



Adult Devotion

Changing Others With Love

1 Samuel 16:7

Good Morning! I'm so glad you are here today!

Listen carefully to this story because I'm looking for a few good answers to my questions once I'm done.

Sam loved recess. He loved to run and play soccer, tag, and hide-and-go-seek with his friends. One day while Sam was playing near the swing set, he saw an older kid picking on one of his classmates whose name was April. April was new to school and didn't have a lot of friends.

Most of Sam's friends thought April was weird because she looked and talked different from everyone else. Most days, Sam didn't talk to April; he just played with his friends. But this day, the older boy and his two friends were circling around April calling her names.

This bullying bothered Sam.

- What would you do if you were Sam?
- [If they need some prompting]
 - Would you let them continue to pick on April and do nothing?
 - Would you tell them to stop?
 - Would you tell a teacher?
 - Would you go over to April and invite her to join you and your other friends?
- Have you ever seen someone being mean or hateful toward someone else?
- How does it feel when someone is mean to you?

In the Bible, there was a man named Saul. Saul did not believe in Jesus and did many terrible things to followers of Jesus. He was even part of a group that stoned a man named Stephen because he was preaching about Jesus.

FOCUS:

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the LORD looks at what is in the heart.

-1 Samuel 16:7 NIV



1 Samuel 16:7

One day, Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus to hunt Christians so he could have them thrown into prison. On the way to do this, a bright light appeared, and Saul heard the voice of Jesus asking him why he was hurting Christians.

Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "I am Jesus." After that day, Saul's life was changed. Instead of trying to hurt and kill Christians, he went around teaching about the love of Jesus.

Because of Jesus and His love, the difference in Saul's life was amazing; everyone noticed it! When we follow Jesus, our lives can be amazing and full of His love, too. We can be kind to those who may look or act differently from us. Next time you see someone on the playground getting picked on, don't ignore it; do something.

The Bible says in 1 Samuel 16:7, "The Lord does not look at things people look at. People look at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." God looks at our hearts. He knows if we are kind and show love. God loves us and wants us to love others as He does.

Today I'd like to challenge you to be kind to others. Watch for someone who might be hurting or lonely and go make a difference. Let's pray.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for loving us and for saving us. Help us love others. Help us be kind. Help us make a difference in Your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



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