



CREATE A CLEAN HEART FOR ME
UNIT 11 • SESSION 1

DAVID THE CHOSEN KING

MAIN POINT

Jesus is the anointed King of God's people.

1 SAMUEL 16:1-10 • DAVID IS CHOSEN BY THE LORD

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected for myself a king from his sons . . ." **6** When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, "Certainly the LORD's anointed one is here before him." **7** 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." **8** Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either," Samuel said. **9** Then Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either." **10** After Jesse presented seven of his sons to him, Samuel told Jesse, "The LORD hasn't chosen any of these."

1 SAMUEL 16:11-13 • DAVID IS ANOINTED BY THE PROPHET

11 Samuel asked him, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," he answered, "but right now he's tending the sheep." Samuel told Jesse, "Send for him. We won't sit down to eat until he gets here." **12** So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. Then the LORD said, "Anoint him, for he is the one." **13** So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully on David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

1 SAMUEL 16:14-17,21-23 • DAVID IS A SERVANT TO THE KING

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit sent from the LORD began to torment him, **15** so Saul's servants said to him, "You see that an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. **16** Let our lord command your servants here in your presence to look for someone who knows how to play the lyre. Whenever the evil spirit from God comes on you, that person can play the lyre, and you will feel better." **17** Then Saul commanded his servants, "Find me someone who plays well and bring him to me." . . . **21** When David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul loved him very much, and David became his armor-bearer. **22** Then Saul sent word to Jesse: "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor with me." **23** Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would pick up his lyre and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

INTRO OPTION 1

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

SUPPLIES LIST

NOTECARDS AND PENS.

Give each student a pen and notecard. Instruct them to write down the best qualities in a leader. Discuss why they chose each characteristic.

In today's session, David shows us how to be a servant leader. He was the anointed king, but he was willing to humbly serve his predecessor, Saul. Jesus taught us the same thing: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26).

INTRO OPTION 2

BREAKING STEREOTYPES

SUPPLIES LIST

NO SUPPLIES NEEDED.

Show your students a "stereotype" video from Dude Perfect on Youtube. They are funny and will help start a potentially difficult conversation with some humor. We are terrible about stereotyping one another. It takes effort and practice to overcome the tendency to "judge a book by its cover."

WHEN HAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF SOMEONE BEEN WRONG?

Discuss times when you have focused too much on stereotypes and what you learned from that. In today's session, Samuel initially thought Eliab should become king of Israel, but God saw Eliab's heart. It wasn't Eliab or any of the older sons of Jesse that would become king. It was David, a man after God's own heart.



SCRIPTURE READING

MAIN POINT

**Jesus is the anointed King of
God's people.**

1. DAVID IS CHOSEN BY THE LORD

READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-10

Saul repeatedly disobeyed the Lord, and as a result, God rejected him as king. God said He would give the kingdom to a man after His own heart (see 1 Sam. 13:14). But in the opening verses of chapter 16, Samuel was still mourning Saul's failure. Rather than seeking the one whom the Lord had chosen, Samuel was still looking back with sorrow at what "could have been" with Saul.

HOW MIGHT YESTERDAY'S REGRETS KEEP YOU FROM WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU TODAY?

Even though Samuel himself had rebuked Saul and delivered the message that God had rejected him as king, Samuel had not wanted Saul to fail. He wished that Saul had obeyed God and continued as king. But God had made a final decision (see 1 Sam. 15:29), and it was time for Samuel to embrace that. It is right to mourn, and even to regret. But we cannot let regret keep us from moving forward, especially when God has assured us that He has a better plan.

HOW WAS GOD'S PERSPECTIVE DIFFERENT FROM MAN'S—EVEN SAMUEL'S?

The Israelites had chosen a king of great stature—Saul. And in choosing Saul's replacement, even the prophet Samuel's focus was on the wrong thing. He was looking at the outside, but God was looking at the heart. God sees what no one else can see. He cannot be deceived by appearances, for He sees each person as we truly are. Though David was handsome (see 1 Sam. 16:12), he was not chosen for his looks, but for his heart. God seeks to promote those who are not seeking to promote themselves. He delights in exalting those whose hearts are full of faith and integrity.

2. DAVID IS ANOINTED BY THE PROPHET

READ 1 SAMUEL 16:11-13

WHAT WAS DAVID DOING WHEN HE WAS CALLED UPON, AND WHAT MIGHT WE BE ABLE TO LEARN FROM HIM?

David was tending the sheep when the messenger came to present himself before Samuel. He was faithfully doing his job, caring for the things put under his care. That is how we should hope that God finds us. When we are called to a new position or path, may we be found serving faithfully in the place God has us now.



1 SAMUEL 16:1-10

16:1. “Jesse is the grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:17–22) and comes from the tribe of Judah (Ruth 4:12; cf. Gen. 38). From this time forward, the name of Jesse, the city of Bethlehem, and the tribe of Judah will always be linked to Israel’s Messiah.”¹

16:6-7. “As this event began, the prophet was portrayed not knowing the Lord’s will; this is the only time in biblical narrative when Samuel was shown in this uncomfortable position . . . The Lord alone has the capacity to observe and judge a person’s “heart” (Hb. *lēb*), that is, one’s thoughts, emotions, and intents. On God’s scales these matters outweigh all other aspects of a human life.”²

16:1-10. “Prior to Saul’s final rejection in chapter 15, he and Samuel have been the central figures in the book. From now on, David is central even though he does not become king until the early chapters of 2 Samuel. In this text we finally meet the man after God’s own heart (as foretold in 13:14), though here he is hardly more than a boy (16:11).”³

1 SAMUEL 16:11-13

16:11-13. “This chapter provides one of the most fascinating examples of the Lord’s inclination to choose ‘the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are’ (1 Cor 1:28).”⁴

16:13. “The use of oil is symbolic of the Spirit of Yahweh and represents supernatural empowerment. Prior to Samuel’s anointing of Saul and David, the act of sacramental anointing had



BIG QUESTION

IF GOD SEES MY HEART, SHOULD I DO THE RIGHT THING EVEN WHEN MY HEART ISN’T IN IT?

God cares supremely about the condition of our hearts. Even when we do the right thing outwardly, God sees our internal motives. We are naturally prideful and selfish. Only God can change our hearts—but He will! Begin by asking Him to, just as David did in Psalm 51. He will wash and renew us with His Holy Spirit (see Titus 3:5). We also must understand that the things we see, hear, and do affect our hearts over time. We can either become callous and hardened or become sensitive to God’s Spirit and our conscience. Fill your heart with all that is good and true. Cultivate an appetite for holiness. When our desires honor God, then our actions will follow. But right actions over time (even when we don’t feel like it) can have a big impact on producing God-honoring desires.



SCRIPTURE READING

MAIN POINT

**Jesus is the anointed King of
God's people.**

David was a good shepherd, and his faithfulness there prepared him to shepherd all of Israel. Your responsibilities now are both testing and preparation—testing you to see if you can be trusted with little and serving as preparation for the next season of life.

WHAT INGREDIENT WOULD BE THE KEY TO DAVID'S SUCCESS (AND TO OUR OWN AS WELL)?

David was anointed with the Spirit of the Lord. We need God in order to do God's work. The power and wisdom does not lie within us. God's purpose for us cannot be achieved in our own flesh. But God has given us His Spirit. He equips us to accomplish the work He has given each one of us to do.

3. DAVID IS A SERVANT TO THE KING

READ 1 SAMUEL 16:14-17,21-23

WHAT DOES DAVID TEACH US ABOUT PATIENCE AND HUMILITY?

David was the anointed king while Saul had disqualified himself. But here we find David humbly serving Saul as king. Despite the certainty that David would one day be king in Saul's place, David allowed God to set the timetable. He was willing to serve with humility until God decided the time for Saul's reign would end. This patient humility only serves to demonstrate yet again that God has chosen wisely by anointing David to replace Saul.

HOW DOES DAVID SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF KING JESUS IS?

David served the one who would one day be his greatest enemy. He was willing to serve the very person who would try to kill him later in life. Like David, Jesus was a servant king as well. He said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). He loved the very people who would one day kill Him. Jesus served us while we were the enemies of God. This is just one of the many ways David points us to Jesus.



BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

been restricted to the tabernacle and its priests. It marks the inauguration of someone for a specific office consecrated by Yahweh.”⁵

16:13. “Jesse’s description of the omitted son—David—as ‘smallest’ places him in strong contrast to the rejected king . . . [David] joined a venerable crowd of Torah patriarchs selected by God in a way that confounded social norms. Other men who were not firstborn but who were selected by the Lord over their more socially powerful older brothers include Seth, Noah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Ephraim, Moses, and perhaps Abraham.”⁶

1 SAMUEL 16:14-17,21-23

16:14-17. “Just as the arrival of the Spirit of Yahweh marked David as someone destined and supremely fitted to become king of Israel (16:13), so the departure of the Spirit from Saul marks him as destined not to remain king.”⁷

16:21-23. “Here Saul and David meet for the first time. The rest of 1 Samuel narrates Saul’s fall and David’s rise in interchanging fashion. Their stories are narrated in a criss crossing pattern, at times intersecting and at other times going separate directions.”⁸

16:21-23. “The verses play an important role in the larger scheme of 1, 2 Samuel, for they serve as the first evidence that David was a loyal, trustworthy servant of Saul who used his abilities to benefit the king. In spite of Saul’s repeated efforts to kill David, Israel’s next king made absolutely no efforts to bring down Saul’s dynasty. In fact, David performed feats on Saul’s behalf that no one else could, and the king initially appreciated David’s efforts. Any deterioration in the relationship between Saul and David would not be David’s fault.”⁹

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ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

CHRIST’S HUMILIATION

Although God the Son was equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human flesh. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (see Rom. 8:3), and He experienced a humiliating death on a cross (see Phil. 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (see 2 Cor. 5:21).



CHRIST CONNECTION

David was chosen by God and set apart to be king, but first he served the one who would become his enemy. King Jesus came to earth in the form of a servant, laying down His life to provide forgiveness for sin. All of the Lord's enemies who turn to Christ in faith will be saved.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

WHAT CAN WE DO TO OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO “JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER”?

Samuel was focusing on what he could see when he first thought Eliab would be the next king (see 1 Sam. 16:6). Sometimes we can “judge a book by its cover” like Samuel did by equating certain appearances with goodness and character. But more often, we jump to negative conclusions instead of positive ones. Either way, the lesson for us is to be patient and try to get to know people personally before jumping to assumptions, whether good or bad. We must humble ourselves to remember that God alone can see the heart, and for us, it takes time to know someone’s character.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO DEVELOP OUR INNER LIFE AS A TOP PRIORITY?

The inner life is our mind, will, emotions, integrity, etc. The outer life includes our bodies, but also our reputation, accomplishments, service, etc. We spend much of our energy focused on the outer life, but we would be wise to focus on the inner life more than we do. This requires discipline and intentionality. It includes prayer, worship, studying Scripture, and vulnerability in relationships. It is much harder, but as this passage has taught us, it is vitally important.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE WILLING TO SERVE EVEN OUR ENEMIES?

Jesus and David have shown us the example that we must follow. If the kings God has given His people served even their enemies, how much more so should we? Jesus taught us to love our enemies and bless those who persecute us (see Matt. 5:44). When we do, the world will notice who our King is. May God use our service to bring many to the servant King.