

## **Bible Study**

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

King Saul's dynasty has been rejected by the Lord because of his disobedience (13:13-14), Saul has cursed Jonathan his heir apparent (Ch14). And now, God finally rejects Saul as the leader of his people Israel. Samuel is sent to anoint a new King, whilst the result is not as expected we learn a lot about the character and heart of God in these passages.

#### **Opening Questions**

1. "Don't judge a book by its cover" is a common saying; Why is it a bad idea to judge people externally? And Why do we do it so frequently?
2. Are you a person who worries about what other people think or about fitting in? (losing face, becoming unpopular, being thought weird, super religious or different?)

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

1. How does this statement – "When no one else notices, God sees" – affect you?
  
2. In V1 Samuel just can't seem to 'get over' Saul's failure to obey God. What do you think that Samuel is mourning?
  - (a) What can we learn from God's instruction to Samuel in V1 to get up and move on from a difficult situations or disappointments?
  
3. What was bothering Samuel in V2?
  - (a) What do you think God is saying to Samuel/asking of Samuel?
  - (b) What does Samuel's reaction reveal about his own weaknesses and lack of faith?
  
4. Samuel's true purpose in going to Bethlehem was to anoint a new king, but the reason given was to provide a worship service where a sacrifice would be offered (V2-5). Why is it important that the anointing of David take place in a context of worship and sacrifice? (Note especially the term "consecrate" in v. 5)
  - (a) why this is important to the story?
  - (b) How is this similar or different to the world & church today?

5. Samuel approaches the selection of a king through human eyes, not spiritual.
  - (a) Why does Samuel assume that Eliab is God's choice (16:6-7; compare 9:2, 10:23- 24)?
  - (b) Why was David an unlikely candidate to serve as king?
  - (c) How is (a) and (b) an encouragement for us?
  - (d) Ephesians 1:4 & 11 tell us that we are chosen by God in Christ. What is your reaction to this and how should this impact the way we live?
  
6. How would you explain V7 to a friend or non-believer? (Psalm 44:21, Psalm 139:1, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Jeremiah 12:3, 1 Kings 8:39, Jeremiah 17:10, Proverbs 16:2, Revelation 2:23, Psalm 26:2, Acts 1:24, Acts 15:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:4)
  - (a) Why does God place emphasis on this throughout scripture? (Mark 7:6, Acts 8:21)
  
7. What is meant by "a man after God's own heart"?
  - (a) How can you become a person after the LORD's heart? ( Read 1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22)
  
8. What happens when David is anointed? What does this mean for us today?

**Personal Reflection:**

1. Do you need to act on a prompting from God (to listen and obey? V 13)
  - (a) Is God calling you to let go of some things either positive or negative from the past or present so he can move you on to 'a new thing'? If so, what do you need to do to achieve this?
2. How good are you at finding quiet time and space for communing with God each day? How can you do this?

*\*\*Please pray for each other this week that God would give us ears to hear and hearts to obey to his glory.*