

Plays Well With Others: Can You Judge a Book by Its Cover?

March 1 & 2, 2025

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

1 Samuel 16:7-13 | ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” ¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.” ¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

BIG IDEA: True connection begins with you.

1. LEARN to see yourself the way GOD sees you.

Psalms 139:1-2 | ¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

2. Be REAL.

1 John 1:7 | But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

3. Be PROACTIVE in engaging with others.

NEXT STEP: Challenge yourself to connect with someone this week.

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. Share a time when you were surprised by someone's character after getting to know them better. How did your perception change?
2. What is something about you that might not be obvious from the outside but is a big part of who you are?

Quick Review:

1. What stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How does **1 Samuel 16:7-13** challenge our natural tendency to judge by outward appearances?

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Digging Deeper:

1. How does **1 Samuel 16:7** influence the way we view ourselves and others?
2. **Psalm 139:1-2** reminds us that God knows us intimately. How does this truth impact your sense of identity and worth?

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3. Why is it often difficult to be vulnerable with others? What role does vulnerability play in building authentic connections?

Putting it into Practice:

1. What is one practical way you can start seeing yourself the way God sees you this week?
2. How can you take a proactive step in engaging with others, especially those you might not naturally connect with?

Share a goal for how you will connect with someone this week, as encouraged by the Next Step from the message.