

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

WHO HE IS UNDER THE COSTUME

Halloween is Monday, and depending on where you live and whether or not you leave your porch light on, you may get some trick-or-treaters at your door. This year, you can expect to see more than the usual number of cute little dinosaurs, Spider-Man imitators, fairies, and characters from the Netflix show *Stranger Things*. Those are the most popular Halloween costume searches this month, according to Google. It can be humorous when children dressed in costumes expect us to recognize them under the mask. But sometimes, the outward appearance doesn't give us any clues as to who is actually standing before us.

WHO HE IS UNDER THE APPEARANCE

After God let Israel have their way in choosing a regal-looking first king—and the disasters that followed—He decided to replace Saul with a king who would be a man after His own heart. He sent Samuel to Bethlehem, to the house of Jesse, to anoint God's selection. But none of Jesse's handsome, impressive, full-grown, regal-looking sons were God's choice. They had to go bring in the kid brother, who smelled of sheep, before God revealed His plan. Sometimes, the outward appearance of a king doesn't show how well he will rule. What God examines is the heart.

1. Why would we hide our true character from other people?
2. What does it mean to be a person after God's own heart?
3. When have you been surprised at the disconnect between someone's appearance and true character?

Additional Resources

These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Music Video, Traditional: ["Morning Has Broken Like the First Morning"](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: ["My Worship" by Phil Thompson](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: ["Move" by Worship for Everyone](#)

[Guzik's Commentary on 1 Samuel 16](#)

[Matthew Henry's Commentary on 1 Samuel 16](#)

[Pulpit Commentary on 1 Samuel 16](#)