

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

DAVID: The Making of a King

Week 1: Growing A Heart that Loves God
1 Samuel 16:1-13

Week of February 20, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

David's rise from humble beginnings as a shepherd to later becoming the King of Israel is an epic journey like few others — offering priceless lessons for us to apply to 21st century living. This week we see how The Lord's anointed servant grew a heart that loved God.

Kicking it off:

Jeff traveled to Dixon, IL to see former President Ronald Reagan's boyhood home. If you could interview any famous historical figure, who would you choose and why? What one or two questions would you ask?

Discussion:

1. As we begin this new series, what are some questions you have, or things you're hoping to explore about King David's early life? What do we learn about David's family in 1 Samuel 16:1b?

"I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." (NIV)

2. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Why do you think God had to remind Samuel what His criteria were for choosing someone to faithfully serve Him in leadership, especially as a future king?

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" (NIV)

3. Jeff explained how the ancient world thought of the word "heart" — involving our passions and our will. Why do you suppose God seeks qualified people who have His heart? (See the verses below.)

"... the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart." (1 Samuel 13:14b, NLT)

"The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." (2 Chronicles 16:9, NLT)

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

4. How did David walk in the WAYS of God (most of the time)? How does having humility and authenticity demonstrate God's heart? In contrast, what happens when believers don't walk in God's ways?
5. David also modeled God's PURPOSE. What are some practical ways we can advance God's agenda in the world? How about in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, or our immediate sphere of influence?
6. Finally, David showed us God's PASSION. Read Matthew 22:37. Does this verse tend more to challenge you or encourage you? And why?

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" (NIV)

Wrapping It Up:

Many people spend countless hours working on their outer looks, but God doesn't focus on that. Instead, when God looks at our hearts, He sees our faithfulness, our character, and our value as individuals. In light of this week's message, what steps are you taking (or hope to take soon) to nurture your inner character? How can your small group be praying for you and your heart?