

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 17

### God sees David's heart

1 Samuel 16:1-23



## DAY 1

God sent Samuel to anoint the next king • 1 Samuel 16:1-5

### READ

1 Samuel 16:1-5

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 16:1-5

Samuel was still sad about Saul. But while Saul was lost, God's plan for a king was not. About 800 years earlier, Jacob had prophesied that kingship would belong to Judah (Gen 49:10), not to Saul's tribe of Benjamin. Nearly 400 years after this prophecy, God rescued Rahab the Canaanite by granting her true faith and making her an Israelite (Josh 2:8-14; 6:25). Rahab's son was Boaz, who married Ruth the Moabitess. Boaz and Ruth lived in Bethlehem and had a grandson named Jesse (Ruth 4:17), and now God was sending Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint Jesse's son. But what would Saul think about all this? Saul knew God had chosen someone to replace him. He would have been watching Samuel to see if he went out of his ordinary judging circuit, and he may have tried to kill Samuel or the one Samuel came to anoint. So God gave Samuel wisdom. He showed Samuel how to keep the mission secret from Saul, protecting both Samuel and Israel's future king (1 Sam 16:2-3).

### ASK

1. Why was Samuel sad?  
*Because Saul had rejected God.*
2. What hope did God give Samuel to encourage him to keep serving God?  
*God told Samuel He had chosen a new king, one He had planned hundreds of years before.*
3. Why was Samuel afraid to go to Bethlehem?  
*He was afraid that Saul would find out and kill him.*
4. How did God protect Samuel?  
*He told Samuel how to keep his mission secret from Saul.*

### DISCUSS

1. When was the last time you were sad? Why were you sad? How can the story today give you hope in sad times (Rom 8:28)?
2. When God tells you to do something, can you also trust Him to give you what you need (like wisdom) to do it (Jas 1:5)?

## DAY 2

God chose a king loyal to Him • 1 Samuel 16:6–13

### READ

1 Samuel 16:6–13

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 16:6–13

Do you remember how Israel wanted a tall and handsome king the first time? Well this is what Samuel was looking for again (1 Sam 16:6–7). But Saul's failure shows how foolish it is to judge a person based on appearance. God does not judge as man judges. He looks straight into the heart (1 Kings 8:39; Ps 44:21). God sees your innermost thoughts, motivations, and desires. He sees what you truly love and value. So after rejecting the next six sons of Jesse, God chose the youngest. It wasn't that David was short or ugly (16:12), but that his heart belonged completely to God. God desires those who love Him with heart, soul, and might (Deut 6:5), who treasure His word in their heart (Deut 6:6; Ps 119:11), and whose hearts are completely loyal to Him (2 Chron 16:9). This is the kind of man God uses, just as God took control of David and used him in powerful ways (1 Sam 16:13). This is also the kind of leader you should follow, and this is who you should strive to be.

### ASK

1. What is the difference between how man sees and how God sees?  
*Man looks a person's appearance, but God looks at the heart. He knows even secret thoughts and desires.*
2. Why wasn't David with his brothers?  
*David was the youngest, so he was away watching the sheep.*
3. What kind of people does God want?  
*God wants people whose hearts are loyal to Him.*
4. When Samuel anointed David, who took control of David?  
*The Spirit of God took control of David.*

### DISCUSS

1. Why is it foolish to judge by appearance? What kind of people do you honor, follow, or try to please?
2. What do people, who see your outside, think about you? Is this the same or different from what God would say when He sees your heart? Do you care more about your appearance or your heart?

## DAY 3

God brought David to Saul • 1 Samuel 16:14–23

### READ

1 Samuel 16:14–23

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 16:14–23

Which is easier: to obey or disobey? Sometimes disobedience seems easier at the moment, but it is always much harder in the end. Because Saul had forsaken God, Saul lost God's presence and instead was tormented by an evil spirit (1 Sam 16:14). By contrast, David was elevated to Saul's court because people knew God was with David (16:18). Just as God was with Joseph to give him success in difficult

situations (Gen 39:2, 3, 23), so God was with David and would give him success through the many difficulties to come. God's presence made all the difference between David's honor and Saul's anguish. Does the story of David's anointing remind you of Hannah's song? Her song sets the tone for the entire book of Samuel. It is a story of God's grace to the humble and provision of a godly king to His people. Hannah praised God for giving power to His king and lifting up the strength of His anointed one (1 Sam 2:10), and this is what God did for David. So which do you choose: a heart for God like David, or miserable disobedience like Saul?

**DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**ASK** 

1. What happened to Saul?  
*The Holy Spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit tormented him. It is much better to be loyal to God!*
2. Why did God take His Spirit away from Saul?  
*Because Saul had forsaken God.*
3. What did David do for Saul?  
*David played the lyre for Saul to stop the evil spirit from tormenting him.*
4. Who is David's descendant, the perfect King after God's own heart?  
*Jesus is the perfect King, and He can give us hearts pleasing to God.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Compare walking with God (Prov 4:18; Rom 5:10; John 13:17) with rebelling against Him (Prov 4:19; 13:15; Rom 5:9). Which is better?
2. David obeyed God because he had a heart for God. How can you get a right heart (Ezek 36:26; John 3:3)?

**DAY 4***The heart is the control center of our lives • Proverbs 4:23***READ** 

Proverbs 4:23

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Proverbs 4:23**

Why do you do what you do? Because of what is in your heart. The heart is the control center of your life. The word "heart" describes a lot of who you are. First, it includes your mind, where thinking and reason occur (Prov 6:21). Second, it includes your emotions, the way you feel (15:15). Third, it includes your will, your desires and decisions (11:20). So the word "heart" is describing your whole inner being (3:5). So watch over your heart diligently (4:23), because whatever is in your heart controls what comes out in your words and actions. If your heart is good, your words and actions are good. But if your heart is bad, your words and actions will be bad (Luke 6:45). Your heart is like a tree, and your words and actions are like the fruit: good trees bear good fruit while bad trees bear bad fruit (6:43). So what does your fruit say about your heart? Do your words and actions show that they come from a good heart or a rotten one (6:44)? .

**ASK** 

1. What is your heart?  
*It is the control center of our lives.*
2. What does the word "heart" describe?  
*Our thinking, emotions, and will. Our whole inner being.*
3. Why must you watch over your heart diligently?  
*The condition of the heart affects our thinking, speech, and will.*
4. How are hearts like trees?  
*Just like trees are known by their fruit, so hearts known by their words.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What do your thoughts, words, and actions reveal about your heart? Can you hide your thoughts from God (Palm 44:21)? What do you need to do about a disobedient heart (Ezek 18:31)?
2. Do you guard your heart? What do you let into your heart? Are the things you watch, listen to, and think about good for your heart?

# DAY 5

David's righteous descendant • Acts 13:13–25

## READ

Acts 13:13–25

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Acts 13:13–25

Why did God choose David? Because David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). But even David was not perfect. Even though he loved God, he still sinned. So David was just the beginning of something much greater. Who is greater than David? David's descendant, the Messiah (2 Sam 7:12–16; Ps 132:11; Isa 11:10; Jer 23:5). David, as a humble shepherd and a godly king, pointed forward to the great Shepherd (Heb 13:20) and eternal King (Rev 19:16). Unlike any other human, Jesus, the Son of David, was truly a man after God's own heart. He is perfect in every way, completely sinless (2 Cor 5:21). No matter the temptation or pain, Jesus prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Matt 26:39). His will was the Father's will, and His words were the Father's words (John 6:38; 12:49). Jesus' heart was devoted to the Father even to the point of death (Phil 2:8). That is good news for you, because apart from Jesus your heart is not for God. But through Jesus you can be recreated with a new heart pleasing to God (2 Cor 5:17).

## ASK

1. Why did God choose David to replace Saul?  
*Because David was a man after God's own heart.*
2. Who is the king who is greater than David?  
*Jesus, the Messiah.*
3. Why is Jesus truly a man after God's own heart?  
*Because He never sinned. Everything He did was in perfect obedience to God's will.*
4. How can you have hearts that are pleasing to God?  
*By trusting in Jesus you can become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).*

## DISCUSS

1. Take some time to praise Jesus for living a perfect life in perfect submission to God. Are you thankful for what this makes possible for you?
2. If you have already been born again and given a new heart, how should your attitude be like Christ's?

## NEXT WEEK

### David fights for God's honor

1 Samuel 17:1–58

