



Week 2



Day 1: God's Spirit with David

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:14

Devotional:

After David was anointed, something important happened: God's Spirit was with David in a special way! At the same time, King Saul began to struggle and feel troubled. Why? Because over time, Saul had chosen to stop listening to God. Instead of obeying, he began doing things his *own* way and making selfish choices. The farther Saul got from God, the more restless and troubled he felt inside. This shows us something really important: when we choose our own way instead of God's way, it doesn't lead to peace, it leads to emptiness and frustration. But when we stay close to God, He fills our hearts with His presence, peace, and help. Even though Saul was struggling, God was already working through David. This part of the story reminds us that being close to God changes how we live and how we treat others. A heart after God doesn't say, "*What can I get?*" It says, "*How can I help?*" Even as a young boy, David was being prepared to care for others!

Discussion:

1. What do you think selfishness does to our hearts?
2. How can following and obeying God change our hearts over time?

Prayer:

God, thank You for being with me. Help me to have a heart that wants to serve and help others, just like David. Amen.



Welcome to our week 2 devo for Pet Squad! All month long we are taking a look at the life of David to see what it looks like to have a heart after God's heart! This week, we are learning A Heart After God Serves Others through the story of David serving Saul. We're *fur* real excited to dive in and learn more!

Day 2: Willing to Serve

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:15–17

Devotional:

King Saul was struggling, and his servants noticed something wasn't right. They didn't ignore it, they cared enough to ask, "How can we help?" That's where serving begins: paying attention. A heart after God looks around and notices when someone is hurting, left out, or needs help. But serving others doesn't mean we have to fix everything or carry someone else's feelings. Only God can truly change hearts and bring peace. Instead, serving means asking, "*How can I be helpful instead of hurtful in this moment?*" Sometimes that looks like being kind with your words, sitting with someone who feels alone, helping with a task, or choosing patience instead of frustration. We will learn that David didn't try to solve all of Saul's problems, he simply used what he had to help. In the same way, God invites us to show love in small, simple ways. We can trust God to do the big work, while we faithfully do our part with a humble heart willing to notice and serve others!

Discussion:

1. How can you notice when someone might need help or kindness?
2. What's the difference between helping someone and trying to "fix" everything for them?

Prayer:

God, help me notice when others need help. Show me how to be kind and helpful in small ways, and remind me that You are the one who takes care of people's hearts. Amen.

Day 3: Using What God Gave You

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:18-20

Devotional:

One of Saul's servants remembered David and said he could play the harp well. David didn't just have a talent, he used his talent to help someone else. God was using David's small, everyday faithfulness to serve a king. God has given each of us gifts too, but sometimes we think our gifts aren't a big deal. Maybe you're good at listening, helping, encouraging, building, playing sports, drawing, or making people feel included. Those things might seem small, but they matter *a lot* to God. When we use our gifts to help others, we're showing what a heart after God looks like. It's also about how we use our gifts. We can use them to get attention or to show off, or we can use them to serve. A humble heart says, "*God gave this to me, so I want to use it to help someone else.*" If you're good at cheering people up, encourage someone. If you're good at organizing, clean up. If you're good at sports, include someone. God can use anything when we offer it to Him!

Discussion:

1. What is something you're good at, and who could that help this week?
2. How can you tell the difference between using your gifts to serve and using them to show off?

Prayer:

God, thank You for the gifts You've given me. Help me use them to serve others. Show me who I can help today. Amen.

Day 4: Serving Faithfully

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:21-23

Devotional:

David went to serve King Saul by playing music for him. When David played, Saul felt better and found relief. David didn't become king right away, he served faithfully where God placed him. Sometimes we think we have to wait for something BIG to make a difference, but that's not true. David made a difference just by serving *one* person with what he had. A heart after God serves wherever they are, even in small, quiet ways.

When we help others, whether it's cheering someone up, helping at home, or being kind, we are showing God's love. Serving others is one way we can live like Jesus!

Activity: Serve Like David Jar

As a family, brainstorm different ways you can serve others. Write each idea on a slip of paper. Put all the slips into your "Serve Jar." Each morning for the next week, pull one slip out. That day, everyone can focus on serving others in that specific way, at home, school, work, or anywhere you go!

Examples to Write on Slips:

- Help clean up without being asked
- Encourage someone with kind words
- Let someone go first/pick their choice
- Help a sibling or classmate

Prayer:

God, help me serve others faithfully, even in small ways. Use me to bring joy and help to the people around me. Amen.

Memory Verse

**"The Lord does not look at the things people look at.
People look at the outside of a person.
But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."**

1 Samuel 16:7b

