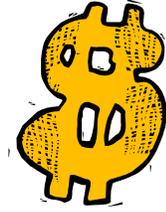


*Get Ready!***Belonging To Christ**

By: Annie Wagganer

**Text**

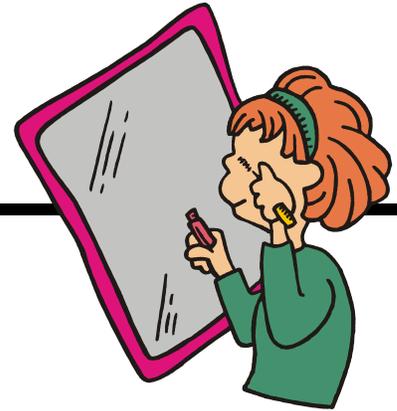
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 1 Kings 5-8

Key Quest Verse

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6: 20 NKJV

Bible Background

After a dark and evil period of Israelite history, Samuel was raised up by God as a prophet, priest, and judge. Though he did what was right in God’s eyes, the Israelites wanted a king to rule. With this request they rejected serving God as their King, yet God allowed Saul to be anointed as the first king of Israel. However, in the book of Samuel chapter 16, God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint David, referred to as a “man after God’s own heart,” in 1 Samuel 13:14. Before Samuel anointed David, God tells him, “the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Although David is later described as a handsome man, we see that God is concerned not with his good-looks, but with his heart. The Israelites demanded to have a king, a person in a visible position of authority. While God allowed Saul to reign temporarily, His own plans called for David to be brought to the throne. David’s son, Solomon, would become his successor and the first to build God’s temple. He spared no expense and God blessed the sanctuary with His presence. But we read in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that the Lord does not dwell only in grand sanctuaries built by people, but in people themselves.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** They were wonderfully created by God for His glory.**Feel:** A sense of belonging to Jesus Christ and to His Father.**Do:** Make sure their body brings glory to God as His temple.**Leader's Devotion**

There are certain movies I have seen so many times, I can quote every single line, often jumping ahead of the film itself. In my familiarity, I am not anticipating any surprises, am not prepared to experience any new insights into the film or new emotions as a result of it. This happens for a lot of us when we are presented with familiar scripture as well. We may have heard several times by now in several sermons, Bible studies, and personal devotion that our body is the temple of God. Usually around New Year's we use this fact as another way to berate ourselves as we make the resolution to take care of our bodies and develop healthier habits. But the fact that we are God's dwelling place is not supposed to encourage a momentary resolve to drink diet shakes in the morning or buy a membership to a local gym. We have become so familiar with the text that we forget it's potential to have a monumental impact on our lives and we go through the motions of building for ourselves a body of great physical beauty that becomes a monument displaying all of our own glory. We are God's dwelling place, a temple, which means, a structure for worship. Don't let this, in the routine of reading scripture pass you by too quickly, don't allow yourself to trade God's dwelling place for a structure of self-worship. Since it's easy to spend so much time focusing on our outward appearance, and often on what is wrong with it, we can easily let our self-absorption cloud the fact that God desires to inhabit a heart of devotion and obedience. Now rejoice because no matter how you feel about your weight, your outward appearance, or your hairline, God is dwelling in you. Mary Kay or better abs won't change it; you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God (1 Corinthians 3:23). No amount of physical beauty could ever offer that security.

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: Several different pictures of people (family pictures may be used)

Hold up the pictures of the men and women one at a time, asking the students to describe each person. Allow the students to describe the person’s hair, clothing, and external appearance. After a few minutes tell them, **often we describe people by what they look like. We might put people in categories like tall, short, pretty, skinny, blonde, etc. But in our story today we’ll learn what it is that God looks at when He sees people. Listen carefully and try to pick out the verse that tells us what it is that God sees.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Option B

Materials: Pictures of three famous male actors (look in popular magazines or on the internet) Use pictures of men you believe your students will easily recognize.

Display the pictures in a place where all the students can see them. **If we were going to vote for one of these men to become President of the United States, who would you vote for? Why? Give the students time to reason and try to persuade the others to vote their way. Do you think that when people in the United States vote for a presidential candidate they take into consideration what he looks like? Today we are going to read a story about a man God chose to be King. When we read the story try to figure out why God chose this man to become a leader.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Advanced Preparation: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles. Taking turns reading aloud, read 1 Samuel 16:1-13, provided in the NIV below.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.” The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?” Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.” So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

Go!



Sparing No Cost

ART

Materials: Graph paper with small grids, lots of sharpened pencils and plenty of good erasers

Quest Connection

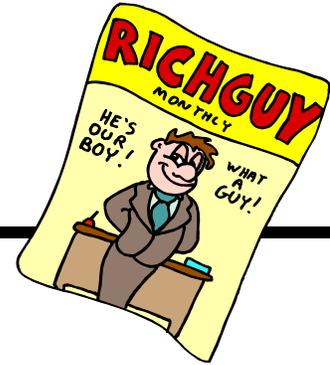
Today I want all of us to use our imagination. Pass out paper to students and put the supplies of pencils and erasers in a convenient location for everyone. **Have you ever heard of the church referred to as God’s house?** Well, today I want each of you to design a new church, or house for God. It can be as big and as grand as you want. You are all successful architects today that don’t have to worry about the cost. So go ahead, use your drafting paper and start designing. While you are working, I’m going to read to you some facts about the first Temple built for God by King Solomon, the son of David, the guy that killed Goliath. Solomon built an incredible dwelling place for God. It would be virtually incalculable to figure out how much it would cost to build a building that incredible today. Can you imagine a building so grand? In 1 Kings it says the work on the construction of the temple continued nonstop for seven years. It was made of cedar, stone, gold, olive wood, cypress, and bronze, all precious building materials. The floors and walls were even overlaid with gold and it had finely crafted wood and gold furnishings. After the temple was complete, God blessed the sanctuary with His presence (1 Kings 8:10-11). How are your building blueprints coming along? Wow, they are looking good. In just a few more minutes (if needed) I want each of you to show us your design and tell us about your work of art. After everyone has had a chance to show their building designs, read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. We often call the church the house of God and we say that God dwells or lives in His house. But the verses that we just read tell us that God doesn’t just live in buildings, He lives in us! When we choose to follow Christ, God’s power lives in us and our bodies become a temple. I want us now to write verse 16 on the bottom of each blueprint.

Close

Now when you think of the temple Solomon built or the new church that you designed for God to live in, remember that you are also a dwelling place for God. A beautiful design, a priceless masterpiece that God wants to fill with His power. You belong to Him!

Go!

Magazine Myths



CREATIVE WRITING

Materials: Several advertisements from secular magazines (pick these out ahead of time), *Battling Myths* worksheet, pencils

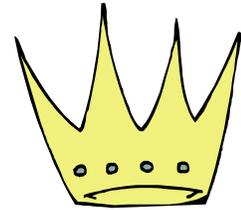
Procedure: Pass out a worksheet for each individual child, but work collaboratively as a class. On the left side, write down what messages we are given from magazines about what is important concerning our bodies. After drafting an exhaustive list together from the advertisements, move on to making a list of messages we get from the Bible, using John 7:24, 1 Samuel 16:7, Psalm 147:10-11 and Matthew 23:27-28.

Quest Connection

Are the messages we hear from magazine advertisements and from the Bible the same? How are they similar? How are they different? With magazines, television, radio, movies, video games and the internet, we get overloaded with messages about what we are supposed to look like all the time. It’s hard to know sometimes what is cool and what is out of style and it’s especially hard to keep up with *all* the trends *all* the time. But what we learn from scripture is that the things that we are told by the world are important are not the same things that are important to God. Fashion gurus might notice if you wear the wrong kind of jeans, but God isn’t noticing your outfit, He’s noticing your heart. It’s easy to keep trying to live up to the standards set by the media, but God wants us be more concerned with our hearts, keeping His temple clean and ready to be a dwelling place for Him.

Close

When you are getting ready this week for school and you begin to think about what other people are going to think if you wear this or that, I want you to stop and take a moment to pray for God to keep your heart a pure dwelling place for Him.

Go!**Useless Crowns****ART**

Materials: Scissors, glue, colored pencils, markers, ribbon, glitter, *Useless Crowns* worksheet

Procedure: Follow the instructions on the worksheet, giving time for students to create wonderful and beautiful crowns.

Quest Connection

If you saw someone wearing a crown, what would think or assume about that person? Would they be someone you thought was good or bad? Many times we make judgments about a person based on their appearance, how they look on the outside. Do you remember a time when you have ever done this? Has anyone ever judged you based on the way you look or the clothes you wear? It’s a pretty common thing to do, but we learned in our Bible story that God isn’t like that, He looks on the inside and gets to know a person’s character which you can’t tell just by looking at the outside. We need to remember that what we look like or what someone else looks like is not what is important to God. Help me finish this sentence, “It’s what is on the inside that (counts)!”

Close

Practice memorizing 1 Samuel 16:7 by having students repeatedly finish these sentences:

“Man looks at the outward (appearance).”

“The Lord looks at the (heart).”

Go!



Reckless Living

GAME

Materials: Three large green, yellow, and red cardboard circles to use as traffic signals, a whistle

Procedure: Have the students form pairs, deciding which person will be the driver and which will be the car. (If there is an odd number, let one person be in charge of the traffic lights. Give the following instructions:

1. Cars, tell the drivers what type of vehicle you want to be. Face forward in any direction, and cross your arms over your chest, using your elbows as bumpers, and close your eyes.
2. Drivers, you should be standing behind your car with your hands on their shoulders.
3. Drivers, fasten your seatbelts and start your engines.
4. When I blow the whistle, cars can begin moving around the room with their eyes closed and drivers will try to steer them safely.
5. Drivers while you are steering, pay attention to the traffic signals that will let you know whether to go, slow down, or stop.
6. When time is up, I will blow the whistle again to let you know to stop and reverse roles.

Quest Connection

Has anyone here ever been in a car accident or in a car with a reckless driver? How did you feel? Having and driving a car is a huge responsibility, you have to take care of your car and make sure you are always obeying traffic laws and going in the right direction. Since our bodies are the temple of God, we need to make sure we aren’t like reckless drivers who are careless with their responsibilities. We need to take care of ourselves and pay attention to the direction we are headed, making sure we are going toward, not away from God.

Close

Pray, thanking God for the great responsibility and privilege of being the temple of God and to help your class remember not to be reckless in their daily living.

Go!**Ownership****OBJECT LESSON/FOOD**

Materials: Several personal belongings such as a wallet, pictures, jewelry and a snack you have made, such as cupcakes to be shared with the class

Quest Connection

Today I have brought several personal items with me to class. Show the students the items that you brought. Now how do you know that these are mine? How did they get to be mine? Maybe you bought them, they were given to you, they are family heirlooms. Right, this one I paid money for and this one was given to me by a friend. All of them are mine and I am in charge of them. What things do you have that you either made, bought, or were given and are in charge of? Do you take good care of them? Would you let just anyone borrow them? Today, I also brought this snack that I made. Since I made these, who do they belong to? Right, they belong to me so I get to decide who will eat them and if I wanted to eat them all myself I could do that because they are mine. But I want to share this snack with you. But before I do, let's read Psalm 149:13-14. Pass out the snack. Sometimes we forget that God created us, each one of us belongs to Him because He made us. How does it make you feel to know that you were created in the image of the Creator of the entire universe, the only One who knows everything? You are very important to the One who created you and you can trust Him to take care of you.

Close

I am so thankful that God created everyone one of you and that we could all be together today to be reminded that we belong to God, the best owner ever!

Go!**Encouragement****GAME**

Materials: None

Quest Connection

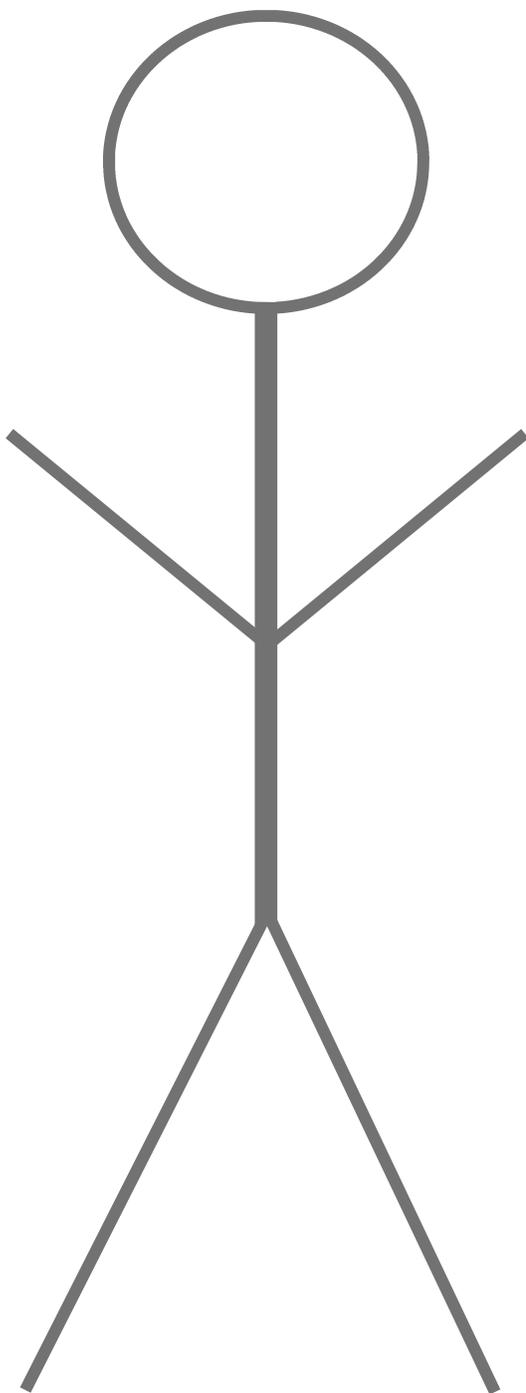
Procedure: Form a large circle and sit down. Begin a clapping rhythm. One person will stand up and say their name to get the cheer started. Once they say their name, the entire class will say, “**Jane Smith, she’s our woman, if she can’t do it...**” and then the next person stands up and says, “**John Jones can!**” The group then says, “**John Jones, he’s our man, if he can’t do it...**” and another person stands up continuing the cheer and inserting their name until everyone in the circle has stood up.

That was a fun and silly way to get to learn everyone’s name and to cheer for each other. In Ephesians 2:22, it says that “in Jesus Christ we are being built together to become a dwelling place in which God lives by His Spirit.” Not only are each of us the temple of God, but as Christians and a group of believers we are being built together as one temple. Therefore, we must encourage each other and appreciate one another. We need to be able to come to church and be ready to support other believers that come here as well.

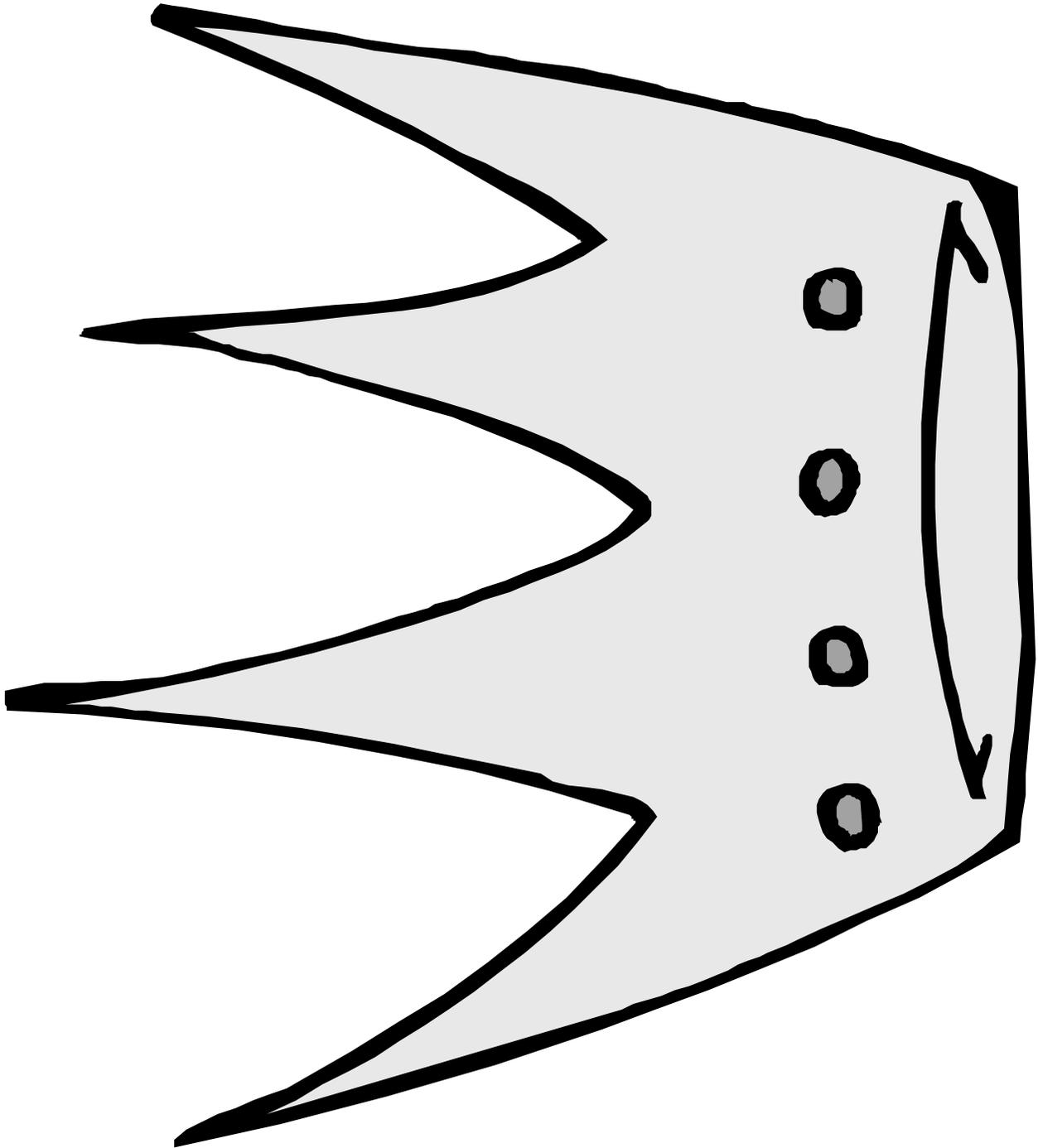
Close

When you come to church, are you ready to be kind and loving to one another? It’s not always easy, sometimes we are in a bad mood or our feelings have been hurt. But no matter if we are happy, angry or sad when we come to church, we need to be ready to show love. After all we are all one temple, a place for God’s spirit to live, we ought to offer Him a loving home.

Complete the stick figure with details that resemble exactly what you look like today.
Then on the right side of the black line, write five words that describe the way you want
to be seen by your actions, such as kind, trustworthy, friendly, obedient, etc.
Remember, men see the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart!



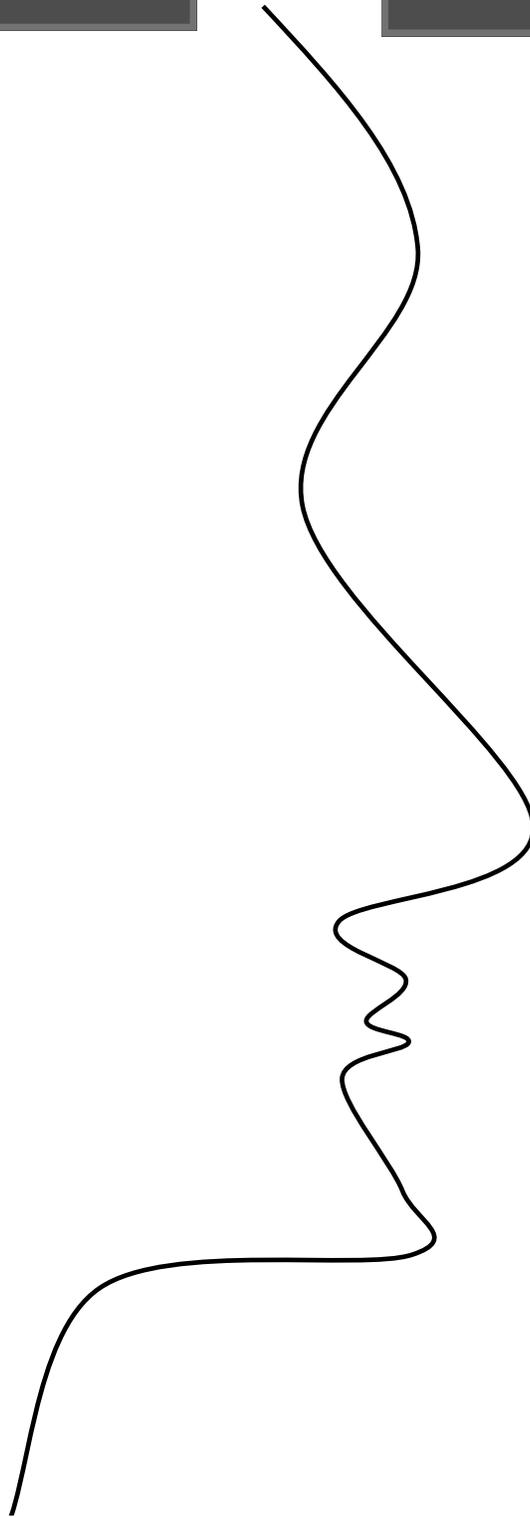
**“WHAT MAKES A CROWN SPECIAL
IS THE HEART OF THE PERSON WHO IS WEARING IT.”**



Cut out the crown and decorate with your own special designs and creative artwork.
Glue the quote at the top of the page on the back of your crown.

Magazines

Scripture



Dear Lord,

Sometimes it is hard for me not to worry about what I look like and what I wear. I often worry about _____

and _____.

I don't want people to look at me and think _____

or _____.

But your word says that it doesn't matter what man thinks, what matters is what You see and I know that You are looking at my heart. When You look at my heart, I hope you see _____

and _____.

Today I also wanted to tell you _____

*In Jesus Name,
Amen*