



Life of

# DAVID

*The Making of a King*

The Heart God Chooses

1 Samuel 16

Lesson 1

## Introduction

The life of David follows the life of a young shepherd boy chosen by God, to rule over His people. Observing his life gives us insight into our own heart as we struggle with the same basic emotions and choices that David did. With our human weaknesses and strengths, we too learn to govern our lives by the experiences we face and the choices we make. We can learn a lot from watching from the side-lines as David discovers the heart of His God. He wasn't chosen because he was a perfect man, but because he was a man after God's own heart. We can learn as much from his failures as from his successes. Scripture tells us *the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.* 2 Chron 16:9 David becomes for us an example of how best to learn to govern our own choices. God's Word tells us that *Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.* Prov 25:28 We have to learn to rule our own spirit before we can rule over His kingdom.

## Background Information

After the glorious days of conquest under Joshua, Israel still did not possess all of the land that God had given them. With Joshua's strong leadership gone Israel began to compromise and mingle with the pagan nations surrounding them. They were caught in a vicious cycle of sin, servitude, crying out to God and repentance. God would raise up a judge to deliver them and restore their peace only to have them sink right back into the vicious cycle over again. *There was no king in Israel: everyone did what was right in their own eyes.*

God's last judge was the prophet and judge, Samuel. Israel's half-hearted obedience to God during Samuel's time turned to indifference as they longed to be like the nations around them who were ruled by a king. God told Samuel, *they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.* God gave them what they wanted in Saul, a tall handsome young man that by all appearances would make a good king. In the beginning God showed Himself strong on his behalf. Desiring the people's opinion more than God's, Saul's disobedience caused God to reject him as king. Into this scene walks David a young shepherd boy whose heart beat with God's.

## *Treasures of the Heart*

*The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.* 1 Samuel 16:7b



## **W**hat does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

### **1 Samuel 16:1-5**

1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

4 So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.



## **D**igging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

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## 1 Samuel 16:6-13

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!" 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.



## 1 Samuel 16:14-23

14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. 16 Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." 18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him."

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." 20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.



## **W**hat does it mean?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Samuel 16:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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1 Samuel 16:6-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 16:14-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **H**ow can I apply it?



**Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?"** How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Samuel 16:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 16:6-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 16:14-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Challenge:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

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## **Understanding the Heart . . .**

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

**T**he Heart of David:

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**T**he Heart of the people:

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**T**he Heart of God:

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**W**hat words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

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## **Getting The Point**

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Samuel 16:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 16:6-13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 16:14-23 \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

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**Flex Your Muscles** Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Radiating His Truth . . .**

God not only sees our hearts, but He searches them and  
know our thoughts and motives. - Warren Wiersbe

