

David and Samuel and Jesse

WFFK 1

WARM-UP

- When you were younger, what career or profession did you want to have? How has that changed over time?
- What's the most recent item you bought? Did you consider its price or quality? What factor helps you determine what you will buy?
- Think about what you first notice when you look at people. What conclusions do you make based on outward appearances?

WORD

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 SAMUEL 16:1

(Read also 1 SAMUEL 16:2-13.)

When Israel demanded for a king, God called Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king. But Saul disobeyed God. So God chose another person to lead His people and called Samuel again to anoint the next king. This time, it was a young man after God's own heart. He would go on to be one of the greatest leaders of Israel, and our Lord and Savior Jesus would come from his line. In the same way, God wants us to take part in reaching and raising the next and future generations. Today, through the story of David and Samuel, let's learn how we can participate in what God is doing.

We need God's guidance to discern and acknowledge God's call and the potential of young people.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." ⁷But the LORD said to 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." . . . ¹²And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

1 SAMUEL 16:6-7, 12

In obedience to God's call, Samuel came to Jesse's house
and examined each of his sons. Samuel considered their
appearance and stature, but God was looking at what was
unseen—their hearts. When David—who was initially left out
of the choices—appeared, God told Samuel that David was
the chosen one. David was the youngest son who was tasked
to care for his family's sheep. Samuel obeyed and anointed
David as king. God's purposes go beyond what we usually see.
We need wisdom and guidance from God so that we can raise
up young people to fulfill their calling. Who are the people
who saw potential in you? What did they see in you?

We need to be faithful in the present call God has for us.

³⁴But 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 . . ." ³⁷And 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 SAMUEL 17:34, 37

While David was but a young shepherd, he was growing in his relationship with God and faithfully fulfilled his tasks, learning many lessons which helped him face giants for God later on. When the Israelites were being attacked by the Philistines, they grew afraid because of Goliath, a giant soldier who had been taunting them and their God. David heard this and decided to face him. Others doubted his abilities. But David was confident in God, because he saw how God helped him fight beasts as a shepherd. This ultimately led to their victory. God desires for us to be faithful, regardless of the season we are in, as we wait for His purposes to unfold. What is something God has called you to do that didn't make sense at first but became clear as you acted in faith?

APPLICATION

- In light of God's word, how should we look at others, especially younger people?
- In what ways is God calling you to participate in reaching the next generation? How will you obey God, as Samuel did?
- Think of one or two young people in your community or sphere of influence. How may you help them grow in their relationship with God and live out their calling and purpose in Him?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His heart for the next generation. Thank Him that He calls every generation to follow Him and take part in what He is doing in our world.
- Ask God to teach you to look at others from His perspective, as
 He did when He chose David. Pray that God would help you do
 the same with young people.
- Pray for boldness and compassion to preach God's word to and raise the next generation.



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