

# THE LIFE OF DAVID

SHEPHERD. WARRIOR. POET. KING.

## WEEK 1: GOD CHOOSES WHO GOD USES

**Context:** David was born just as the era of the Judges had come to an end in Israel. The nation of Israel was in a bad way because they had continually rebelled against the Lord. Samuel's leadership was a sliver of hope for a while, but his sons rejected God's ways, and he was therefore unable to pass on the Godly legacy of trust and obedience that Israel needed in order to be led accordingly.

The people of Israel believed that they needed a king, like the nations around them. Even though God and Samuel both knew this was a lesser desire than having God as their only king, God gave them what they asked for. In doing so, he showed them the folly of their selfish desires.

The people selected Saul, who by all appearances looked like a brilliant candidate, but proved to be a disaster. Though he looked the part, and at times even tried to be the part, his character was weak and selfish, which led to much sin and judgement on the nation. In 1 Samuel 15, Samuel was sent to tell Saul that the days of his reign were soon to be over, and that God would no longer be behind him in his role as sovereign.

Yet again, the fate of Israel looked bleak because of their sin. And yet GOD had a plan, that he was working behind the scenes, to raise up a godlier king, from out of absolute obscurity.

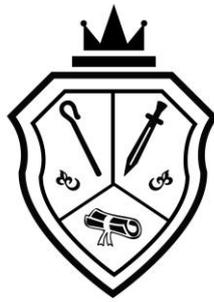
### Today's Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

#### I. GOD IS WORKING EVEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE FAILING

- **Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3**

Samuel was discouraged (to say the least) by Saul's disobedience and the ongoing state of Israel as a nation. While things were as bad as they appeared, God was not yet done with Israel. He had a plan that Samuel could not have foreseen or even imagined. The natural appeared to present hopelessness, but the supernatural plans of God, had hope all over it. We tend to become disillusioned and discouraged when things look like they are over, or have no hope. We fall into panic and despair, because we cannot see how God is working behind the scenes, and we do not wait long enough to find out what he is doing, which of course can and will be for our ultimate good.

- ❖ Q: Why is it so helpful for us to see a Godly man like Samuel, discouraged and disillusioned by the obvious circumstances?
- ❖ Q: Have you ever seen a despairing situation turn around, even though you had lost hope and given in to the overwhelming discouragement, hopelessness and disillusionment?



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- ❖ Q: Apart from the obvious humbling, what did this situation teach you that you could share with the others in this group?

## 2. GOD LOVES WORKING THROUGH UNLIKELY PEOPLE

- **Read 1 Samuel 16:4-10 & 1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

This passage proves the point that what we see is often deceiving, and what God sees is real and true. We all make this mistake. In our limited perception, we esteem the physically beautiful or strong, the intelligent and successful, but those things often hide poor character and godlessness. Such was the case with Israel's choice in Saul, and so would have been the case, had Samuel chosen with his own wisdom and understanding, rather than God's wisdom and direction. David was a nobody at this stage of his life, and culturally, the least likely to be noticed, even though he was good looking. He had no station or status, which meant that he had no respect. Yet, God saw his heart, who he was made to be, and could see what work he was yet to do in his character, in order to prepare him for greatness.

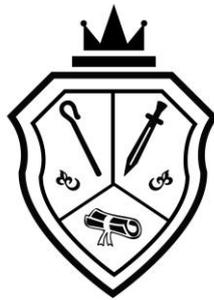
Many of us see ourselves through this limited human lens. We see our own sin and brokenness as too big or too dirty for God to transform or use. We see our weaknesses as things that would hinder God's plans and purposes. We disconnect from the church and the mission of God because we feel disqualified or inadequate. Yet, God chooses the weak things of this world to do the great work for him. He chooses the least qualified and most unlikely to impact the world. So regardless of how we see or view ourselves, we are no longer justified to use these inadequacies as excuses anymore. It is time to see ourselves through God's eyes, roll up our sleeves and get on with the work of God – because this is what he has called us to.

- ❖ Q: What excuses do you believe, that stop you from being the person God has called you to be, and doing the work he has called you to do? (e.g. past/current sin, poor past choices, lack of knowledge, inadequacy, natural/physical weakness or limitations...).
- ❖ Q: Why are our excuses for effectiveness in God's kingdom not valid, no matter what they are?

## 3. GOD IS STILL WORKING WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING

- **Read 1 Samuel 16:11**

David had the most boring and unrewarding job – being a shepherd in those days would have been dangerous, extremely uncomfortable and exceptionally boring. His day-to-day was nothing short of solitude, monotony and obscurity, which seemed to have no end in sight.



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This was his life. And yet it was in those dull and dreary days that God worked in his character to mould into him, the heart and mind of the greatest king Israel would ever know. He grew in:

- Devotion
- Humility
- Integrity
- Trust
- Love

- ❖ Q: Why do you think that it is in the hard times that we grow in our character?
- ❖ Q: Think back to the hardest time in your life. What was the one big development God worked into your character, that could not have been done in a time of ease?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think that true humility is only really birthed through long patches of obscurity in our lives?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think God needed his future king to be humble and what does that teach us about how God views those in authority?

## 4. GOD NEEDS TO WORK IN US POWERFULLY BEFORE HE WORKS THROUGH US POWERFULLY

- **Read 1 Samuel 16:12-13**

When David walked in from the pasture, God told Samuel that David was the one chosen to be king. Though David was the least of all his brothers, God made sure that they were all there to witness his choice. And once he had been marked out as God's choice, God put his Spirit on David from that day forward. There was no going back. God was going to start preparing him for the mission for which he had been set apart.

1000 years later, God raised up another king from obscurity. Jesus was also born in a lowly place, and seemed, to the outside world, an unlikely king. God trained him in wisdom and obedience for 30 years before he even started his ministry. The major difference between David and Jesus, is that David messed up, and sinned against God, but Jesus didn't. The life of David is a shadow of the life of Jesus, and serves to point us to the only righteous king.

- ❖ Q: Why does God train us thoroughly before he uses us greatly?
- ❖ Q: How can this serve to be an encouragement for those of us who are eager to do great things for God, but seem to be given few opportunities right now?