

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13 STUDY NOTES (6/12/22)

“The Rise and Fall of King David” Big Theme: King David helps lead Israel into the greatest moment of prosperity, thriving, and faithfulness that Israel will ever experience. His love for the Lord and Christ-like heart leads to transformation for God’s people. However, David is still a human, and towards the end of his life makes mistakes which lead to pain for him and his kingdom. However, God - the true King - is working to bless His people through it all.

Today’s Context: Today we start at the beginning. We are introduced to David when he’s still a boy and witness the *very* beginning of his life as king of Israel.

Additional Study Notes:

- The beginning of the office of “King” in Israel is a messy one. God foreshadows the role in Deuteronomy 17:14-20, but there, it is specifically stated that God Himself should choose the king. He is to be a king who is defined by his adherence to the law and love of the Lord. Between the books of Joshua and Judges, we see Israel fall into chaos due to their lack of a king (Judges 17:6). In 1 Samuel 8, the people officially ask Samuel for a king. However, their motives are mostly rooted in a desire for worldly power and fame. God and Samuel grant their request for a king, but give them a king that matches their worldly desires. They are given King Saul in 1 Samuel 10, who is impressive on the outside, but frequently acts unfaithfully on the inside. After a while, God officially rejects Saul and sets off to install a *true* king after His own heart, which leads us to David. Earthly kings and leaders of all kinds are important for our growth and development, however, we should never forget that God alone is our ultimate King (1 Sam 8:7).

Discussion Questions

CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Psalm 20? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

TODAY'S TEXT

KNOWING God

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: What are you learning or curious about in your ongoing Bible reading?

GROWING Together

- (6) **If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (7) Why do you think humans need/are drawn to strong leadership?
- (8) Are you satisfied with the Christian relationships you have? Do you feel like you have a good community of Christians to help you grow closer to the Lord? If not, how would you like to pursue this further?
- (9) Who are some of the godly mentors, friends, pastors, and teachers who have impacted your faith walk?
- (10) What does it look like to be godly leaders and friends for those around us?
- (11) How is Christ our perfect King? What does this practically mean for our daily lives?
- (12) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

SHOWING God to Others

- (13) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (14) For next week, spend some time reading 1 Samuel 17:32-40. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (15) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (16) What do we learn about God in this passage? What do you work on more, your insides or your outsides? How and why?
- (17) What do we know about David? If God chose David for his inside vs his appearance what can we assume about David's future?
- (18) God uses David to become a great king and a man after God's heart, how amazing is it that God uses people for great things based on their character? How does that inspire you to be better? How can you share this truth with others?