



FLIP FLOPS
(Children's Story/Parable)

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Jackie Bishop

I Samuel 16:7

In preparation, Google 'Jelly Belly Flop' images. Either print or prepare in a PowerPoint images of regular Jelly Belly (jelly beans) and Jelly Belly Flops. You may also choose to have pictures of physical differences in people; i.e. someone using crutches, someone in a wheel chair, a picture of a Down Syndrome child, someone who's blind, etc.

In addition, purchase a bag of Jelly Belly's and a bag of Jelly Belly Flops to share with the children.

Show the pictures of regular Jelly Belly's and ask: "How many of you know what these are? Some people say these are the best jelly beans ever made! Have you ever tasted them? What do you think?" (If you have the candy, offer a taste to the children and get their reaction.)

"Did you know that you can tour the Jelly Belly factory and see just how the Jelly Belly's are made? You can even taste all the different kinds of jelly beans. That would be pretty fun, wouldn't it? There are 50 different flavors of Jelly Belly's. You can find licorice, root beer, blueberry, coconut, strawberry cheese cake, sour apple, and even flavors like buttered popcorn and chili mango! Everybody has different favorites!"

Show pictures (or the bag) of Belly Flops and say: "Also at the factory they have something else called 'Belly Flops!' These are Jelly Belly's that just came out a bit different from the other Jelly Belly's. Some are longer, or fatter, or joined and stuck to other jelly beans. They are called Flops because they don't look like the other Jelly Belly's! They are separated and put in a different part of the factory and even packaged differently!"

Offer the children a taste of the belly flops if you have them, and ask them whether or not they taste good. Otherwise, explain while showing the pictures. "Even though these Jelly Belly's taste exactly as yummy as the other jelly beans, they are harder to sell because they look different. So the people at the factory call them Belly Flops, put them in a different bag, and sell them for a lot less money. The

people at the factory decided the Belly Flops are worth less because they look different, even though they taste the same.”

“It reminds me of how we often treat or value people. Sometimes just because people look differently, sound differently, walk differently, or learn differently than us, we decide that they are less valuable, less capable, or less important than us.”

Show pictures of ‘differences,’ or perhaps refer to someone in your congregation who is deaf, in a wheelchair, or uses crutches, etc.

“The Bible tells us in I Samuel 16:7 (Children’s NIV), ‘God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.’

This verse reminds me that everyone, everywhere is just as ‘yummy’ and valuable because of their inside, no matter how they look on the outside.”

“This week let’s ask for God’s eyes to see the yummy insides of people, rather than looking only at the outside differences.”

Prayer: “ Dear Jesus, help us to remember that we are all priceless and precious to You. Amen.”