



Group Guide

Call of David

April 14, 2024

Main Passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Theological Theme

When God called David, He sent Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel. Samuel learned that God's ways are very different than ours.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some other examples of a person being chosen for appearance over their heart or character?
- ❓ Why is this a convenient and sometimes natural way for all of us to assess others? How does this compare with the way God judges?

1. God's Plan (1 Samuel 16:1-5)

Samuel spoke to the people of Israel on behalf of God and when king Saul turned to ungodly ways, it grieved Samuel's heart. As Samuel was mourning, the Lord let him know that it was time to do something about the situation. God assigned Samuel to anoint the next king who would follow Saul. Although it may have seemed that God's plans were falling apart, the reality is the Lord knew this was going to happen when Israel insisted on having a king, and He had a plan in place. Human failure is never the end of God's plans. He is in control, and He is never caught off guard.

- ❓ How does it encourage you to know God knows what's happening and already has plans for your life even when you may fail?
- ❓ Where do you struggle to obey the Lord's plans, even if you know what He desires?
- ❓ Application: What is God instructing you to do that you need to obey and trust Him in?

2. Different Perspective (1 Samuel 16:6-10)

As Samuel began the process of selecting from Jesse's sons, he looked for who appeared the most kingly. That is what most people would do in this situation, but none of the sons was the right one. Samuel was using his physical eyes and human standards to determine which son might be the one. When he saw the eldest and observed that he was a tall, good-looking man, Samuel assumed he found the one who would be anointed.

- ❓ What is an area of life you are most likely to make a decision based on how someone or something looks outwardly? Why can this be a problem?
- ❓ How have you felt rejected because of a lack of outward skills or appeal? How does this reminder that the Lord judges much differently than people encourage you?
- ❓ Application: How can you be more intentional about looking at others with God's perspective instead of according to your own thoughts and judgments?

3. The Heart of the Matter (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

Samuel heard from the Lord that one of Jesse's sons was the next king but then God refused each of the seven that were present. In response, Samuel acted with spiritual confidence when he could have doubted or questioned the Lord. Asking if there were any more sons they had yet to meet, Samuel revealed his faith in the direction of God.

- ❓ What are some other ways Samuel could have responded in this seeming predicament? How did Samuel show he was no longer judging by human standards but seeking God's guidance?
- ❓ When have you seen or experienced God using an unlikely person to accomplish great things for the kingdom? When has He used you in an unexpected way?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to be empowered by God's Spirit to live for Him right now? How will you seek Him for this?

Conclusion

- ❓ How have you been guilty of judging by the outward appearance? How can you seek God's perspective instead?
- ❓ What is God calling you to do currently and how will you trust Him in faith?
- ❓ How can you seek a gospel conversation with others by sharing this account about David?