



MEANT TO BE

Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study



Lesson Truth:

God created each person to be unique in carrying out his plan of salvation.

Bible Verse:

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NRSV) "But as it is, God arranged the members of the body, each one of them, as he chose."

Opening Prayer

Father God, we praise you that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. You created each of us to be a blessing to those around us and to the world that we live in. Please forgive us when we don't place value on your creation or when we tear each other down. Lift us up, Lord. Fill us with a spirit of love and acceptance for each other. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

"Line Up!" Activity

This activity will get your whole group moving and working together as one. On the count of three, line up:

- By Height: Shortest to Tallest
- By Birthday: January 1 through December 31
- By Shoe Size: Smallest to Largest

Opening Discussion

Would the people with the smallest and largest shoe size please stand.

1. Would the person with the smallest shoe size make a better president? Why or why not?

Would the shortest and tallest people please stand.

2. Would the person who is taller make a better teacher? Why or why not?

Would the people with the earliest birthday in the year and the latest birthday in the year please stand.

3. Would the person with the latest birthday in the year be able to share God's word more effectively than the any other person? Why or why not?

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WANTED: The Lord Looks at the Heart

Just seeing the word WANTED may conjure up a whole lot of pictures in your mind.

1. What do you think of when you see the word WANTED?

In the Bible verses we are about to read, God sent Samuel to find a new and faithful King to serve over his people. King Saul had disappointed God and God WANTED a certain someone to fill this role.

Read: I Samuel 16:6–11

God knew exactly what person he WANTED to fill the role of serving his people as king over Israel. One by one, all seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel until there was only one left.

2. What qualities would you desire to have in the leader of your country?

What qualities would God desire in the leader of the Israelites?

As Samuel first listened to God's leading, he knew that the new man to serve as king over Israel had not yet been found.

3. Why is waiting to find the right leader difficult? What are some things you can do to insure that you make wise decisions when voting or selecting a leader?

CHOSEN: This is the One

Take a minute and remember back to your grade school years, that horrible moment when the teacher says, "We're picking teams." Perhaps you were the one who was always picked first, or maybe someone in the middle, or even the person who was CHOSEN last. That moment felt horrible; but once the game got going, it didn't really matter who was picked when because you were now playing like a team and everyone had a part to play in winning the game.

Read: 1 Samuel 16:11–13

Waiting patiently is not always an easy thing to do, especially if you feel that you have not been

CHOSEN quickly enough. Samuel's mission would not be complete until he found the one CHOSEN by God to serve as the next king of Israel. He waited as the seven brothers passed by him and none were chosen king.

- As Samuel waited for this youngest son to arrive, what did he tell the group to do?

Can you imagine the tension in the room?

Is there a time you can share when you felt impatient, where you felt that you were waiting forever? What was going on and how did you handle it? As the youngest son David arrived, the Lord said, "This is the one." Finally, this young man was CHOSEN to be king over Israel.

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SET APART: The Lord Came Powerfully

Have you ever prayed that God would make it perfectly clear what you are meant to do and how to do it right? Does anyone wish they had the ultimate answer from God right now about something... a clear-cut answer, no questions asked?

- Would any of you be willing to share a concern you have with the rest of the group? How can he/she know God's answer to this prayer?

Would anyone else be willing to share your concern?

Some answers to prayer are very clear, while other times we have to wait for an answer. In Samuel's case, God clearly directed him that David was to be the king over Israel. God **CHOSE** David. God **SET APART** David for several reasons.

What does vs. 7 tell us God looks at when choosing a leader?

- What do you suppose this means? As God looks at your heart, what task may God have you **SET APART** to do? Do you have any ideas of a task in the future?

One last, powerful action took place symbolizing that David was **SET APART**. While in the presence of his family, Samuel anointed him with oil. This action of blessing is God's way of reinforcing his decision. It seals the deal. In David's case, it signified that he was to serve as God's **WANTED, CHOSEN & SET APART** king—serving over all the Israelites.

Closing Thoughts

People with disabilities are **WANTED, CHOSEN & SET APART**, just as God's entire family is, to share God's Plan of Salvation with the world!

- Consider the people you know with disabilities. What gifts do you see in them when it comes to sharing God's love with others?
- What about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; what gifts do you see in them?
- How can your group include people with disabilities into the family of believers in your church?

Reread 1 Samuel 16: 7.

Please keep this verse in mind as you work to include all people, with and without disabilities, in meaningful ways in the life and ministry of the Church at large and in your own local church.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, as we read today in scripture, outward appearances mean nothing to you because you look at the heart. Help us look at the heart of the people who you surround us with. Enable us to see the gifts all people bring and use them wisely in our classes and churches. Open our eyes to see the gifts that we can bring to glorify your name as well. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. In your name we pray. Amen.

Optional Activity

As part of the closing prayer, group leaders may provide a word of blessing individually over their students. Students may also do so over their leader. For deeper meaning, you may choose to use anointing oil with the blessing.

- WANTED -



I am **WANTED**; why do I come to church? _____
I am **CHOSEN**; my favorite Bible verse is _____
I am **SET APART**; my gifts & talents are _____