



# DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

## **Small Group Guide: David, Week 3**

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God's compliance can be a form of punishment when we persist in our own way.
2. Just because God gives us something doesn't mean it's His best for us.
3. Our justifications for what we want often mask our real motivations.
4. Waiting on God's timing is just as important as seeking God's will.
5. Fear and desire for security can drive us away from dependence on God.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### ***Icebreaker Question***

1. Think of a time when you desperately wanted something, got it, and then realized it wasn't what you really needed. What did that experience teach you?

## ***Understanding the Text***

1. **What made Samuel unique among Israel's leaders?**  
How did his triple role as prophet, judge, and priest position him to lead Israel effectively?
2. **Pastor Allen mentioned that God "acquiesced" to the people's demand.** What does this mean? How is this different from God blessing a request?
3. **Review the four reasons Israel gave for wanting a king.** Which were legitimate concerns and which were merely excuses? What was the real underlying issue?

## ***Personal Reflection***

1. **Pastor Allen said, "I've learned that I don't want what God doesn't want me to have."** Share a time when you persisted in asking God for something. What was the outcome? What did you learn?
2. **Israel wanted to be "like all the other nations."** In what ways do we as Christians today struggle with wanting to be like the world around us? What areas of your life might this apply to?
3. **Read Proverbs 1:31 together.** What does it mean to "eat the bitter fruit of living their own way"? Have you experienced this? How did God use that experience to teach you?

## ***Going Deeper***

1. **God had a plan for Israel to have a king, but they jumped ahead of His timing.** How do we discern the difference between God's will and God's timing in our own lives?

2. **Samuel warned the people about the cost of having a king (1 Samuel 8:10-18), but they refused to listen.** Why do we sometimes ignore godly counsel even when we know it's true? What can help us be more receptive?
3. **Pastor Allen mentioned that Israel wanted a king for military protection rather than trusting God.** What are modern equivalents - things we trust in for security instead of trusting God?

## **Practical Application:**

### ***Individual Reflection***

1. Is there something I'm currently demanding from God that might not be His will or timing?
2. What "reasons" am I giving God that might actually be excuses?
3. What am I trusting in for security instead of trusting God?

### ***Group Sharing***

1. What is one area where you need to surrender your will to God's will this week?
2. How can this group pray for you regarding this?

## **Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your plans are always better than ours. Give us wisdom to discern between our will and Your will. Teach us patience to wait on Your timing,

and strengthen us to trust You instead of seeking security in worldly things.

You've heard the needs and concerns we shared: we lift each one to You now. Bring healing, provision, direction, and comfort where they are needed. Help us to recognize Your hand at work and to follow You faithfully.

In Jesus' name, amen.

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## 5-Day Devotional

### Day 1: The Danger of Demanding Our Way

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 8:1-9; Proverbs 1:31

**Devotional:** Israel's demand for a king reveals a timeless spiritual struggle: wanting to dictate terms to God rather than trusting His plan. They had legitimate concerns about Samuel's age and corrupt sons, but these became justifications for rejecting God's direct leadership. How often do we do the same? We craft reasonable arguments for why God should answer our prayers exactly as we envision, forgetting that His perspective is infinitely wiser. God's acquiescence to Israel wasn't a blessing but a consequence. When we persist in our own way, God sometimes allows us to experience the bitter fruit of our choices. Before demanding anything from God, pause and ask: "Am I seeking Your will or justifying my own?" True faith surrenders control, trusting that what God withholds is as loving as what He provides.

### Day 2: The Cost of Comparison

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 8:5, 19-20; Romans 12:2

**Devotional:** "Give us a king like all the other nations have." Israel's request was rooted in comparison and conformity. They looked around at neighboring kingdoms with their impressive armies and palaces, forgetting they possessed something far greater: the presence of the Living God. The desire to be "like everyone else" is a dangerous spiritual trap. It causes us to trade our unique identity and calling for the illusion of belonging. God had set Israel apart, but they viewed their distinctiveness as a disadvantage rather than a privilege. Today, cultural pressure tempts us to conform to measure success, security, and significance by worldly standards. But transformation comes through renewed minds, not cultural conformity. Your difference is your divine design. What God has uniquely given you is far more valuable than what everyone else possesses.

### Day 3: When God's "Yes" Is Actually Discipline

## **Reading: Psalm 106:13-15; James 4:3**

**Devotional:** "He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." Sometimes God's greatest mercy is His "no," and His sternest discipline is His "yes." Israel got their king, but with him came taxation, conscription, and eventually civil war. God warned them clearly of the consequences, yet they insisted. Divine acquiescence isn't always divine approval. When we pray with selfish motives or demand our way despite God's warnings, He may grant our request while allowing us to experience its full weight. This isn't cruelty; it's education. We learn through consequences what we refused to learn through instruction. Before persisting in prayer for something, examine your motives. Are you seeking God's glory or your comfort? His kingdom or your kingdom? Sometimes, the most loving thing God can say is "no" and the most sobering thing He can say is "yes."

## **Day 4: The Wisdom That Comes With Age**

### **Reading: 1 Samuel 8:1-5; Job 12:12; Proverbs 16:31**

**Devotional:** Israel's first complaint was that Samuel was old, implying his age made him ineffective. Yet Scripture consistently honors the wisdom that comes with years. Samuel's age wasn't his weakness; it was his strength. Decades of walking with God, judging Israel, and offering sacrifices had refined his character and deepened his discernment. Our youth-obsessed culture dismisses the elderly, but God's economy operates differently. Gray hair is a crown of glory when found in righteousness. The elders in our lives carry hard-won wisdom lessons learned through failure, faith tested by fire, and a perspective that only time provides. Rather than sidelining those who've walked longest with God, we should seek their counsel. Samuel's age wasn't the problem; Israel's pride was. Who are the "Samuels" in your life whose wisdom you've dismissed? Seek them out. Listen. Learn.

## **Day 5: Waiting for God's Timing**

### **Reading: Deuteronomy 17:14-20; Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

**Devotional:** God always intended Israel to have a king, prophecy declared it, and the Law provided for it. The transition from judges to monarchy was part of His plan. But timing and process matter to God. Israel demanded immediately what God intended eventually. They wanted their way, their timeline, their choice. The result was Saul, a king who looked impressive but whose heart wasn't right. Had they waited, they would have received David, a man after God's own heart. God's delays aren't denials; they're preparations. He's working in the waiting, developing character, arranging circumstances, and preparing hearts. What you're demanding today, God may graciously intend for tomorrow but in a better form, at a better time, through a better process. Patience isn't passive; it's active trust that God's timing is perfect. Stop demanding. Start trusting. What God gives in His time will far exceed what you could seize in yours.