

How can you relate to this story? Discuss each statement below:

- I've felt punished for my sins – like Saul (v. 1)
- I've felt passed over by God – like David's brothers (v. 10)
- I've felt left out by other people – like David (v. 11)
- I've felt chosen by God – like David (v. 12).
- I've felt the Holy Spirit's power – like David (v. 13).

In your relationship with God lately, have you felt passed over or specially chosen? Why?

Read 1 John 2:20. What does this passage teach us, in the light of today's story of David?

What inner qualities of the heart do you recognize in other people in your group, that qualify them for service? Take the time to encourage others.

Pray

Thank God that we are all important in His eyes. Pray that God would help us not to judge people by unimportant qualities. Ask God to strengthen us and to encourage one another.



After God's Own Heart -DAVID-

Growth Group Study Guide Week 3

21 May 2023

“An Unlikely Choice”

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Series Overview:

Over seven weeks, we will study and reflect on a central character in the Old Testament; David. We will look at events leading up to his birth, as well as his development and faith in God. Our prayer is that we will grow closer to God through viewing the life of God's servant and friend called David; a man after God's own heart.

Background to today's passage:

God had previously led the prophet Samuel to Saul as Israel's king. Samuel has just told Saul that, because of his disobedience, the kingdom has been torn from him and given to another. The new person to be anointed as king was chosen by God for his heart, not appearance or position in life.

Read I Samuel 16: 1-13

Why do you think Samuel was reluctant to visit Jesse?

As one of David's brothers, how would you have felt as you watched your younger brother get chosen? Discuss the following possible reactions:

Proud _____

Hurt _____

Jealous _____

Relieved _____

Angry _____

Shocked _____

Which reaction can you relate to?

What does it mean to you that God passed over seven of Jesse's sons – just to pick David?

How does the fact that, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" encourages you? What can you do to make your heart more pleasing and attractive to God?

On what basis do you tend to judge people? Discuss each one:

Talents _____

Appearance _____

Character _____

Intelligence _____

Potential _____

Accomplishments _____

Lifestyle _____

Education _____

Faith _____

Possessions _____

What traits do you think that God is most interested in?

How do you want to be judged by others?