



How we should see others:

★ “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 people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’” 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

★ “So from now on, we do not think about what people are like by looking at them. We even thought about Christ that way one time. But we do not think of Him that way anymore.” 2 Corinthians 5:16 (NIV)

How God sees us:

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your **Father, who sees what is done in secret**, will reward you.” Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV) [**He sees us.**]

Psalm 139

“I praise you because you made me in such a wonderful way. I know how amazing that was!”
Psalm 139:14 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.” Psalm 139:1-6 (NIV)
[**He knows us-even our thoughts.**]

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. **Your eyes saw my unformed body**; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.” Psalm 139:13-18 (NIV)
[**His eyes saw our future before we were formed.**]

“If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. **Search me, God, and know my heart**; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:19-24 (NIV)

How we can see God:

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

What we can know with an enlightened heart:

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know

- **The hope to which he has called you**,
- The **riches of his glorious inheritance** in his holy people,
- And **his incomparably great power for us** who believe.”

Ephesians 1:18-19 (NIV)

Bible Verses Related to *Bullies & Peace Makers*



Heart Eyes: Beth and the Bullies

It's not a script ("See something, say something")...it's scriptural.

Biblical themes consistent with the message of the picture book:

Peacemakers, compassion, kindness, persecution (bullying)

Why does bullying continue?

We've been addressing the behaviors (the symptoms) and not the driving force behind those behaviors (the cause): the heart.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

"...All our righteous acts are like filthy rags...." Isaiah 64:6 (NIV)

No one is perfect:

"As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.'" Romans 3:10-12 (NIV) Also: Psalm 14:2-3, Psalm 53:2-3, Ecclesiastes 7:20

We all have a sin nature:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (NIV)

We need the indwelling of the Spirit:

We need the renewing of our mind:

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Even when we're saved, we struggle (like Paul):

"For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing." Romans 7:19 (NIV)

Peace Maker Verse:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

"Great blessings belong to those who work to bring peace. God will call them his sons and daughters." Matthew 5:9 (ERV)

Bullies:

Is bullying in the Bible?

God's people & Israelites have been bullied throughout all time.

Goliath, the bully

"A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

Heart Eyes: Beth and the Bullies

“Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, ‘Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.’ Then the Philistine said, ‘This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.’” 1 Samuel 17:4-10 (NIV)

Goliath’s bullying victims: Saul, all Israel, men of Israel

“On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified ... Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.” 1 Samuel 17:11, 24 (NIV)

A Brave Bystander (with God on his side): David

“David said to Saul, ‘Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him... Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.’

“David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but **I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty**, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day **the Lord will deliver you into my hands**, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.’” 1 Samuel 17:32, 36, 45, 46 (NIV)

Divine Protection:

Elisha was pursued by Aram’s army. Elisha’s body guard was the Lord.

“As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, ‘Strike this army with blindness.’ So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

“Elisha told them, ‘This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.’ And he led them to Samaria.

“After they entered the city, Elisha said, ‘Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see.’ Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

“When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, ‘Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?’

“‘Do not kill them,’ he answered. ‘Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.’ So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.” 2 Kings 6:18-22 (NIV)

God also fought for Gideon (when he was pursued by an army much larger than his).

Angels slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers

“Then the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!” Isaiah 37:36 (NIV)



Bible Verses Related to
Our Response to the Bullies in Our Lives

Do not fear; God is with us:

“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 2 Kings 6:16 (NIV)

He will fight for us:

“May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor... For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.” Psalm 72:4, 12-14 (NIV)

Follow Christ’s example and admonition:

• Pray for enemies

“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.” Luke 23:34 (NIV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV)

• On the cross, Christ modeled the power of restraint (to let God work His perfect plan).

Be confident in the power that works within:

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

Display the fruit of the spirit:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness, self-control**; against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 (RSV)

How to speak:

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)

Put on the armor of God:

“Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power**. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:10-17 (NIV)

Reflect on His protection.

“The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” Psalm 9:9 (NIV)

Remember:

Figurative bullies in our lives are thoughts which torment us: worry, anxiety, insecurity, depression, fears ...

Peace & protection come from God. He is our refuge and strength. He will fight for us.

“Because you belong to Christ Jesus, God’s peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds.” Philippians 4:7 (ERV)