

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 3
October 23

Saul, David & Solomon

David, a Young
Man After God's
Own Heart
1 Samuel 16-24

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” (1 Sam 16:1)

When Samuel saw Jesse’s oldest son Eliab, he thought to himself, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.” But the LORD had an important reminder for Samuel:

“Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” (16:7)

Seven of Jesse’s sons passed before Samuel without being the chosen one.

Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” (16:11-12)

The name of that youngest son was David, the young man who would eventually stand before and conquer the giant Goliath in 1 Samuel 17, full of faith in the LORD.

After that epic showdown, 1 Samuel 18 begins by telling us about David becoming very close with Jonathan, the son of King Saul. But it also tells us about Saul becoming very jealous of David as women were singing to one another and celebrating:

“Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands.”

And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” And Saul eyed David from that day on. (18:7-9)



In fact, the next day he hurled a spear at David, thinking, “I will pin David to the wall,” and David evaded him twice (18:10-11). Saul grew so jealous that he began hunting David wherever he went (1 Sam 19-21). David had to flee to the territory of the Philistines where he pretended to be insane in order to save his life (21:10-15). For a while, David hid in a cave where 400 men eventually gathered to him (22:1-2). Saul would eventually grow so enraged that he commanded 85 priests of the LORD to be killed (22:6-23). But all along the difficult way, David maintained a different sort of heart. Even when he could have easily taken Saul’s life in 1 Samuel 24, he chose not to take revenge on “the LORD’s anointed.” David was a young man after God’s own heart. Let’s talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's turn our Bibles back to **1 Samuel 16:6-7** and read those two verses again together. In your own words, what was God telling Samuel? Is the same thing true today? If so, why do we still need to remember those words?
- **1 Samuel 16:11** introduces us to David as a shepherd. We hear David share some of what that work was like in **17:34-37**. In **16:18**, he was described as "skillful in playing." In fact, many of the psalms in our Bible are described as being composed by David. So let's use **Psalms 23** as an example. How do you think David's time shepherding his father's sheep would have prepared him to write something as beautiful as **Psalms 23**? Is there anything we can learn from that?
- David and his showdown with Goliath in **1 Samuel 17** is a very well known story. What stands out to you about David and his heart from that chapter?
- In **1 Samuel 18:1-9** and throughout the next few chapters, Saul becomes very jealous of David while Jonathan, Saul's own son, loves David "as his own soul." What does that tell us about the heart of Jonathan? Why is jealousy such a dangerous thing to allow to fester in our hearts? I'll never be the king of a nation, but how might I be tempted with jealousy?
- **1 Samuel 21** tells us about David having to run for his life to Gath and eventually having to hide in a cave (**1 Sam 22**). Let's turn our Bibles back to **Psalms 56, 34, and 57**—writings of David that come from this very tough time. What can we learn from these psalms that he wrote in such a challenging season of life?
- In **1 Samuel 24:1-7**, David had the perfect opportunity to take Saul's life. Why didn't he take it? In your own words, what was he saying in **24:12**?
- "The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart," Samuel told Saul in **1 Samuel 13:14**. What impresses you about the heart of David as a very young man throughout **1 Samuel 16-24**?