

# 1 SAMUEL

The LORD looks on the heart

1 Samuel 16:1-13

## Icebreaker

How many of you plan to watch the coronation of King Charles this spring? What is the purpose of the coronation ceremony?

## Context

Chapter 15 saw the kingship taken from Saul because of his failure to obey God's commands. God told Saul that he would be replaced by a neighbor that was better than Saul. Chapter 16 reveals the person God had chosen and begins the story of the greatest king of Israel.

While this week's lesson only covers 13 verses, what is revealed in these verses are some of the most important truths in all the Bible. Once again God's Holy "otherness" is before us. We must learn how God views man and he evaluates us, then we must adjust our lives to him accordingly.

## Discuss

1. **In your opinion, why does God ask Samuel about what he is experiencing rather than make a statement/command** (i.e. Stop grieving, get up, and do this task.)? Application: **What are some ways that we can help people who are grieving?**
2. Read 1 Chronicles 16:9; John 4:23; and Luke 19:10. God calls Samuel to a mission to go because (the literal translation of the Hebrew says) "I have seen among [Jesse's] sons for myself a king." **Why is it important for us to know that God is actively searching for people (to serve and to save)? How does it make you feel to know that God has been/is searching for you?**
3. Read verse 2. **Why is it dangerous for Samuel to be anointing someone else king? What does this tell us about Saul's state of mind/spiritual condition? Is God's solution deceptive? Why or why not?** Read Matthew 10:16. **How does this verse help us understand what God is instructing Samuel to do?**
4. Look again at verses 1-3. **Notice all of the times God takes the initiative or issues a command concerning the selection of the new king. Why is it**



**important that the reader knows that this choice of king is God's choice?** (Compare this way of picking a king to 1 Samuel 8:19-22.)

5. Read Leviticus 20:7 and Joshua 3:5. **What is the significance that the elders and the family of Jesse consecrate themselves in preparation for the sacrifice?**

**Application: What are some things that you do to consecrate yourself for worship?**

6. Read verses 6-7a. **What qualities do you think Samuel was looking at that made him think Eliab was the pick? Today, what are qualities that we would consider to be "outward appearance", and what is the danger of just using those qualities for choosing leadership?**
7. **In your opinion, what does it mean that "the Lord looks on the heart"?**

Here are some passages to consider to help sharpen our understanding of what it means that God looks at or searches the heart.

- Jeremiah 12:3; 17:10
- Psalm 7:9; 17:3; 44:21; 139:1-18, 23-24
- John 4:23
- Luke 19:10
- Matthew 9:13

At the same time, we must keep in mind verses like Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:13; Romans 9:20-21 that show God's sovereignty to make choices as he pleases.

Application: How do we help our children understand that God is looking beyond outward obedience and looks at our motives?

8. **Why wasn't David there with his brothers, according to verse 11? How do you think David was viewed by his family?**
9. Read verse 12 and 1 Samuel 17:42. **What are we supposed to understand about David's appearance?** [Remember, David is meant to be seen in contrast to Eliab, who Samuel thought looked like God's choice.]
10. **Read Exodus 30:22-33. What is the purpose of using anointing oil? Read verse 13. How is the outward act of anointing reflective of the indwelling by the Holy Spirit?**
11. **Who knew why David was being anointed? Why do you believe that?**

