

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 1

1 Samuel 16:1-23

1. Describe Samuel's response to God when:
 - a. God rejects Saul as King. (vs. 1)
 - b. God directs him to go to Bethlehem to choose a new King. (vs. 2)
2. Can you describe a recent situation in which you felt God was asking you to do something difficult or impossible? What was your response?
3. List the things the Lord tells Samuel to do when he arrives in Bethlehem. (vss. 2b-3) Did God give Samuel a detailed plan? What was necessary on Samuel's part for God's plan to go forward? (vs. 4a)
4. Read verses 6-11. Who did Samuel (the prophet) and Jesse (the parent) think would be the most likely candidates for King? Why do you think David was not even considered? What does this tell you about God?
5. When Samuel saw Eliab, he immediately thought that he was the "Lord's anointed". (vs. 7) What do you notice when you meet someone for the first time? Is it possible to see others as God sees them? (vs. 7)
6. Read verses 12-23. Who chose the new King of Israel? (vs. 12)
7. What happened to David when Samuel anointed him with oil? (vs. 13) Who is actually anointing him as King? (Psalm 89:20) Read the following verses and list others who have been anointed and why.

Person(s) Anointed:

Purpose of Anointing:

Luke 4:14-19

1 John 2:20, 27

8. What qualities were conferred on David by God at the time of his anointing when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him? (Isaiah 11:2–3) Do you have that same Spirit? Describe a time when you saw the Spirit’s work in your life.

9. What events led to God allowing an evil spirit to torment Saul? (See 1 Samuel 15:24–26.) What can be the danger when someone rejects God’s grace and his word? (See Romans 1:28–32)

Psalm 23

10. At this moment what is the strongest desire of your heart? Does verse 1 give you an alternative?

11. Think of a time when you felt spiritually lost, forgotten, or distant from God. Did God restore your soul? How did that happen?

12. David, like you, faced evil in his life. Why do you think David can say “I will fear no evil”? (Matthew 28:20)

13. In verse 6, the Hebrew word for follow (radaph) means to run after, to chase, to pursue. Give an example from 1 Samuel:16 of David being pursued by goodness and love. Describe a time in your own life when you were pursued by goodness and love.

14. How does Psalm 23 encourage you in the circumstances you are in right now?