



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

International Bible Lessons

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Ready-to-Teach Lesson: The LORD Looks on the Heart

1 Samuel 16:4-13 (English Standard Version)

When Preparation Time Is Short

This lesson has been selected from the complete Teacher Lesson and is ready to use. Begin with the two warm-up questions, read or play 1 Samuel 16:4-13, and continue through the activities in order. The writing task may be completed in class or assigned as homework. Teacher Awareness: Explain sacrifice, consecration, and anointing simply. The heart here refers to a person's inner life, character, and motives. Avoid judging character by physical appearance.

1) Warm-Up Questions

1. Why do people sometimes judge others by how they look?
2. What good qualities can a person have that we cannot see?

2) Vocabulary

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
peaceably	In peace, without intending harm.	How did Samuel say he had come?
consecrate	Set apart for God or a sacred purpose.	What did Samuel tell the people to do?
appearance	The way someone looks on the outside.	What do people often look on?
anointed	Applied oil to someone as a sign of God's appointment.	Whom did Samuel anoint?

3) Bible Text Comprehension

1. Where did Samuel go when he obeyed the LORD?
2. What does the LORD look on, according to verse 7?
3. What was Jesse's youngest son doing?
4. What did Samuel do with the horn of oil?

4) Scripture Discussion

1. Why was Samuel's first impression of Eliab not enough?
2. What is the difference between outward appearance and the heart?

5) Speaking Practice

1. Retell 1 Samuel 16:4-13 in your own words.
2. Explain the difference between looking on appearance and looking on the heart.

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a short answer, invite a complete sentence: 'Can you tell me more?' 'What happened next?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Correct gently and model the sentence when needed.

6) Writing Task

Writing

Summarize 1 Samuel 16:4-13 in 6-8 sentences. This may be completed during class or assigned as homework.

7) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

Samuel obeyed the LORD and came to Bethlehem. God told him not to judge by appearance or height, because the LORD looks on the heart. Jesse's youngest son, David, was called from tending the sheep. At God's direction, Samuel anointed David, and the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him. **Remember:** "People look on outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." **Final Question:** How can this passage help us look beyond outward appearance when we think about others?