

The beauty inside

Luke 21:1-4 As He looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

1 Chronicles 28:9 And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

1 Peter 3:3-4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

John 7:24 "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make right judgment."

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Why did Jesus appreciate the poor widow's gift more than the large gifts of the rich?

According to 1 Chronicles 28:9; When God checks someone out what's He looking at?

When we avoid people who dress weird, look different, or have a physical deformity we are judging them on:

A. inner beauty.

B. outward appearances.

In 1 Peter 3:3-4; Where does Paul say beauty should be?

Circle the "inner" judgment statements:

She's a babe.

He was kind.

What a weirdo.

You're such a jerk.

She's smart.

That outfit is so 5 minutes ago.

They're mean.

He's cute.

You're a liar.

How do we make decisions about someone if we can't read their minds or know their thoughts like God can?

What are the personality traits we should exhibit according to Galatians 5:22?

How do these traits manifest themselves in outward appearances?

The images of Barbie are carefully guarded and right protected. You'll have to download your own image off the internet for your lesson plan.

Place it here.

I found a picture of Hanna Montana.

Place it here.

Someone once did a little calculating and discovered that if Barbie was a real, live woman, she'd stand at 7' 2" tall and have measurements of 40-22-36. Her neck is twice the length of a normal human's neck. The official Barbie website denies this but does acknowledge changing the shape of the doll in 1997 to closer approximate a real human.

For more than forty years, Barbie has been held, dressed, undressed, looked at, and played with by three generations of little girls. Barbie's critics tell us that, during that time, millions of girls have unconsciously absorbed appearance standards from Barbie.

By the time girls reach the age of thirteen, 53 percent of American girls say they are unhappy with their bodies. By the time they're seventeen, 78 percent are dissatisfied. Have you noticed how much time kids (both girls and boys!) spend in front of the mirror trying to get things to look just right?

More than ever multi-media is delivering images of "successful", famous, and rich athletes, and rock stars. We unconsciously fix images in our minds of how we should appear.

Dressing appropriately is a difficult task when the clothing stores only offer "the latest" fashions, however lewd they may be. High schools themselves add to the "survival-of-the fittest" behaviors by awarding homecoming crowns and sports trophies.

*"But our Christian calling asks us to defy the world's value systems. Jesus announced a great reversal of values in his Sermon on the Mount, elevating not the rich or attractive, but rather the poor, the persecuted, and those who mourn."**

*Philip Yancey, I was Just Wondering, High School Reunion, Strand Publishing, 1998

I place an image of a pro-wrestler here.
Nasty.

Marylyn Manson went here.
Boy is that gross but I actually do have one student experimenting with Goth styles.
Wonder where he gets it.

A picture collage of the Colorado Rockies baseball team goes here.

The Goal of this lesson: The goal of this lesson is to help the kids be able to judge themselves and others by Biblical values and to realize the difference between the worlds value system and God's.

Preparing the Lesson Plan page: Because images are right-protected I can't post them on my website, You'll have to download your own. I suggest going to Google Images. Look for any iconic person that kids see in any media these days.

I read a column that Philip Yancey wrote, printed in his book "I was just wondering." The column was called "High School Reunion". It's a little off our track but he talks about the animal kingdoms natural selection process of the survival of the fittest. The strongest and most beautiful of a species mates and survives. It explains a lot of human behavior and how our self-esteem is wrapped up in our external images if humans were simply only animals. However, when God made us in His own image, gives us a soul, we became much more than an animal. We are called as Christians to behave quite different than animals and fight against the theory that "biology is destiny."

Back on our subject: It's important to note that long after our "animal" bodies fall away our souls remain. Our "inner" characteristics should be of far more importance than our outer appearances.

Pre-Lesson Activity: I brought a cantaloupe, avocado, and beautiful orange pepper. We talked about the ugliness of the melon and avocado and the beauty of the pepper. Then I sliced them up and discussed how good fruit was inside the melon and the emptiness of the pepper. I passed them around for a snack. We talked while we ate.

Leading the Lesson: Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

(If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.)

Review the page with the pictures on it and get the kids thinking about what influences their feelings about their outward appearance. An object as simple as a Barbie doll has influenced their perceptions of "normal" since they were very young. Turn the page and turn the discussion to the inner-self.

Summary: End the discussion by considering how the inner-self affects outward appearances.

Note: John 7:24 is backup for the judgment exercise. As a option discuss the difference between judging and being judgmental. We will cover this fully in another lesson.

Take Prayer Requests: Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.