



## First Impressions

*But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” ~ 1 Samuel 16:7*

### Discover the Context

1 Samuel 16:1-13

 Because you are representing the camp and Christ, it is important that you seek to give a positive first impression to parents, campers, and supporters. When you meet new people, look them in the eyes when you give them your name. If you offer a handshake, make sure that it is firm—not hand wrenching, but not like a dead fish either. Try to learn campers’ names quickly and use them. If parents ask you questions, take the time to answer them thoroughly and honestly.

 Have you stereotyped or judged anyone yet at camp? If so, confess it to God in prayer. Are there any unlovable people on staff? Ask God to give you the love of Christ for them. Ask God to give you the eyes of Christ.

Staff hiring is one of the most crucial jobs concerning summer camp, and yet it takes place months before camp starts. It’s hard to get your head around who an applicant really is in just a half hour to an hour interview, but yet that’s the job that has to be done. After that brief interaction is over, the interviewer has to know whether or not the applicant should be on staff, and if so, in what capacity. People with responsibility for hiring pray for wisdom and trust their instinct, which basically means they act on their first impressions. Usually it works out. Sometimes it doesn’t.

Samuel was asked to identify the next king of Israel. He knew what he was looking for and started meeting applicants. But right off the bat God told Samuel that his criteria would be useless in choosing a king. Had God allowed Samuel’s criteria, David wouldn’t have even had an interview, much less got the job. God has a completely different way of looking at people than we do. We are hopeless at measuring up people because we look on the outside, at appearances. We must ask for God’s help to go beyond first impressions to see people through God’s eyes.

This week and throughout the rest of the summer you will be constantly meeting new people—staff, volunteers, campers, parents. Immediately you can start filling in the blanks as to where they are financially, socially, relationally, and spiritually. You may look at a staff member and think that person should have never been hired, but maybe God wants you to see hidden talents and potential. You may look at a camper and see a trouble-maker, but maybe God wants you to see a future leader in need of ministry and care. You may look at a girl who seems to have it all put together, but maybe God wants you to see a girl who is hurting beyond imagination. Whose eyes are you looking through today? [PAM]