

Water of Life Community Church
SAMUEL: A LIFE OF PRAYER
WEEK 7
1 SAMUEL 16-24

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

God ordered the prophet Samuel to go to David's hometown of Bethlehem, approach the home of Jesse, and anoint the new king of Israel from among Jesse's many sons. How would the prophet recognize the new king? God would show him the man He had chosen. But it would not keep Samuel from trying to guess which one of Jesse's sons was going to be king. Samuel probably guessed based on the same factors we would use today—the person's height, strength, and beauty—in essence, his outward appearance. But Samuel was wrong, and he was pleasantly surprised at God's choice for the new king. God would use the new king, David, to do great things, beginning with the defeat of a great foe of Israel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13.

- a. What is your initial reaction to these verses? Why was David an unexpected king?
- b. Do you believe that God has at some point sovereignly chosen you to serve Him in some way, or do you feel more like He has passed over you? Explain.
- c. Why do you think all of the sons of Jesse were called to stand before Samuel except for David? What does this tell us about Jesse's thought process?
- d. If you were one of David's seven brothers and not chosen to be king, what kinds of emotions might you have felt when you were passed over?
- e. In what ways does our society advance the idea that strong or attractive people should be the leaders?

2. READ 1 SAMUEL 17:1-40.

- a. Besides his height, what made Goliath an intimidating foe? What did Goliath's armor reveal about himself?

b. What question did David ask aloud in verse 26? How was his response to Goliath's message different than the response of the soldiers?

c. Why is it important that David described the army of Saul as belonging to "the living God"? How might this have changed the men's perspective on facing Goliath?

3. READ I SAMUEL 17:41-51.

a. How did David honor God and call attention to Him in his speech to Goliath?

b. How did David act in faith in verses 40-51? For you to act in faith in a circumstance you are facing today, what would you need to do?

4. SKIM THROUGH 1 SAMUEL 18-24.

a. What doubts might David have had during this time? Why do you think God would allow His anointed leader to endure such struggles?

b. Read Psalm 59:1-10. What lessons do you think God used this time in David's life to teach him?

c. Contrast the legacies left by Saul and Samuel. Pastor said, "The goal for each of us to to leave a legacy, something that lasts past our lives on this planet." If you had to nail it down to one thing, what legacy should believers in Christ seek to leave in this world?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

What are some steps we can take to spend more time on growing an inner character of godliness than we do on being appealing to others?

What are some practical ways we can encourage one another to move beyond the surface and shallow to pursue the depth of the character of Christ?

How have you taken credit for past victories? Do you need to admit to God that you have been too self-sufficient while not acknowledging that it has been Him all along who has given you success?

What past experiences of God's faithfulness do you need to remind yourself of when facing your next Goliath?

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- It was Samuel's inner life with God that brought his legacy. What does your inner life with God look like right now?

RESPOND

- Think about one practice you can make that will deepen your inner life/relationship with God (i.e. prayer, reading your Bible, Sabbath, etc.)

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7, Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart."

NOTES