

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Advent Series

These questions are for the **December 11, 2022**, sermon, "The Bethlehem Story, Part 3." Please read the sermon passage (1 Samuel 16:1-13) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS GOD'S REDEMPTION PLAN FOR HUMANITY UNFOLDS, NOTE . . .

1. The threatening times God might permit. (1-5)
 - a. Samuel's times were extremely draining.
 - i. He was emotionally invested (he had anointed Saul king).
 - ii. He had to travel through Saul's capital city to get to Bethlehem.
 - iii. His life was in danger because of the task God had called him.
 - b. God might bring you to the place you are trying to avoid in order to prove your faith.
 - c. God often uses people who are emotionally weary to accomplish great things.
 - d. Though weary and fearful, Samuel did what the LORD commanded. (4)
2. The strategic process God might use. (6-10)
 - a. Samuel does not know which son is chosen. Eliab physically resembles Saul.
 - b. God does not choose based upon height and appearance. He knows each heart.
 - c. Yet each of Jesse's seven sons, in turn, is rejected.
3. The overlooked people God might choose. (11-13)
 - a. David had been "keeping the sheep," a perfect training ground and foreshadowing.
 - b. When David arrives, God takes the initiative, making it clear that David is the one.
 - c. Samuel anoints him, and the Holy Spirit comes upon David in a special way.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God often uses people who are weary to accomplish great things for his kingdom. How has God used a faithful weary / burdened friend to encourage you?
2. Based on #1, above: What are you learning about faithfulness to God in your season of weariness? What has he asked you to do that seems impossible? How has he shown himself faithful to you?
3. Based on #2, above: God used a process which involved rejecting 7 options. How has God used rejection and dead-ends to lead and guide you? What have you learned when God says, "no"?
4. Based on #3, above: David's early life is characterized by being overlooked, distained and "too small" to something big, but God looks "on the heart." David was content and faithful to God. Are you? In your heart of hearts, what do you want most? How are you an example of contentment and faithfulness? How can you grow in this?