



The Fall and Rise of a King

Pastors J Thompson, D Learned, T Creutz | 1 Samuel 16:1-13

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. **Soli Deo Gloria.**

ICE BREAKER:

Describe something unexpected from this past Christmas. Or something that wasn't as it first seemed to be.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

From 1 Samuel 16:1-3, summarize what the Lord tells Samuel about the Lord's rejection of Saul as King and the Lord's plan to replace Saul. Why is Samuel uneasy? What does this tell us about King Saul? (For background on the Lord's rejection of Saul, see also 1 Samuel 13:8-15 and 15:10-23). How does Saul show that partial obedience is really disobedience?

The Lord 'looks on the heart' and not on the 'outward appearance' like men do (v. 7). Describe how this unusual story (v. 4-13) to identify the new king — and the identity of that new king — demonstrates God's perspective?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

How does Paul's description of Jesus in Philippians 2:1-11 show Jesus' full obedience? And the resulting honor He receives? How does that help us with our obedience?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Outward appearance can be very different from one's inward reality. Read Luke 18:9-14. How do the two men that Jesus described illustrate that difference? What is their motivation?

With humility, what can you do this week to grow in your understanding of God's heart in order to honor and follow God's heart (like David being 'a man after God's own heart'). Discuss with one another. Pray for one another for such faithful obedience.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

After reading the text and summarizing it together, discuss why it is so easy for us to simply look at the outside and not the inside of one's character.

When have you noticed others in your family acting like David, as one 'after God's own heart'? Encourage one another by sharing those times showing Godly character. Pray with one another for those characteristics to continue and increase in 2026.

FURTHER STUDY:

To read more on the Gospel connections in 1 and 2 Samuel, go to www.crossway.org/articles and search for the article 'The Gospel in 1-2 Samuel' by V. Philips Long.



THE RISE AND FALL OF A KING



THE LIFE OF DAVID

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. List the people mentioned in this chapter. If described in the text, what are their motivations or emotions?**
- 2. David's worldview is bigger than just the conflict at hand. Describe David's perspective. How is that view made real for David? What does he say and do?**
- 3. How do both Goliath and David represent their people?**
- 4. What in this text confuses you?**
- 5. What in this text compels you?**
- 6. Ask God for courage to walk in light of the big picture of God being God over all.**