**Not As It Seems!**

The theme of today’s assembly is ‘Things aren’t always what they seem’.

I need ten volunteers to act out today’s story: two older children to play Samuel and Jesse, seven more children to play the parts of the older sons and one younger child to play David, the youngest son.

The Story of Samuel and David – with children acting it out

There was a man called Samuel who was sent by God to look for a new king of Israel. In those days kings had to seem strong and powerful.

*(stride from side to side, look around for something.)*

Samuel arrived at Jesse’s farm *(wave)*

and Jesse was very worried *(worried face).* “What does Samuel want?” He thought.

Samuel could tell that Jesse was scared, so he said, ‘Don’t worry, I’ve come to invite you and your sons to a party, but first, I want to see them all.’

So, Jesse went to find his first son, Eliab, and showed him to Samuel. *(Jesse to walk with Eliab in front of Samuel.)*

At first Samuel thought, ‘Eliab looks big and strong. This must be who God has chosen to be the next king.’

But God told him, ‘Humans look at what is on the outside, but God looks at the heart.’

Samuel shook his head. *(shake head)*

Then, Jesse found his second son, Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. Samuel shook his head.

Next, Jesse found Shammah and the same thing happened.

This happened with each of the seven brothers. *(Ask each of the other four brothers to walk in front of Samuel in turn. Samuel should shake his head each time.)*

Not one of the boys was right. Samuel was very confused. God had brought him to this place, yet none of the sons seemed right, even though they were all big, strong and healthy. *(confused)*

Samuel asked Jesse whether he had any other sons. Jesse said, ‘Well, yes, but only David and he’s too small. He’s out looking after our sheep.’

Samuel wanted to see him anyway.

*(Jesse present David to Samuel)*

*(Samuel give thumbs up and look happy.)*

God told Samuel that David was the one. Even though David was the smallest and didn’t look very strong. God had a special job for him to do – he was to be the future king of Israel!

David went on to be a great king, even though he didn’t look very impressive at first.

This meant that although David didn’t look like a king on the outside because he was so much younger and smaller than his brothers, God could see what David was really like on the inside.

Applause for the volunteers

Christians believe that God sees what **we** are like on the inside. He sees our potential and knows what we could become, rather than looking only at our outward appearance.

We can try and be a bit like this too by not judging others based on their looks or on first impressions (what we think of them when we first meet someone).

We should take most notice of what’s on the inside and what’s in someone’s heart. How do we find out what’s in someone’s heart?

We can only do this, by getting to know them.

Think of a time when something has surprised you.

Maybe they became good friends with someone they didn’t like at first. Maybe they went on holiday to a place that they thought they wouldn’t like, but they loved it in the end.

**Things aren’t always what they seem at first!**

Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for surprises in our lives.

Thank you that you look at our hearts rather than at our outward appearance and that you see the potential in us.

Please help us to see potential in other people.

Amen.