

Study 1



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Welcome
2. Prayer Requests
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text: Turn to 1 Sam. 16

Lesson Title: *An Unlikely Candidate for Office*

Lesson Main Idea: Today we begin our study of the life of David, *God's choice* for a human King for the Nation of Israel. There is a detailed history of some of the key events of David's life preserved for us in the Biblical record. A study of his life will be extremely practical and relevant for us here and now because 3,000 years ago, David faced the same things we must deal with today. We will learn the secret of his success and how to apply it in our own lives and how to minister to others in the process. For today's study we will look at David's beginnings.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

How can Christians learn to make choices based on God's values?



Connecting the Study

In order for us to gain some perspective on who David was and the impact God was able to have through him, we need to briefly review some Old Testament history.

- **Adam and Eve** – enjoyed relationship with God but they broke that relationship by sinning against God (Gen. 2:17)
- **Noah** – the world is characterized by wickedness as the result of no relationship with God and God judged and showed mercy to humanity through the flood (Gen. 6:5, 13)
- **Abraham** – God promised to restore relationship with humanity through a descendant of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)
- **Joseph** – God used Joseph to bring Israel into a place where they would safely grow from family clans into 12 tribes of the Nation of Israel but would also enter into bondage under Egypt (Gen. 50:21-24)
- **Moses** – God used Moses to lead the nation of Israel from bondage in Egypt through the desert to the land God had promised (Ex. 3:10)
- **Joshua** – participated in God's execution of His promise to establish Israel geographically and to restore relationship with humanity through a descendant of the seed of Abraham – the Messiah (Josh. 1:1-2)
- **The Judges** – under the leadership of the Judges, Israel neglected its relationship with their King, the LORD God, and sought their own worldly interests (Judg. 21:25)
- **Samuel** – the last godly judge – Israel rejected Samuel as a spiritual leader and breaks off their relationship with God by wanting to replace God as their King with a human king (1 Sam. 8:5-8, 19-20)
- **Saul** – Israel wanted to be like the rest of the world and have a human king – God let them choose a king based on worldly standards (1 Sam. 9-18; 10:1)

And this brings us to David,

- **David** – God rejected the popular pick for king, Saul; God's choice for a human king was based on God's values: *God chose a person who sought relationship with Him* (1 Sam. 13:14).

So now we will look at David's beginnings.

The time is around 1025 B.C. and Saul has been King of Israel for nearly 10 years when David comes on the scene. Israel as a nation has been ignoring their relationship with God and the results have left them in a dangerous place for national security. They have angered all the nations around them and are frequently at war with their neighbors. (3,000 years later, not much has changed!)

At this point in Israel's history the Philistines are their greatest threat. And this is the setting into which David arrives.



Bible Study

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for **I have provided** me a king among his sons. *The popular choice for King of Israel, Saul, was self serving and disobedient. But this did not surprise God, the Lord already had provided a replacement king for Israel.*

16:3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and **I will shew thee what thou shalt do**: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee. *God had an assignment for Samuel and He wanted Samuel to trust God's lead in the situation so God reassured Samuel He would show him what to do.*

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, **Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.** Samuel trusts and obeys God and goes to Jesse in Bethlehem. He then immediately "leans on His own understanding" by assuming Eliab who appeared like the perfect candidate for political office was who God wanted for the next king. He was mistaken.

16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, **Look not on his countenance,** or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for **the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.** This principle is found throughout the Bible; but even Samuel had to be reminded of it here.

16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, **The LORD hath not chosen these.** At this point everyone participating in this process must be looking at each other in dismay and the most perplexed had to be Samuel.

16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, **he keepeth the sheep.** And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. The fact that David was a shepherd was a preview of the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And **the LORD said, Arise, anoint him:** for this is he. When it appeared that Samuel was not getting a good read on God's will for the situation, the last son appears and God makes it clear to Samuel that this is the one.

16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. *The Spirit came upon David* means from this point the Spirit of God assures the success of David as the anointed one.

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)



- Nothing ever **surprises** God (16:1).



- Christians need to trust God's perspective even when they are **uncertain** of all of the next **steps** in His leading or of the **outcome** (16:3).



- Christians need to get out of the habit of making **decisions** based on their own **understanding** of things (16:6).



- Even the most **mature** Christian can use a reminder that God **evaluates** things differently than people do (16:7).
- David is referred to by Bible scholars as a "type of Christ." There are many characteristics of David's life that are a preview or a foreshadow of the coming Messiah, Jesus.

C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

- ✓ Am I easily frustrated with not being able to figure out what God wants me to do?
- ✓ How quickly do I obey the things I definitely know God wants me to do?
- ✓ When evaluating the real me on a scale of 1-10, how high would God score my desire for Him? How can I raise that score?
- ✓ What does a Christian do if they are "burned out" and don't feel a lot of desire for the Lord?
- ✓ Of the 3 main characters from this account, which one am I most like right now in life: Samuel, Saul, or David?

*T*Bible Baptist Church

Our Purpose is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:18

Group Discussion

(Try to facilitate the group's discussion and not do most of the talking during this time.)

Group Question

How do Christians learn to stop acting based on their own understanding of things and trust God? 1. Stop acting so quickly – learn the discipline of praying and waiting. 2. Learn how He thinks – read as much about His ways of “doing life.”

Group Question

What guarantees are made to us in Scripture that we can trust His involvement in our lives? (Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.)

Group Question

What did God see in David's heart that caused the Lord to choose him for the next King of Israel? (Clue: see 1 Sam. 13:14 ...the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee. David sought relationship with God.)

Today's Key Question

If you forget everything else, remember this!

How can Christians learn to consistently make choices based on God's values?



Christians must **learn** God's values (**study**) and then **try** life His way instead of the world's way (**pray & wait**).