

03

SESSION 3

The Anointing of David

SESSION SUMMARY

In this session, we will take a look at what happened after God rejected Saul as king. He directed the prophet Samuel to anoint David, the son of Jesse. The story of David demonstrates that God does not judge people based on worldly expectations. David's battle against Goliath is an example of a king's trust in the Lord's deliverance and of God's faithfulness to accomplish a decisive victory for His people. God's people needed a warrior-king to defeat the enemy on their behalf, and in the story of David, we catch glimpses of the promised King we need—as well as an example of godly obedience from a heart on fire for God.

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:20-26,33-37,45-51

THE POINT

God is looking for a king who reflects His heart and will fight for His people.

INTRO/STARTER 5-10 MINUTES

Option 1

Briefly review the previous session, reminding students about Saul's disobedience and rejection. Saul was God's anointed king, the one to be ruler over Israel. God gave Saul a mission—completely destroy the Amalekites. But Saul imprisoned the king and kept the livestock for himself. Saul failed to fully obey God's commands. Saul turned away from God, and God rejected him as king. God had a new king in mind, one who would later be described as a man after God's own heart.

Place students in small groups or pairs depending on the size of your group. Within their groups, invite students to discuss the following:

- **What are some qualities of a king who refuses to follow God's commands? A godly king?**
- **What do you think it means to have a king who reflects God's heart?**
- **In what ways do people turn away from God today?**
- **How can you reflect God's heart in your own life?**

Explain that David was the next king Samuel anointed, but most importantly, an eternal King would come from David's lineage. A King who did not just reflect God's heart—He was God's Son, Jesus.

Option 2

For this option, students will need access to the Internet in some capacity. Have your students do a scavenger hunt online for quotes about leadership. They should each come up with one to three favorite quotes (based the number on how many students you have). You might need to help them conduct their search, for example you may need to give tips on what to do other than type “leadership quotes” into a search engine. Encourage them to think of their favorite leaders and look up quotes by those people.

Once every student has found a quote, have them read it aloud and share why they like it. Discuss what they found, making sure to point out any quotes that apply to pursuing the heart of God. Given the probability that most of the quotes didn't involve this premise, point out how loving God with all one's heart, mind, and soul will result in loving one's neighbor, including those whom students may serve as a leader.

HIS STORY

15-20 MINUTES

THE POINT

God is looking for a king who reflects His heart and will fight for His people.

CHARACTERS

- **The Triune God** - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- **Samuel** - dedicated to the Lord before his birth; prophet and final judge of Israel
- **David** - youngest son of Jesse who was anointed to be king following Saul. David is recognized for a number of things, in terms of both his character—he followed God—and his accomplishments—he defeated Goliath, etc.
- **Goliath** - feared warrior for the armies of Philistia; was killed by David in battle after mocking the armies of the Lord

PLOT

In the previous session, we saw how the Israel's first king, Saul, failed to live up to God's standard and the expectations of God's people. In the middle of the Book of 1 Samuel, after the prophet Samuel confronted Saul about his disobedience, the narrative transitions from the story of Saul to the story of David.

We are introduced to David the shepherd boy—certainly not the king anyone would expect. He will go on to be a great man of God, but his entrance onto the scene is hardly impressive. In every way, he is—to put it bluntly—ordinary. But he will become the kind of king who trusts in God's provision for his success and finds victory. And perhaps in one of the most famous Bible stories of all time, David will be the young champion who brings down a giant.

TIMELINE

THE ANOINTING OF DAVID

The characteristics of a true king.

DAVID AND JONATHAN

The gift of true friendship.

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

God reestablishes the covenant with David and his descendants.

GOD'S EXPECTATIONS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD'S

The story picks up with the prophet Samuel in deep distress because of Saul's sin. After all, Samuel had anointed him, and Saul seemed like such a promising prospect. But the king turned out to be nothing like what Samuel had hoped. Saul was faithful only to himself, and the king's sin grieved the prophet.

God sent Samuel on a mission to find the next king of Israel. To help with that task, Samuel ordered a consecration for the sacrifice, in which each member of the community offered themselves to God. This was the perfect moment for Samuel to inspect the sons of Jesse, who would come marching by him in succession.

In 1 Samuel 16:1-13, we see a man named Jesse present seven of his sons before Samuel during this time. Eliab was the oldest of Jesse's sons, so he came forward first, looking as kingly as possible. Samuel took one look at him and thought he had found his man—good-looking, tall, and strong. Definitely kingly material. God, however, was unimpressed. Eliab's appearance, height, and stature did not even register as relevant qualities.

One by one we read that each of the seven sons that Jesse initially presented were rejected. We are not given specific reasons why, only that while outwardly they may have seemed qualified, evidently God weighed their hearts and found them lacking. One by one, Jesse trotted his sons out, and one by one, Samuel shot them down. It is an Old Testament version of Cinderella, as the brothers fruitlessly try to cram themselves into the glass slipper of Israel's kingship.

Then a surprising turn of events takes place. Samuel asked Jesse if there were any sons left out. Take a look:

And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 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." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (1 Sam. 16:10-13)

Samuel finally asked about the youngest son. David was a shepherd, which was not a coveted position in Israel. He was also the smallest, perhaps to the point Jesse didn't even think his youngest son could be a king. The text implies that

David was outwardly unimpressive, even to those who knew him best; yet he was the one God chose!

David would go on to lead an extraordinary life, but we must not miss the truth that every extraordinary event in his life happened in spite of his own ordinariness. David had access to the power of an extraordinary God, in part because he did not think he was extraordinary in himself. This is in strong contrast to Saul, who was fully convinced of his own greatness, a folly that led God's Spirit away from him and brought him crashing back down to earth.

- **Out of all of Jesse's sons, why do you think God chose David to be the next king?** (p. 22, PSG)

GOD WANTS A KING WHO WILL FIGHT FOR HIS PEOPLE

We pick up the story in 1 Samuel 17, when Jesse sent David out to visit his brothers on the battlefield. So David left the tending of sheep, packed his bags, and headed to the front line.

And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Sam. 17:20-26)

Word got back to King Saul that someone might be up for the challenge of taking on Goliath. But as soon as David arrived, Saul took up the same tone with him that his brothers used.

And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a

lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!” (1 Sam. 17:33-37)

David wasn't affected by the discouragement of people around him. He was the anointed king and he trusted in God's power. Besides, he had done his real training in the pasture, and compared to a lion or a bear, Goliath was not terribly impressive.

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.” When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. (1 Sam. 17:45-51)

There are people today who love to use this as an analogy about the underdog: *no matter the odds, you can do it! Just believe in yourself!* Sadly, this misses the point. God does not want us to read this story and come away with a cocky assurance that given the right confidence, we can achieve whatever we set our minds to. Yes, we can glean insight from David's courage and how he overcame insurmountable odds. But that's not the main point of the story.

The entire scene of David's conflict with Goliath is cast in the light of representative warfare. When David took on Goliath, it was not merely one man against another; this was Israel and Philistia, squaring off. What's more, the battle between Israel and Philistia represented the struggle between their gods, as both David and Goliath mentioned in their taunting monologues. And when he won, the entire nation of Israel shared in his representative victory, even though they did nothing to earn it themselves.

TIMELINE

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

David's fall into sin and prayer of forgiveness.

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

Solomon becomes known for his God-given wisdom.

THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS

Solomon instructs on how to walk in wisdom.

CHRIST CONNECTION

We stand in a situation similar to Israel, in need of a representative to save us from evil. We are like the Israelites: hiding in our tents, ignoring the threat of Satan, sin, and death. What we need, like Israel, is a representative to defeat evil on our behalf. This story prepares the way for God to raise up another King who would accomplish another decisive victory—King Jesus who will come and slay the serpent and rescue people from sin and death.

In David, we see a picture of courageous faith in God's power. We also catch a glimpse of the bigger story of the Bible and of the coming King whom no one would have expected or chosen to win the victory, but through His death and resurrection, He is mighty to save.

99 ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES

Christ as King

God has always been King over His Kingdom from eternity past, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

YOUR STORY 10-15 MINUTES

GROUP QUESTIONS

God's Story has always been designed to connect with your story. It is because of His Story that our stories make sense, have meaning, and carry on into eternity. Use the questions below to help think through how His Story connects with your own.

- **What are some expectations our culture usually holds for those who will become effective leaders?** *For the most part, our culture tends to believe that physical appearance is important, those features that are external in nature. It is also assumed that those with an extraverted personality are at an advantage over those who are more introverted. However, God is more concerned about the internal state of one's heart, and history can testify to the fact that God uses all sorts of personalities for His glory and the good of others.*
- **What are some snap judgments we tend to make about others based on their appearance? How does this account warn us against misjudging others?** *Answers to this will vary.*
- **How is the truth that "God looks at the heart" both bad news and good news for you?** *On the one hand, it is good news in that we aren't judged by external standards. However, it is bad news as well as it is clear that all of our hearts are sinful and in need of being made new. The good news is that giving us a new heart is exactly what God does when we trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.*
- **What is something new you have learned about this familiar story of David and Goliath? What does it teach us about the type of people God is molding us to become if we are followers of Christ?** *Answers to this will vary.*

HIS STORY

God's Story of Redemption, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

YOUR STORY

Where your story meets His.

YOUR MISSION 10-15 MINUTES



HEAD

In one sense, the real giant in this story is the unbelief that dominated the hearts of God's people as they stood in cowardice and unbelief against Goliath and the Philistine army. Unfortunately, the same opposition is often at work in our churches today. Too often, we are like Eliab—scoffing at other believers' grand visions to reach their communities and their world. How different would our schools and cities be if, instead of responding with Eliab's cynical spirit, we assumed with David that God was eager to work powerfully in the lives of His people?

- **Share about a difficult time when you experienced similar unbelief in God's power.** *Answers to this will vary.*
- **What are some ways we can encourage others to boldly live out their faith in such difficult moments?** *Answers may include: praying with others, reminding them of specific truths and promises from God's word, assuring them of God's character and purpose for them, etc.*



HEART

When you think about it, the pasture was the place where David honed some of the most vital skills in his life. It was there that he grew in courage, fending off lions and bears from his helpless flock. It was there that he learned humility, having to clean up after the sheep day after day. The pasture was the type of place where you could develop an upright heart and shepherding attitude versus growing up in the palace. This is why it is important to remember that God is at work in the different pastures we live in, forging our character, patience, and integrity. We ought not despise the pasture or resent our suffering: these are God's laboratories for molding our hearts to trust in His deliverance.

- **What "pasture" are you in right now or have you experienced in the past?** *Answers to this will vary.*
- **What does it look like for you to faithfully trust God through that experience?** *Answers to this will vary.*



HANDS

As God's people who have been given new hearts and transformed characters through a relationship with Christ, we should seek to live out this transformation in front of those around us, pursuing them with the same message of grace that found us when we were lost in our sins. In a similar way that David was jealous for God's name and glory, we too should seek to make much of Christ and His salvation by pointing others to His great name and glory.

- **How does this story challenge the way you live?** *Answers to this will vary.*
- **What are some ways you can make much of Jesus this week?** *Answers may include: doing my best in school and thereby glorify God in my education; sharing the gospel with a friend; etc.*

▶ ADDITIONAL INFO

LEADER PACK

For this session, refer students to pack item #4, containing an artistic poster of David's sling when he battled Goliath.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Check out the following additional resources:

- **Leader Training Videos**
- **One Conversations**
- **Midweek Studies (to access your Midweek Study, go to lifeway.com/TGPKingsSUM16)**
- **Circular Timeline Poster**
- **App (for both leader and student)**



Additional suggestions for specific groups are available at

GospelProject.com/AdditionalResources

And for ***free online training*** on how to lead a group visit

MinistryGrid.com/web/TheGospelProject