

LOOKING AT THE OUTSIDE

Theme: Don't judge by appearances

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:7

Prop: A mirror



I'm glad you came because I brought a really neat picture to show you today. (*Hold mirror with back toward children.*) Let me describe it for you. There are some children in the front. And way behind them there are lots of adults sitting. And I think this picture was taken in a church because I can see a stained glass window.

Would you like to see it? I thought you might because it's a picture... (*Turn mirror around.*)...of you! Yeah, you guessed it. It's a mirror. But let me ask you something: can you see yourself in that mirror? But when you look at yourself in the mirror are you looking at the outside of you or the inside? That's right, the outside. You can't see the inside of you in a mirror.

But you know what? God can see not only the outside of us, but the inside of us, too. In fact 1 Samuel 6:7 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."

In other words, God doesn't care what we look like. He cares about what we think and how we act. Wouldn't it be nice if we were the same way? Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't care if someone looked beautiful or not; or handsome or funny-looking – like me? Wouldn't it be nice if we cared more about what was in people's hearts instead?

Well, we could never be as good at that as God is, but we could at least try to do better, don't you think? Sure.

So next time you look in the mirror, remember that we should never judge people by how they look.

You know, that's something we should pray about: Father in Heaven, help us not to judge people by how they look on the outside. Help us to love people no matter what they look like. We ask this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Song: "I Love You with the Love of the Lord"