

For the Family

Jesus told the Pharisees, *“You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts.”*

Talk about how easy it is to spend a lot of time and money making ourselves look good on the outside. But God doesn't look on the outside; he looks at our heart.

Read together 1 Samuel 16:4-13

Explain that God is going to show Samuel who the next king will be. The first king, Saul, looked very good on the outside, but turned out to be a king who ignored God, and God has rejected him as king. Who will the next king be?

Samuel goes to the house of Jesse; the new king will be one of his sons. When Samuel sees Jesse's son Eliab, he thinks this must be the one. But God tells Samuel that Eliab is not the one. He tells Samuel that “man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Jesse brings his son Abinidab before Samuel, but he is not the one. Jesse brings Shammah before Samuel, but he is not the one. Jesse brings seven of his sons before Samuel, but none of them were chosen by God. Finally, they bring David before Samuel. *“And the Lord said, ‘Arise, anoint him, for this is he.’”*

David was the youngest and had been assigned to take care of the sheep. He wasn't tall like Saul, or experienced in battle, yet God chose him to be king. God looks at the heart. He saw in David's heart a man who would be a good king.

Talk together about how it is more important what God thinks of us than what other people think about us. Other people only see what's on the outside, but God sees what is on the inside. It is more important to become good and strong on the inside, than to try to impress people with our appearance.

Pray together that you will help each other build strong hearts that will seek after God. Pray that having a good heart will be more important to you than impressing others with your outward appearance.



The Journey of Discipleship
Luke 9-19

Rich Man—Poor Man

Luke 16:14-31

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-16:13

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus warns against hypocrisy and legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns against judging others who experience tragedy.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.
- Jesus tells a story to show how he receives sinners and that heaven rejoices whenever a sinner repents.
- Jesus tells a story encouraging his disciples to invest in people, in preparation for the coming age.

Luke 16:14-31 – The Rich and the Poor

Read Luke 16:13-31

The Setting: God Knows Your Heart 14-15

Why did the Pharisees ridicule Jesus? 13-14

What was Jesus' response to them? 15

Why do you think self-justification is an abomination to God?

Read Acts 15:6-11. This is Peter's speech before the apostles about what to do with Gentiles who became Christians.

Why does Peter point out that God "knows the heart"? (8)

What is the basis for salvation? (11)

How does this relate to the self-justification of the Pharisees?

Reflect:

How well do you deal with the temptation to justify yourself?

What is more important to you on a daily basis: how impressed others are with you or how pleased God is with you?

The Setting: The Law and the Prophets 16-18

What is the relationship between the Law and the good news?

Read Luke 24:13-27

What was Jesus' attitude toward the Law and the Prophets?

The Story: The Rich Man & Lazarus 19-31

Compare the description of the rich man and of Lazarus:

During their lives 19-21

After they died 22-23

Why did the rich man end up in Hades?

What do you think kept him from faith?

Why did Lazarus end up at Abraham's side?

What do you think led him to faith?

Read Luke 6:20-26

What does Jesus say about the poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those who are persecuted?

What does Jesus say about the rich, those who are full now, those who laugh now, and those to whom people speak well of?

What do you think of this reversal?

Let's go back to our story:

What is the rich man's first request? 24

What is his attitude toward Lazarus?

What is Abraham's response? 25-26

What is the rich man's second request? 27-28

What is Abraham's response? 29

What is the rich man's last request? 30

What is Abraham's response? 31

How does verse 31 relate to verse 13?

Why is it difficult for some to believe?

Even with God's revelation?

Even with the resurrection?

Based on chapter 16, what should we do with our lives? Why?

Do you feel comforted or challenged by this parable? Why?

Next Steps

- I will use what I have been given for the glory of God.
- I will demonstrate urgency in telling my family, friends, and neighbors about Jesus.
- I will trust in the sufficiency of Scripture to save, warn, and guide.
- The person I need to invite to church/small group is: _____

Memory Verse – Luke 16:31

He said to them, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."