LESSON 2 // A WILLING HEART

Big Idea: If we want to be all God designed us to be, we need to understand what it means to have a willing heart—like the willing heart David demonstrated toward God.

We see from David's life that the direction of your will determines the actions of your life. Also your will is directed by one of three "bosses": your own desires, the devil's will or God's will. Blessings come to those whose hearts are submitted to God's. These hearts are responsive to God, un-offended by others, faithful to the Lord and confident in His plans.

- **1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)** But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
- **1 Samuel 17:36-37 (NIV)** "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

Start Talking:

When have you struggled with God's will in your life? What helped you through that difficult time?

Start Thinking:

Read Psalm 40:8, Matthew 26:39 and Romans 12:1-12. How do these verses speak to you about the importance and the power of choosing God's will rather than your own?

Read 1 Samuel 16:19-21a and Mark 10:43-45. How does being a servant and responding to our assignments demonstrate a heart that's willing to do God's will? How did Jesus exemplify this for us?

Read 1 Samuel 17:17-20. What does our responsiveness to humble duties tell us about our heart? How does this prepare the way for God to use us?

Read Psalm 9:10. How confident are you in God's plan for your life? What are some ways you can increase your trust in Him and His purposes?

Start Praying and Doing:

David prayed for God to grant him "a willing spirit" to sustain him (Psalm 51:12). He knew that he needed the Lord to work in his heart for David to be willing to do God's will. He had experienced the devastation of his own sinfulness and knew that only God could change and sustain him by His grace.

Pray for this kind of willing, responsive heart to keep you close to the Lord and on track with His purposes in light of your sinfulness and the challenges you face.