



Life Group Study 1 Samuel 16-18

David chosen as king; David and Goliath; David and Jonathan

Introduction

In these passages, first we see how God chooses David to be king of Israel through Samuel. The selection process once again shows how God often looks at things differently than man does. Next comes the familiar old story of David and Goliath and how the unlikely underdog (as seen through man's eyes) takes on the giant through the power of God working in him. Finally, we see a very special friendship that we can all learn from in the bond between David and Jonathan.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. Describe the process of how God chose David to be king. How do today's countries choose someone as important as a king or president?
2. In 1 Samuel 16:13, what do you think was going through the minds of David's older brothers? What would be going through your mind if your younger (possibly much younger) brother was chosen for something as significant as this? Why do you think God so often does things radically different than man would?

Read 1 Samuel 17:17-32

1. What do you think went through David's mind when he heard the taunts of Goliath in verse 23? What do you think David thought of his fellow Israelite warriors? Why?
2. What gave young David the incredible confidence he had? Why do you think we lack that boldness and confidence to live out the Christian faith or witness when we know we won't be killed, put in prison or possibly suffer no negative consequences at all? How can we use our past victories to give us confidence today?
3. In verses 25-32, what were the perspectives of the Israelites and David's brothers? Why did David have such confidence while his brothers lacked the necessary faith? Have you ever been encouraged by working closely with someone who had a "David-like" faith? How did that affect you? Have you ever been the "David-like" leader? What were the consequences?

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4

Describe the special friendship between David and Jonathan. Have you ever had a friendship like theirs? If so, describe what made you trust that person, possibly even with your own life.

Read 1 Samuel 18:5-19

1. How did Saul's feelings about David change? How was this impacting Saul's ability to make decisions? Have you ever had feelings of frustration, jealousy and anger toward another person? Are you still experiencing these feelings, or have they been resolved? How can you deal with these issues in a way that would be pleasing to God?
2. Describe David's humility. What are some practical ways we can live a life of humble leadership like David and avoid the self-centered ways of a man like Saul?
3. Spend some quality time in prayer asking God to reveal how you can become more "David-like" servants of His.