

DISCUSSION NOTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. Since this is the first group of the new year, take some time to catch up by sharing one high point (something joyful that happened) and one hard time (something difficult that happened) since the last time you met.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Make 5-7 observations. What happens? Who is present? What commands are given? Where do you feel tension? What is hard to understand?
3. In verses 3-4, we see fear on the part of multiple people. Why was Samuel afraid to go and anoint a new king? Why were the elders afraid of Samuel's appearing? Were these fears reasonable, especially if you consider human history and the transfer of power between kings? See 1 Samuel 15:24-34.
4. When Samuel surveys Jesse's sons, he first assumes Eliab will be the new king. What drew his attention to Eliab?

Compare how similar this description is to the way that King Saul had been described earlier in 1 Samuel 9:1-2.

5. Returning to 1 Samuel 16, what guidance does God provide in verse 7 about what he looks for in a leader? What does God value above all else?
6. When Samuel first surveys Jesse's sons, where was David? What can we discern from this — both about David's position within the family and about David's character?

LIVING IT OUT

7. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9 where God's people request a "king like all the nations." Why do you think God's people are so often tempted to emulate the world's ways?
8. Why are we so easily influenced by external appearances, stature, position, and power? How do we see this played out in our world?
9. What do you think it means to be a man after God's own heart? What would a man after God's own heart look like in our time and in our city?
10. Consider that David was initially overlooked by men but, at the same time, he was seen by God. How might this encourage you in your own life? How does this encourage you to walk in obedience, integrity, and fellowship with God?
11. What is one thing from this study that you want to remember and apply to your own life this week?