

Family Devotional

(Unwrap the Hershey Kisses before starting the devotion and set them aside.)

Wow! Monsters, Inc. was such a fun movie to watch! How many different monsters did you see? *(lots)* Did you notice any similarities between the monsters? *(they were all using doors, they were scaring, they worked in a factory)* What about some differences? *(their size, color, jobs)*

Just like we did with the monsters, many times when we see people, we focus on similarities and differences. We use what we see on the outside to decide what we think about them.

Saul was the first king of Israel and he followed God for the first 20 years. But then he began to disobey God. So God sent His helper Samuel to a man named Jesse to find a new king. When Samuel met Jesse, he asked to see Jesse's sons. When Samuel saw Jesse's sons, Samuel thought that they looked like strong men.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

Instead of choosing the strongest man to be the next king, God told Samuel to choose David, a son that was not even considered to be a possibility.

God chose David because God does not look at the outside of a person. He looks at the inside of a person. God looks at the heart.

Look at these Hershey Kisses. They look pretty similar on the outside, but the inside is very different. They are all Hershey Kisses, but we can only tell what kind of Hershey Kiss by what is inside. What kind of Kiss do you think this one is? How about this one? (Try them to see if they are all the same or if they are different.) You can guess what kind of Kiss it is, but without seeing what is inside, you can't tell what it will be.

Just like we judged what the Hershey Kisses would be like, we often decide what people will be like by what we see. Can you think of a time you made a guess about someone based on how they looked?

We need to be careful when making guesses about people. When we judge based on what we see, we will often make wrong guesses. We will fail to see what God sees, just like Samuel did, because man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.

Pray: God, please help me to see people like you see people. Help me to look at their heart and not what they look like on the outside. In Jesus' name, Amen.