

# Life of David: Learning from a Shepherding King

## Session 1: The anointing of a boy who then fights a giant.

### **Context:**

Israel has rejected God's governmental design and have demanded that He give them a king, and God chose Saul. Just before David's anointing, God has rejected Saul as King because of his disobedience when dealing with the Amalekites.

### **1 Samuel 16:1-2**

1. Saul has been rejected as king. What can we see from these verses (and the context) that indicates Saul did not have the purposes of the Lord as his focus?
2. How can our own insecurities cause us to stray from God's path?
3. How can we protect ourselves from this?

### **1 Samuel 16:3-13**

1. Sometimes, we make assumptions about how God will do things because of how He's done them in the past. Why do you think that Samuel assumed that Eliab (Jesse's oldest) would be king? (hint: 1 Sam 9:2, 10:23)
2. How did God have to change Samuel's way of looking at things?
3. David wasn't even there when the rest of his family was. He wasn't considered important enough to be a part of the sacrificial ceremony by his father or brothers, then he is anointed by the prophet/priest in their very midst. How do you think this made them feel? How do you think it made David feel?
4. How do you think David's rejection by his family helped him develop character traits that God could use?
5. In our lives, we often feel the sting of rejection by others whether purposeful or not. How can this hardship be used by God?

### **1 Samuel 17:1-30**

1. Years have probably passed since David's anointing (vs 12), and the Israelites are at odds with the Philistines. Why was Israel dismayed and afraid of the Philistine hero, Goliath?
2. How is this similar to how we often deal with the "Goliaths" in our lives?
3. How was this similar to their acceptance of Saul? to Samuel's assumptions about Eliab?
4. What can we see about where David still was while his older brothers were at war?
5. In vs. 28, why was Eliab so upset when David was questioning the men? What does David's response indicate about their relationship?
6. David's response to Goliath was opposite of the rest of the army. How can we cultivate this same attitude of courage in the face of adversity?

### **1 Samuel 17:31-39**

1. Did David approach the king on his own?
2. Why was David confident that he could defeat Goliath?
3. How did God use the time during David's youth while he was tending the sheep? Do you think David knew at the time what God was preparing him for?
4. What was David's attitude and response toward Saul when Saul put his armor onto David?

### **1 Samuel 17:40-53**

1. In verses 39, 40 and 50, we see that David had no armor and only a sling and his shepherd's bag. This was foolish in the eyes of men, but why was he wise in the eyes of God?
2. Do you think David was afraid? What was different about how David responded to Goliath and how the rest of the army did?
3. What do we see from the language that David uses in his rebuttal to Goliath?
4. What happened in the hearts of the Israelites because of the fearless obedience of one man?
5. God used David to defeat Goliath. How do we position ourselves to be able to be used by God?
6. Can you think of any circumstances in your life where a period of hardship seemed just hard at the time, but God used it to work something in you?