

STUDY GUIDE

1 Samuel 16:1-23

“The Measure of God”

- 1) In what ways do you see God at work preparing God’s people for King David in 1 Samuel 3-15?
- 2) Discuss possible reasons why Samuel grieved over God’s rejection of Saul. We also read that Samuel was reluctant to anoint David as King because he feared Saul’s response. Share about a time when you have grieved over someone’s sin and what you have done in response.
- 3) In looking for Israel’s new King, Samuel had his own criteria for selecting the new king, along with the standards he used for Saul, reinforced by the two criteria for kings of the day. What criteria and standards does our world today use for choosing its leaders? What are the criteria and standards the church should use for choosing its leaders?
- 4) God chose David to be the King of Israel because of the character of his heart for God. What was it about the character of David’s heart that caused God to choose him? Describe what that kind of character would look like in your life, in the church and in the world.
- 5) We all, to differing degrees, struggle to do “all” of “God’s will.” In what ways was King David different than most of us? What can we do to reflect more of David’s heart in this struggle?
- 6) We read that after Samuel anointed David as King, “the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David” and “the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.” How are these two events connected? What is God revealing to us in what happened here?
- 7) Even though God called Samuel to anoint David to replace Saul as King, God sovereignly placed David under Saul’s authority to be his musician and armor bearer. Discuss possible reasons God may have done so - and share of a time when you worked/served under a difficult leader.
- 8) The measure God that uses to deem us worthy of serving Him is the character of our heart for God to do all of God’s will. Jesus is our example here; his whole life was about doing all of God’s will. What standard of measure are you using for your life? What is God calling you to do today?

*For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7*

