DAVID
Seeking God's Heart

BETH MOORE
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Meet Beth Moore

Beth Moore realized at the age of 18 that God was claiming her future for full-time ministry. While she was sponsoring a cabin of sixth graders at a missions camp, God unmistakably acknowledged that she would work for Him. There Beth gave all parts of her life to the Lord she had loved since childhood. However, she had a problem: although she knew she was “wonderfully made,” she was “fearfully” without talent. She hid behind closed doors to discover whether a beautiful singing voice had miraculously developed, but the results were tragic. She returned to her piano from which years of practice resulted in joyless noise. Finally accepting that the only remaining alternative was missions work in a foreign country, she waited. Nothing happened.

Still confident of God’s calling, Beth finished her degree at Southwest Texas State University, where she fell in love with Keith. After they married in December 1978, God added three blessings: Amanda, Melissa, and Michael.

As if putting together puzzle pieces one at a time, God filled Beth’s path with supportive persons who saw something in her she could not. God used individuals like Marge Caldwell, John Bisagno, and Jeannette Cliff George to help Beth discover gifts of speaking, teaching, and writing. Now years after her first speaking engagement, those gifts have spread all over the world. Her joy and excitement in Christ are contagious; her deep love for the Savior, obvious; her style of speaking, electric.

Beth’s ministry is grounded in and fueled by her service at her home fellowship, First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, where she serves on the pastor’s council and teaches a Sunday School class attended by more than two hundred women. Beth believes that her calling is to guide believers to love and live God’s Word. A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God through a Study of David—which is the basis for David: Seeking God’s Heart—grew from her burning desire that believers experience greater intimacy with God.

Beth loves the Lord, loves to laugh, and loves to be with His people. Her life is full of activity, but one commitment remains constant: counting all things but loss for the excellence of knowing Christ Jesus, the Lord. (See Phil. 3:8.)
Welcome to a study of David: Seeking God’s Heart. I am thrilled you’ve chosen to take this journey through Scripture with me! We have quite an expedition before us as we tour the pastures, caves, and palace of one of the most well-known figures in history—King David.

We will quickly discover David’s multi-faceted personality. Our responses to his experiences will likely be as extreme as he was. He will make us laugh and possibly cry. He will delight us, and he will disappoint us. He will make us want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others.

The life and times of David will cause us to have many responses, but boredom will not likely be one of them! He is sure to capture your interest, if you let him. And God is sure to change your heart, if you let Him.

Get Ready
Getting prepared for a study of David is like getting ready for a tornado. Get your Bible, this book, and a pen. Find a quiet place where you can study, and hold on for dear life!

These pages will highlight the best and the worst of humanity. David lived thousands of years ago, yet he dealt with many of the issues that plague God’s people today. If you’ve ever had doubts, fought temptations, struggled with the inconsistency of saying one thing and doing another, fallen into sin, suffered losses, or hurt deeply over family problems, this Bible study is for you. (If you haven’t, you may need to check your pulse!)

Set Your Pace
David: Seeking God’s Heart is a six-week Bible study that will take you through virtually every twist and turn of David’s life as a shepherd, a refugee, and a king. Each chapter contains enough biblical truth, drama, and even humor for you to read throughout the week. Although you will find natural breaks in each chapter, you can divide the reading and personal assignments any way you like. A section of each chapter may take you 15 minutes or 45 minutes to complete, depending on how much material you decide to tackle. Completing each week’s assignment is crucial for you to benefit from the study.

Go to the Source
Because the study takes you verse by verse through Scripture, it reads like an epic of one man’s life. Within each chapter you will find points of Discovery that deal with the persons and events in the life of David.

In addition to the points of Discovery, you will find opportunities for personal reflection. Each Meditation will help you relate the events to your own life.

You will also be asked to complete reading assignments and various types of learning activities. You may find multiple-choice questions, true/false activities, fill-in-the-blank statements,
creative thinking exercises, or straightforward questions that you will answer in your own words. Respond to the questions in each chapter. This Bible study delves into several personal subjects. At times, your heart may overflow with the desire to share what God is doing through the study of David. Other times, you may want to keep God's very personal work between the two of you.

**Scripture: Historical Biography and “Autobiography”**
Each chapter highlights Scripture that best represents the chapter's theme. You will read many of the Psalms, almost half of which are considered to have been written by David himself. You will also occasionally be asked to write a Scripture to emphasize what God's Word is saying to you.

**Journaling**
The biography of 1 and 2 Samuel along with the “autobiography” of the Psalms will challenge you to reflect on your own life story. God wants to speak to you personally through His Word. We do not study Scripture to increase our head knowledge. We want God to change our hearts and lives.

Throughout each chapter I encourage you to ask two questions: In what ways do you believe God is speaking directly to you? What is your response to Him?

In addition to the response space in this book you may want to keep a journal to record your “overflow” thoughts. Journaling is a wonderful way to focus on God's activity in and around you. A small notebook will do. Writing things down will help you remember and reflect on how God specifically speaks to you. Each time He speaks to you, make a fresh commitment to Him. Your life will be transformed.

**The Small-Group Experience**
The best way to study *David: Seeking God's Heart* is in a group. You are more likely to complete this study if you enjoy the benefits of a weekly discussion group. As a member of a group, you will meet regularly for accountability.

Your small group will discuss key points from each chapter. Your group will also spend time sharing and praying together. However, you will never be expected to share anything personal in the group. Share only what you are comfortable talking about.

Make the group meetings a priority. Hebrews 11:6 states, “Anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (NIV). This study offers you the opportunity to earnestly seek God.

**A Final Word**
This study takes courage, my friend. I have made specific adjustments in my personal life, as a direct result of God's direction studying the life of David. You cannot be confronted by God's Word day after day and refuse to change. You will either shut the book or allow God to change you. Allow Him to let every word mold you just like *David: Seeking God's Heart!*
Chapter One

OVERCOMING GIANTS

God is greater than any situation that you will ever encounter.

We will encounter many colorful personalities in these six chapters. Our journey begins with Saul and Jonathan, a father and son who will have a tremendous impact on David. Saul was the reigning king of Israel. Jonathan was his son, the heir apparent to the throne. Our study begins in the middle of the reign of King Saul, the people’s choice.

Take time to read 1 Samuel 8–11. You will discover that Saul not only was chosen with the wrong motive, he often reigned with the wrong motive! “You acted foolishly,”

Scripture

“Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few” (1 Sam. 14:6).
Samuel said, “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command” (1 Sam. 13:13-14).

Good news and bad news erupted from Samuel's prophecy. The bad news was that the kingdom of Israel's first monarch would not endure. Saul had a bad habit of compromising the commands of God. The king refused to wait on the Lord, trust in His Word, and follow His directions. Saul proved that a person can have good characteristics without having good character! The good news was: “The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart.” This is Scripture's first description of the most beloved king in Israel's history: David, the son of Jesse! God used this very description to compel my desire to write this study.

What do you understand the expression “a person after God’s own heart” to mean?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Meet Jonathan, son of King Saul, a man quite different from his father. Jonathan became dear to David and is likely to become dear to us.

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23. Describe the relationship between Jonathan and his armor-bearer. Be specific. ________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

First Samuel 14:6 is a powerful statement. Write your own paraphrase of the following portion of Scripture: “Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.” ______________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Jonathan and his armor-bearer were impressive men and worthy examples.

1. Jonathan’s perception of the Lord’s ways. His keen perception of the Lord certainly did not come from his father, because Jonathan’s understanding exceeds that of Saul. Jonathan had his own relationship with the Lord, completely separate from his father’s. Jonathan made two profound statements in verse 6:
   • “Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf.”
   • “Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.”

Consider how these statements reveal Jonathan’s perception of God’s ways: Jonathan knew the Lord could save, no matter who or how many were fighting the battle. In fact, he knew that if God chose to save, nothing could hinder him! His faith in God’s strength and determination was solid: God could do anything. His only question was whether or
not God would choose to do it through them that day. Reread Jonathan’s words: “Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf.” He knew God could do it; he didn’t know if He would. Whether or not He did, Jonathan understood God’s response to be based on sovereignty, not weakness. Jonathan’s attitude reminds me of several other young men also facing the strong possibility of death.

Read Romans 10:17 and fill in the diagram below, with the two components which lead to faith.

____________________________ → ___________________________ → FAITH

Two critical elements result in faith: the message of Christ and our experience of hearing the message.

Jonathan was not the only impressive individual. Let’s look at the significant example of his armor-bearer.

2. The armor-bearer’s commitment to Jonathan’s authority. As you described their relationship earlier you probably noted the armor-bearer’s constant obedience to Jonathan’s commands. You can draw a wonderful parallel between the armor-bearer and a Christian.

Read Ephesians 6:10-13. In these verses, what is God’s command to us?
- Stand and watch the salvation of the Lord.
- Put on the whole armor of God.
- Ignore the enemy and he will have to flee.

What is the stated purpose of the command to put on the armor?
- We will intimidate our enemy.
- We keep from getting slaughtered.
- We can take our stand against the devil’s schemes.

Whose armor are we supposed to put on? ____________________________

We are God’s present armor-bearers. We’re not just to carry it. We are to put it on. I want you to see just how much we compare to Jonathan’s armor-bearer. Take a good look at the word struggle in Ephesians 6:12. The Greek word pale means, “A wrestling, struggle or hand-to-hand combat. It was used of the wrestling of athletes and the hand-to-hand combat of soldiers…. It denoted the struggle between individual combatants in distinction from an entire military campaign.”¹ Our “struggle” against our enemy is a very personal battle. Pale does not describe a corporate battle. It describes a struggle which involves only ourselves—the One whose armor we bear—and our enemy!

Jonathan’s armor-bearer set a wonderful example. Look again at 1 Samuel 14 and let’s draw some applications that may help us in our battle:
- The armor-bearer listened carefully to Jonathan’s instructions. To be victorious, we must also listen carefully to the instructions of the One whose armor we bear. The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, will both prepare us and protect us!

**Meditation**

Pray a brief prayer regarding any desire you have to be with God “heart and soul.”
What did the armor-bearer mean by pledging himself to Jonathan “heart and soul”?

How often do you believe you are with God “heart and soul”?

- often
- occasionally
- rarely
- I don’t believe I’ve ever really been with God “heart and soul.”

The armor-bearer followed behind Jonathan. His master led him into battle. He did not choose the battle. Jonathan made sure he went ahead of the armor-bearer so that he could take the blows of the enemy. When we received Christ as Savior, we enlisted in an army. We would avoid our spiritual battles if we could, but our Master is always careful to lead the way. We must always “climb up” after Him. Notice that 1 Samuel 14:13 states, “The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.” Our enemy will fall before our God. We are only deadly to the enemy when we go behind Him.

Read 1 Samuel 14:24-52. How did Saul inadvertently put his army in jeopardy? Choose one.

- He forced his men to fast.
- He forced them to settle in enemy territory.
- He forced them to fight an enemy too powerful for them.

According to verses 31-33, what happened as a result of their “fast”? Check all that apply.

- They could not face their enemy.
- They discovered supernatural strength.
- They became exhausted.
- They ended up eating the wrong things.

What tragedy almost resulted from Saul’s selfish command? Choose one.

- Jonathan was almost put to death.
- David nearly lost his life.
- Saul was nearly captured by the Philistines.
- The men almost died of starvation.

Note an important fact about fasting. God, not man, must call “fasts.” Fasting called by God will result in added strength, not depleted strength. Fasting for any other reason works against us rather than for us. Fasting is a wonderful and highly effective discipline of God, but we must follow His instruction for fasting so we will be strengthened rather than weakened in our battles.
According to 1 Kings 19:7-8, what did God command Elijah to do because of his fear and exhaustion at the prospect of facing Jezebel? ________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

People often “fast” for the wrong reasons. We may call it “dieting” and it often violates the bounds of nutritional eating. Such “fasting” can lead to a form of starvation.

Have you ever withheld food from yourself for a considerable length of time when it wasn’t God’s idea? ❑ Yes ❑ No  If your answer is yes, in the margin describe how you felt and what eventually happened.

Hasty, self-centered vows can cost us. Not only did Saul’s army end up sinning against God, but Saul could easily have lost his son. God tried to teach Saul a serious lesson that day. Saul’s pride could have caused him to keep a foolish vow. Better to repent than to add foolishness to foolishness.

In each battle we’ve studied, we’ve seen evidence that God is for us in battle, not against us. He wants us fortified before our enemy with faith like Jonathan, obedience like the armor-bearer, and proper fuel like Saul’s army should have received.

We now witness a confrontation between King Saul and Samuel the prophet. The confrontation speaks to us as we consider our response to God’s instructions. The Scriptures we will read will likely leave quite an impression on you.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35. In one sentence write what you believe is the theme of this chapter. _________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

What is the most shocking or troublesome verse or statement in this chapter? Why?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Which one of the following words best describes God’s response to Saul’s actions in verses 11 and 12?
❑ fury  ❑ jealousy  ❑ indifference  ❑ bitterness  ❑ grief  ❑ guilt

According to verse 11, how did Samuel respond to Saul’s disobedience? __________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
When Samuel went to meet Saul, he had gone to Carmel to set up a monument in his own honor. What insight can you gain into Saul’s heart based on his trip to Carmel?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

__________________________________________________________________________  

When Samuel confronted Saul what reason did Saul give for sparing the livestock according to verse 15?  
☐ The livestock could provide food and clothing for the Israelites.  
☐ The best livestock was spared to offer them as sacrifices to God.  
☐ The livestock of the Amalekites was healthier than Israel’s livestock.  
☐ The livestock would be an impressive addition to Israel’s assets.  

Which one of the following statements most reflects Saul’s attitude according to verses 20 and 21?  
☐ Partial obedience is still obedience.  
☐ God doesn’t make His instructions clear enough to be followed.  
☐ God’s ideas are good unless a better one comes along.  
☐ Other:  

What is God saying in verse 22?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

__________________________________________________________________________  

Our God seems so unlike the One who ordered an entire people destroyed, doesn’t He? If God is love, light, and cannot tempt us to sin, we must need to know more to adequately evaluate 1 Samuel 15. To understand the grave command of God, we need to know the history of the Amalekites. They were the first people to attack the Israelites after their exodus (Ex. 17:8-16). After initial defeat, they attacked Israel again, this time forcing them back into the Sinai wilderness (Num. 14:39-45).

Read carefully the words of Moses to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 25:17-19. Note everything you learn about the Amalekites by completing the following sentences:  
They met the Israelites on their way out of Egypt and ________________  
They had no ________________  
The Israelites would eventually blot out ________________  
The Israelites must not ________________

God is sovereign. He owes us no explanation as to why He desired for this entire population to be exterminated. However, we can assume they were a vile and godless people, because God is merciful and compassionate.

Look up Jonah 3:10; 4:1-2 and Ezekiel 33:11. What do these verses say about God’s mercy on wicked people?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

__________________________________________________________________________
The passages from Jonah and Ezekiel clearly demonstrate God's desire to forgive and rescue all people from evil. From all the Bible states about the Amalekites, I assume that they rejected every opportunity to repent of evil and turn to God.

Saul made some serious presumptions. He kept King Agag alive, not to spare his life out of mercy, but to present him as a trophy. He did not slaughter the sheep and cattle for the same reason: he saved the best to make himself look better. Verse 9 ends with a sad commentary on Saul's actions: “These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.”

Several breaches in character become evident in this dramatic chapter.

1. **Saul was arrogant.** If we needed any further proof of Saul's pride and audacity, verse 12 certainly provides it. Saul went directly to Carmel and built a monument to himself. A short time later Samuel reminded Saul that God had anointed him king over Israel when he was small in his own eyes.

Which words describe what Samuel meant by the term, “small in your own eyes”?  
❑ self-conscious  ■ low self-esteem  ■ self-denying  ■ humble

Of these four answers, circle the one(s) that describes a positive, Christ-honoring form of being “small in your own eyes.”

For Saul being “small in his own eyes” meant being self-conscious. We could probably guess that his self-esteem was inappropriately low. The Bible encourages self-denial and humility as positive ways of recognizing our “smallness” before God.

What are some ways you could keep your heart humble before God?  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
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2. **Saul refused to take responsibility for his actions.** Saul first excused himself for disobeying God by claiming he spared the best of the sheep and cattle for a sacrifice to the Lord. Amazing, isn’t it? Today a person might claim the reason he robbed a bank was to give a greater tithe and offering to the Lord. Believe it or not, we can sometimes use God as our excuse for disobedience, too. A girl may deliberately disobey and deceive godly parents to go to a party because she is certain God’s will is for her to be a positive witness at the social event of the year. A guy may explain his social drinking as God’s way for him to be accepted by and be a light to the other guys on the team.

Can you think of another example of disobedience in God’s name?  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
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______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________

Saul not only tried to use God as his excuse for disobedience, he also claimed he was afraid of and gave in to the people (v. 24). The king of Israel with God on his side scared
of his people? When we’ve done something wrong or foolish, we find shouldering the responsibility difficult, don’t we? At times we are all tempted to blame someone else when we’ve blown it. I wonder if the outcome might have been different if Saul simply had admitted he made a wrong choice. We have lots of opportunities for good choices. Our first choice should be to obey God. Our second choice should be to take responsibility for poor decisions when we make them. Ask God to make you keenly aware of times when you try to “pass the buck” instead of taking responsibility for something you should or shouldn’t have done. Thank God He can change our nature! Don’t get discouraged. Awareness is the first step to change!

3. Saul minimized the seriousness of disobedience. In verse 23, Samuel compares rebellion to the sin of divination or witchcraft. The comparison seems puzzling until we consider that rebellion is a means by which we attempt to set the course of our futures. We try to choose our own futures by our independent actions. Divination attempts to foretell or sway the future. In the same verse, God likens arrogance to the evil of idolatry. When we are arrogant, who becomes God in our lives?

The chapter concludes with a frightening scene. Samuel hacked King Agag to pieces. Samuel’s actions were not in haste, nor did he approach Saul and say “I told you so.” Samuel acted in obedience.

What did you learn about Samuel’s heart in verses 11 and 35? ________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Perhaps Samuel’s heart was the reason God used him as He did. Samuel’s heart never grew cold and condemning. God allowed Samuel to be emotionally involved but enabled him to maintain objectivity so that he could “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). Saul learned that obedience was better than sacrifice. Samuel learned that sometimes obedience is the sacrifice.

David: Seeking God’s Heart

Scripture

“When the Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

I love to discover new truths through Scripture. I also love reading the familiar passages over and over again. Perhaps the following passage of Scripture is one that you are familiar. If so, I know you won’t mind looking at it again.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What assignment did God give the prophet Samuel in verse 1? ______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Why was Samuel initially reluctant to go to Bethlehem?

☐ His health was failing.

☐ He felt unworthy.

☐ He was afraid Saul would kill him.

☐ His sons were unruly.
Samuel initially assumed God’s choice was Eliab, Jesse’s oldest son. Based on God’s response to Samuel, why do you think Samuel chose Eliab? ____________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

When Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons, Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest … but he is tending the sheep.”

Which of the following words describe Jesse’s youngest son?
❑ rugged  ❑ ruddy  ❑ handsome  ❑ tall  ❑ strong  ❑ shy

Write the Lord’s commandment to Samuel in verse 12. ____________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

How did the Spirit of God make Himself known in the life of David from the time He came upon him?
❑ in power  ❑ in glory  ❑ in authority  ❑ in zeal  ❑ in countenance

Samuel’s stubbornness is funny to me. Notice his response to Jesse once he learned that Jesse had one more son. “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” He knew how to get them moving! Don’t forget how everyone trembled when he arrived in Bethlehem. No one wanted to have the prophet of God drop by unannounced!

David, a young teenager, arrived on the scene with no idea what awaited him. He was handsome with a reddish complexion and no doubt smelled like sheep. He obviously was not his own father’s first choice nor would he have been Samuel’s. The prophet assumed God’s choice was Eliab. This choice made the most sense. He was the eldest son. He looked like a king.

God taught Samuel a very important lesson. “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” He reminded Samuel that the human mind tends to make assumptions based on appearances. God’s choices don’t always make sense to us.

When my oldest brother was born, my mother wholeheartedly gave him to the Lord. By the time he was five years old, he was showing remarkable signs of musical talent. He had earned many honors by the time he was in high school and had developed impressive leadership skills. He earns a very good living as a conductor and composer in the secular entertainment world. My big brother has always been a hero to me. He not only is the most talented person I’ve ever known, he is one of the dearest.

I came along in the family as the fourth of five children and never could find my niche. I couldn’t sing or play an instrument. I was not outstanding at anything. Strangely, God heard my mother’s devotion and He honored her desire to give a child back to the Lord.
to serve Him. For reasons I will never know, He did not choose the one who made the most sense. He chose the one who made the least—me. I can’t even tell you what He saw in my heart worth using except that He knew in advance I would say yes.

God’s choices don’t always make sense to us but they are never random. A closer look at David sheds light on why God may have chosen him. The first consideration is his genealogy. Let’s do a little research.

The Old Testament Book of Ruth tells of a woman and her mother-in-law after the deaths of their husbands. Ruth is not only one of the most important women in Hebrew history, she also had a special relationship to David.

Read Ruth 4:13-17. Who was Ruth in relation to David?
- David’s great-grandmother  
- David’s grandmother  
- David’s aunt  
- None of the above

Look at Matthew 1:1-17. Whose genealogy is listed? _________________________

What two titles is Christ given in verse 1?
- the son of David  
- the son of God  
- the son of man  
- the son of Abraham

The genealogy David and Christ shared was significant. In verse 3, you can see that both David and Christ were descendants of Judah, one of the sons of Jacob. In the prophecy Jacob spoke over Judah, he told him that “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet” (Gen. 49:10). You see, David was not a random choice. He was one of the most important figures in the genealogy of Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5).

I never fail to be encouraged by Christ’s heritage. Besides Jesus, you will not find on the list the name of any other perfect character.

How do you respond to the fact that the only perfect person on Christ’s genealogy is Christ Himself? _______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

In many ways David’s life foreshadowed details of Christ’s life. God illustrated the unknown about the Messiah through the known about David. David was not divine nor perfect, as we will quickly discover, but God will use him to teach us truths about the One who is. I think you’ll enjoy knowing that the name Jesse is a “personal name meaning, ‘man.’ ”2 Christ referred to Himself as the “Son of Man” more than any other title. He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (Matt. 16:13). Isn’t it interesting that David, King of Israel, who often pointed to Jesus was also technically the “Son of Man”? 

**Meditation**

Can you think of a time when God’s obvious choice for you did not make sense based on outward appearances?
David’s occupation also made him a candidate for kingship. At first glance, few similarities appear between a shepherd and a king, but we will discover that David received invaluable experience keeping sheep. Psalm 78:70-72 states: “He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.”

**Did God call David in spite of the fact that he was a common shepherd?**

______________________________________________________________________

**If you have a part-time job or other responsibility for which you earn money, what occupational skills do you use?**

______________________________________________________________________

**Have you ever felt that your occupational skills were useless in areas of service to God?**  
❑ Yes  ❑ No

**Can you think of any ways God can use or has used you because of your skills and not just in spite of them?**

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Few things seem less spiritual than keeping a bunch of smelly sheep, yet God used David’s skills for eternal purposes. Those who went to “fetch him” (KJV) could not have easily torn David from his sheep. You can be certain he did not leave his sheep shepherdless. Someone had to stay in his place while he ran home. Later we see evidence that he returned to his sheep after receiving an anointing he tried to understand (v. 19). When David arrived at home, Samuel saw that he was “ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.” Still, Samuel did not move. He had already made a mistake based on appearances. Then God said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”

**Look at 1 Samuel 16:13 and complete the verse: “Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on ________**

______________________________________________________________________

As we study the life of this shepherd boy, we will no doubt see the Holy Spirit’s power again and again. Samuel stood before a young lad and with awe and reverence poured the oil on his head. Although the oil surely blurred David’s vision, God’s vision was crystal clear. God had said, “I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons” (1 Sam. 16:1, KJV). The Hebrew word for provided is ra’ah. It means “to see, to look at, view, inspect, regard, to perceive; … to feel; to experience.” Second Chronicles 16:9 says, “the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (NKJV).
That day so many years ago, the eyes of the Lord looked throughout the whole earth and fell upon an obscure little village called Bethlehem. There He found a heart—one like His own. He found a heart that was tender toward little lost sheep, and He showed Himself strong on behalf of that heart, just like He promised.

We have sat in the audience and witnessed the anointing of a man after God's own heart. Now we focus our attention on the remaining verses which complete the bridge connecting the lives of King Saul and young David.

Read 1 Samuel 16:13-23. Verses 13 and 14 tell of two contrasting activities of the Holy Spirit. Describe the two activities of the Spirit and the results that came from them.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

How did David come into Saul’s service?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

What was David’s first position under Saul’s authority?
☐ servant ☐ armor-bearer ☐ guard ☐ cup-bearer ☐ door-keeper

List every description you discover about David in verse 18.
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

What effect did David’s music have on the tormented king?
☐ helped him sleep ☐ felt better ☐ evil spirit left ☐ all of the above

The Holy Spirit had a different relationship with people before Christ died on the cross. Now His Spirit lives in all believers (Rom. 8:9). Before Calvary, the Holy Spirit worked to empower specific types of service rather than to bring a new relationship with God through salvation. Less than 100 people in the Old Testament were ever characterized by the Holy Spirit being on or in them. The Holy Spirit came on only those who were being empowered for specific tasks or positions.

Another important contrast can be drawn between the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Saul’s experience demonstrates that the Holy Spirit could depart from a person. After the atoning death of Christ, the Spirit comes to establish a new and permanent relationship with the believer. The Gospel of John offers believers assurance concerning the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Read John 14:16-17 and explain the assurance we now have.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever been afraid that you might have done something to make the Holy Spirit leave you?  □ Yes  □ No

Read Romans 8:38-39. How do these verses encourage you in your relationship to God through Jesus Christ?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Saul did not have the same assurance we have of the continuing presence of God’s Spirit. We have nothing to compare to Saul’s experience. I can imagine nothing more horrifying than the Holy Spirit leaving me. Unfortunately, the departure of the Holy Spirit did not just leave Saul empty. It left a door open to evil.

Although David’s anointing did not end Saul’s reign as king, it marked the end of the power and favor of God on him. Just as God prepared Abraham for many years before he was ready to assume his position, God thoroughly prepared David for his role as king long before he was crowned.

The exit of the Holy Spirit left Saul open to the torment of an evil spirit. If he had been a man of character, Saul might have cooperated with God to add David to his royal ranks through less painful means, but Saul had already proved himself to be self-centered and rebellious. God used Saul’s selfishness to bring David to the royal courts.

God is sovereign. He allowed the evil spirit to torment Saul. He knows what methods will work to bring about His will. David had to be summoned to the kingdom. God allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul because He knew Saul would seek David’s help.

The Hebrew word for torment is ba’ath which means “to be frightened, to overtake, to strike with fear, to be afraid, to dread, to be terrified, to be overtaken by a sudden terror. It is the strongest form of intimidation.”4 Mentally apply this definition to Saul. God allowed the spirit of fear to come on him. Few things torment me like fear. The fear of the future almost kept us from adopting our son. I remember tossing and turning night after night wondering if he’d love us and if he’d obey us. What if he left us after we fell in love with him? I also experienced fear when my oldest daughter got her driver’s license. What if someone drove her off the road and hurt her? Fear can be disabling.

Think about a time when you were afraid. What caused it?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Saul’s attendants searched for a remedy for his torment. His servants found a young man who could play the harp, and they assured the terrorized king that David’s songs could
comfort Saul’s soul. David used the harp to bring joyful praises to God and relief to the torments of Saul. Many of your favorite Psalms were first sung by David, his voice cracking as a teenager to the accompaniment of a well-worn, deeply loved harp. Surely the sound of its strings called out to many a straying sheep. The words which accompanied it still do.

Look at 1 Samuel 16:18. What is the next piece of information we learn about David after we are told that he played the harp? ____________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

In two simple descriptions, God tells us volumes about a man after His own heart. We are shown that David had the tenderness and the sensitivity of an artist. He was a musician and a songwriter. David did not simply have talent. Talent alone could not have soothed the torment of Saul. David plucked the strings of his harp with tenderness and sensitivity. He chose melodies that ministered to the aching soul. Yet, we are also told he was a warrior, brave and strong. The fingers that gently plucked the strings of a harp could wind fiercely around a sling or a sword. We will see his gentle song turn into a public rebuke as he faces the Philistines.

These complementary parts of David’s character, recorded in 1 Samuel 16:18, will appear throughout our study. David was a complex man. He could be both passionate and withdrawn; dependable and shocking; righteous and wicked—just like us.

We make a big mistake when we consider being gentle and being a man opposite things. My brother who has such a gift to play the piano could also put a basketball through a hoop, but he was told in junior high he had to make a choice between the two. He was forced to choose either band or sports. He went with his greater gift at the cost of being labeled effeminate.

Two qualities I’ve come to admire most in both guys and girls are tenderness and strength. I no longer see them as opposite terms. I’ve come to realize that one without the other leaves an individual incomplete. I deeply desire to be a woman of tenderness and strength because my dearest role model possessed both. Real men can risk being seen as gentle. (And guys, girls love gentlemen!)

Christ Jesus is the artist. He created the world with colors and textures human artists have tried for thousands of years to imitate. Christ Jesus is the musician. He gave the angels their voices. Christ Jesus is the tenderhearted, ministering to our every need.

Christ Jesus is also the warrior, forever leading us in triumphant procession, if only we will follow (2 Cor. 2:14). In our greatest weakness, He is strong. Christ Jesus is the ideal example of both characteristics. He has set an example before us of true manhood and true womanhood. No greater person exists than one who is both tender and strong. David was such a man.
had the privilege of growing up in Sunday School. I could sit in one of those little wooden chairs in a Sunday School room by the time I could stand. I held my mother’s skirt as she walked me to my class as smiling, patient teachers greeted me. I remember the lessons they taught and the pictures they held up to illustrate the stories. It never occurred to me how much easier it would have been for them simply to attend church rather than teach. I’m sure I never said thank you. I should have. Through the stories they told to a bunch of squirming preschoolers, a scary ghost became the living God to me.

We now turn our attention to an account in Scripture that has captured the imaginations of every little boy and girl who ever sat in a circle of small wooden chairs in a Sunday School room. Yes, teacher, some of us were listening. This is the story of David and Goliath. Let’s read it again with joy as if for the very first time.

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-58. In your mind, dress Goliath for battle. Picture the pieces of armor described in verses 5-7.

Why did Jesse send David to the camp where his three older brothers were?
- to take food to his brothers
- to fight against the Philistines with his brothers
- to take food to the commander of their unit
- to bring back assurance of his sons’ well-being

What was promised to the man who killed Goliath?
- He would be heir to Saul’s throne.
- He would receive great wealth.
- He would receive Saul’s daughter in marriage.
- His father’s family would be exempt from taxes.

Describe Eliab’s feelings toward his youngest brother. ____________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Write David’s claim to Saul in verse 37. ____________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Why didn’t David wear Saul’s armor? ____________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Scripture

“The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”
(1 Sam. 17:37).
David's greatest weapon actually was not his sling. Read verse 45 carefully. What was David's most powerful weapon?  ______________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

We have already discovered that David possessed qualities of tenderness and strength. We emphasized the quality of tenderness as seen in the soothing way he played the harp. In his confrontation with Goliath we witness the strength of David as a warrior. David had an outlook on the battle that caused God to bring him victory against all odds. David’s example teaches us the following guidelines to victory.

1. **Take God’s Word over the opinions of others.** Eliab said everything he possibly could to discourage David. He said David didn’t belong, made fun of David’s trade, and accused him of having a big head and improper motivation for being at the battle scene. David’s response, “Now what have I done?” evidenced the fact that Eliab and David were not at odds for the first time. We see David, not only as the warrior, but as the annoying little brother. I can almost picture him running up behind his brothers, throwing his hands over their eyes, and saying, “Guess who?” They apparently weren’t pleased to see him. He could have kept his bread and stayed home for all they cared. I wonder if Eliab’s response resulted from almost being anointed king. The first drop of oil had almost fallen on his head when God stopped Samuel and chided him for looking on the outward appearance. For whatever reason, Eliab was very critical of David.

I’m not sure anyone can encourage or discourage us like family. The views of our family members toward us are pretty convincing, aren’t they? If the people who know us best encourage us the least, we have few chances to develop confidence.

David remained unshaken by Eliab’s criticisms for one reason: David took God’s Word over the opinions of others. As Hebrew lads, David and his brothers heard the promises of victory God made to the nation that would call upon His name. David believed those promises. A verse that I’ve taught my children to memorize that David himself wrote is Psalm 71:5.

Can you remember a time when a family member deeply discouraged you?
❑ Yes  ❑ No

God’s Word tells us we are loved, gifted, and blessed. We can do anything God calls us to do through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). We must develop more confidence in God’s Word than in the opinions of others.

David took God’s Word over the opinions of others, but that’s not all. Let’s look at a second guideline to victory from the example of his life.

2. **Measure the size of your obstacle against the size of your God.** David wanted God to use him to bring Israel victory in the name of the Lord. He had just one obstacle: Goliath. Goliath was over 9 feet tall with over 140 pounds of armor shielding him.
We tend to measure our obstacles against our own strength. We often feel overwhelmed and defeated before the battle even begins. For example, drinking can be one such obstacle. Others may warn of the risk of loss of control, poor judgment, and even alcoholism. A guy may be convinced that God’s will is for him to be healthy. The victory would be good health. But the obstacle is a giant—an addiction that seems much stronger than he is. He is discouraged because he is measuring his obstacle against the size of his strength rather than the size of his God. I am not suggesting that if we measure our obstacles against God, our battles will be effortless. David still had to face his giant obstacle and use the strength he possessed, but his confidence in God caused a simple pebble to hit like a boulder.

Is there an area in your life in which God wants to give you a victory but an obstacle seems too big to overcome? □ Yes  □ No

What obstacle must you overcome? ________________________________________  ___________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

3. Acknowledge an active and living God in your life. The description David often used of his Commander-in-Chief demonstrates another basis for his courage.

How did David refer to God in 1 Samuel 17:26? ________________________________________  ___________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Our victory rests on faith in our God. We’re often intimidated in battle because we are uncertain of our faith. We must remember we don’t stand in victory because of our faith. We stand in victory because of our God. Faith in faith is pointless. Faith in a living, active God moves mountains. Moses acknowledged Jehovah as the living God and led multitudes to freedom from slavery. Joshua acknowledged Jehovah as the living God and led multitudes into the promised land. Daniel acknowledged Jehovah as the living God and the angel shut the mouths of lions. You serve the same God. Are you allowing Him to live smack in the middle of your life? If so, I bet you’ve crossed a few Red Seas, tumbled down a few walls, and escaped a few lions yourself. He is alive. He is active. He wants to make you living proof. Remember, the cross would have been God’s worst defeat had the people not had cause to exclaim, “He’s alive!”

Stories don’t get any better than David and Goliath, do they? Stories like the one we’ve studied today caused the preschooler, who once listened from a baby bear chair, to stand in front of momma bear chairs and teach Sunday School. Some stories are worth retelling. A living God is worth believing.

Meditation

Ask God to be your confidence when faced with the opinions of others who are stumbling blocks to you.

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2Ibid., 774.
4Ibid., 2306.