



The Boy Who Would Be King *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

Icebreaker:

Which would you rather have: good health and little money, or poor health and lots of money?

Prayer Starter:

David begins Psalm 18 with these words:

"I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."

For those who are comfortable praying aloud (and even those who are uncomfortable should try this!), go around the room and repeat David's sentence, adding your own words: "I love you, O Lord, my _____."

Discussion Questions:

From where do you find your sense of your identity, your value and your purpose? David had every chip against him. He was the runt of his family, despised by his brothers, overlooked by his father, and had few friends. But David drew his ultimate sense of identity and worth from God. Convinced that he mattered to God, nothing else mattered. It's a lesson most of us struggle to learn. But if we learn it, we'll be better equipped to deal with life's many pressures and struggles. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 then discuss the questions.

1. Verse 1 is a reminder of an important spiritual principle – that God is always at work. You might be in the winter of your life right now, but to God every day is a spring day. Here King Saul was running Israel into the ground, and the prophet Samuel was feeling hopeless about it. But lo and behold, God already was working behind the scenes to help the situation. Read John 5:17 then talk about it. If God is always at work, then how should we respond?

2. Re-read verses 2-5. These verses reflect the grip of terror that Saul has on the land. "Do you come in peace?" the elders of Israel ask Samuel, meaning, *You haven't come to shake things up and make waves have you?* Samuel says yes, even though he has every intent to shake things up by anointing Saul's replacement. Sometimes to bring real peace to a situation, you have to do things that don't feel very peaceful at first. Discuss this and give some examples of when it would be important to imitate Samuel's example.

3. *“For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”* This may be one of the most important verses in all the Bible.

Write in a sentence what you think this verse means.

What are some of the outward things that most humans look at to determine if something is important or good?

What are the things that you believe God looks at to determine if something is important or good? (For some ideas, look up James 3:13-18).

How can remembering this help me when:

- I feel alone
- I feel ugly
- I fail
- I’m rejected
- I have no money
- I hate myself

4. If you want God to look on you with a smile, what should you remember? Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 and write down your thoughts.

Prayer Requests: