the outside.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Heart-shaped stickers
- Plain paper crowns (one per child)
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Write "God sees our hearts" on each crown with a marker before class.

Do this:

1. Read a simplified version of 1 Samuel 16:7, explaining that God chose David to be king because of his heart, not his appearance.
2. Give each child a paper crown and let them decorate it with markers, crayons, and heart-shaped stickers.
3. As they decorate, encourage them to talk about what makes a good heart (being kind, sharing, loving their family and friends). Explain that being part of God's family means we try to have hearts like David's—loving and kind.

Snack Activity: Heart-Shaped Fruit Pizzas

You'll Need:

- Whole wheat English muffins
- Cream cheese (softened)
- Assorted sliced fruits (strawberries, kiwi, grapes, blueberries)
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter

Get Ready: Wash all fruits and slice them into thin pieces suitable for small hands.

Parents or teachers should pre-slice the fruits and have them ready in small bowls.

Do this:

1. Split the English muffins in half to create a flat surface. Use the small heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out heart shapes from each half of the English muffins. This step should be done by an adult or with close adult supervision.
2. Spread a thin layer of softened cream cheese on each heart-shaped English muffin. This represents the love and purity in the Family of God, as God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7).
3. Let the children decorate their heart pizzas with the assorted sliced fruits to create colorful patterns. Explain that like the different fruits, each of us is unique and special to God, and together, we make up the Family of God.

Game Activity: Heart Hop

You'll Need:

- Large paper hearts
- Markers

- Tape

Get Ready: Write different qualities that God values in our hearts on each large paper heart, such as 'kindness', 'love', 'sharing', and 'helping'. Tape these hearts on the floor, spreading them out in a large area.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance, just like He did with David in Samuel 16:7. Tell them each heart on the floor represents qualities that make us part of God's family.
2. Play music and have the children hop from heart to heart. When the music stops, choose a heart and discuss the quality written on it. For example, if a child stops on 'kindness', ask the children to say how they can be kind to their friends or family.
3. Continue playing, stopping the music at intervals, and discussing each quality. This game helps children understand that being part of God's family means showing love and kindness to others.

Craft Activity: Heart of the Family

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks

Get Ready: Pre-cut heart shapes from the construction paper, ensuring you have a variety of colors and two sizes (big hearts for adults, small hearts for children).

Do this:

1. Talk to the children about how God looks at our hearts, not how we look on the outside, based on 1 Samuel 16:7. Explain that our family in God includes everyone who loves and follows Him.
2. Ask each child to choose a big heart and several small hearts, representing their family and God's larger family.
3. Have them glue the small hearts onto the big heart, showing how we are all connected in God's family. Encourage them to use different colors to represent the diversity in God's family.

Prayer Activity: God Sees Our Heart

You'll Need:

- A large paper heart
- Family pictures or magazines with pictures of diverse people
- Glue sticks

Get Ready: Cut out a large heart from the paper and gather family pictures or pictures from magazines that show a variety of people.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that God loves everyone in His family, no matter what we look like on the outside, because God looks at the heart. Reference Samuel 16:7 to emphasize that what's inside our heart is most important to God.
2. Show the children the large paper heart and explain that it represents God's big love for everyone in His family.
3. Give the children pictures and let them glue the pictures onto the large heart. As they do this, encourage them to talk about their families and friends and how we can show love to each other like God loves us.