

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Small Group Guide: David, Week 6

Key Takeaways:

1. Loyalty to God Means Obedience

- Saul's repeated disobedience showed disloyalty to God.
- We demonstrate loyalty through obeying God's commands.
- Rebellion against God's clear instructions has serious consequences.

2. God's Timing Requires Moving On

- Samuel mourned excessively for Saul's failure.
- God told Samuel it was time to stop mourning and move forward.
- Sometimes we must let go of past disappointments to embrace God's next assignment.

3. Pattern is Prophecy

- Saul's paranoid violence foreshadowed Herod's massacre.
- God uses historical patterns to reveal future truths.

- Understanding biblical patterns helps us see God's larger plan.

4. **The Purpose of Reconciliation is Fellowship**

- Jesus didn't just die to get us to heaven.
- The primary purpose of atonement is restored fellowship with God.
- The peace offering symbolized sharing a meal with God as honored guests.

5. **God Works in Secret Ways**

- David was anointed without knowing his destiny.
- No one except Samuel and God knew David would be king.
- Sometimes God keeps His plans hidden for our protection and His timing.

Discussion Questions:

Icebreaker Question

1. Have you ever been given an important responsibility without fully understanding why or what it would lead to? How did that feel?

Loyalty and Obedience

1. **Read 1 Samuel 15:11.** What does it mean to be "loyal" to God in practical, everyday terms?
2. Pastor Allen mentioned that Saul's disobedience was a "repetitious pattern." What patterns of disobedience might we fall into without realizing it?
3. How do we balance feeling sorry for someone who has failed while also being appropriately angry about their sin? How did Samuel model this?

Grieving and Moving Forward

1. **Read 1 Samuel 16:1.** Why do you think Samuel struggled to stop mourning for Saul? What made it hard for him to move on?
2. Have you ever had to stop grieving over a person, situation, or lost opportunity in order to move forward with God's next assignment? What helped you make that transition?
3. Pastor Allen mentioned that his dad, George Nolan, would say, "That's enough—move on." How do we know when it's time to stop mourning and move forward with God's plans?

Fear and Secret Missions

1. **Read 1 Samuel 16:2-3.** Samuel was genuinely afraid of Saul. When have you been afraid to obey God because of potential consequences?
2. God told Samuel to go on a "secret mission", to tell the truth (offering a sacrifice) but not reveal everything (anointing the new king). How do we balance honesty with wisdom in sensitive situations?
3. The elders of Bethlehem were afraid when Samuel arrived. How does our reputation affect our ability to minister to others?

Fellowship with God

1. **Read the description of the peace offering.** Pastor Allen stated: "The whole purpose of reconciliation with God is so you can fellowship with Him." How does this change your understanding of salvation?

2. How much of your prayer life is about maintaining fellowship with God versus just asking for things or reciting memorized prayers?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to simply enjoy God's presence rather than just going through religious routines?

Practical Application:

1. **Identify one area where you've been disobedient to God's clear command.** Confess it and create a specific plan to walk in obedience this week.
2. **Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to simply be in God's presence.** Don't ask for anything, just worship, listen, and enjoy fellowship with Him.
3. **Identify one area where God seems to be calling you forward but hasn't revealed all the details.** Take one step of obedience this week, trusting God with the outcome.
4. **If you've been mourning excessively over a person, situation, or lost opportunity, intentionally release it to God.** Ask God to show you His next assignment for your life.

Reflection Questions for Personal Study

1. Am I more loyal to my own plans and comfort, or to God's commands?
2. What am I holding onto that God is telling me to release?

3. How much time do I spend actually fellowshiping with God versus just doing religious activities?
4. Am I willing to obey God even when I don't understand the full picture?
5. How does knowing that "pattern is prophecy" change how I read the Old Testament?

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to you humbled by your Word. Teach us to be loyal to you by obeying your commands, even when it's hard. Where we've mourned over disappointments and failures, give us grace to move forward in faith, trusting that you are not finished with us. When your plans are hidden or only partly revealed, help us to trust your heart and your character. Draw each of us into deeper fellowship with you this week make us aware of your presence, attentive to your voice, and quick to respond. We place ourselves and our future in your hands. In Jesus' name, amen.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Cost of Disobedience

Reading: 1 Samuel 15:10-23

Devotional: Loyalty to God is demonstrated through obedience to His commands. Saul's repeated disobedience revealed a pattern of rebellion that ultimately cost him the kingdom. Samuel's grief over Saul teaches us that sin has consequences not just for ourselves, but for those who love us. When we choose our own way over God's clear instructions, we break fellowship with Him and grieve those who care about our spiritual well-being. Today, examine your life for areas of partial obedience. Are you fully surrendering to God's commands, or are you holding back certain areas? Remember,

obedience isn't about perfection, it's about a heart that desires to honor God in every decision. True loyalty means consistent obedience, even when it's difficult.

Day 2: Moving Beyond Past Failures

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1; Philippians 3:13-14

Devotional: God told Samuel, "You have mourned long enough." Sometimes we become so fixated on past disappointments or failures, whether our own or others', that we miss what God wants to do next. Excessive grief over what has been can paralyze us from embracing what will be. God had already chosen David; it was time for Samuel to move forward. What are you mourning excessively? A failed relationship? A missed opportunity? A spiritual failure? While grief has its place, God calls us to eventually dry our tears and step into His new plans. He hasn't stopped working because something didn't go as planned. Today, ask God to help you release what you've been holding onto and open your hands to receive what He has next for you.

Day 3: The Purpose of Reconciliation

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Leviticus 3:1-5

Devotional: The peace offering reminds us that reconciliation isn't just about forgiveness, it's about fellowship. After atonement comes communion with God. Jesus didn't die merely to get us into heaven; He died to restore our relationship with the Father so we could enjoy His presence daily. How often do we rush through prayer or neglect it altogether, missing the very purpose of our salvation? The peace offering was a meal shared between God and His people, symbolizing friendship and intimacy. You have been invited to God's table as an honored guest. Don't just acknowledge your forgiveness; embrace the fellowship it provides. Today, spend time in God's presence not asking for anything, but simply enjoying communion with Him. Let prayer become conversation, not just a petition.

Day 4: God's Mysterious Preparations

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:6-13; Psalm 78:70-72

Devotional: David was anointed king without knowing it. He received the Spirit's empowerment without understanding the full scope of his calling. Sometimes God prepares us for purposes we cannot yet comprehend. David returned to the sheep fields after his anointing, faithfully tending his father's flock while destiny quietly developed within him. God often works in hidden seasons, anointing us before positioning us, empowering us before revealing His full plan. Your current season of obscurity may be God's preparation room. That job, that responsibility, that seemingly insignificant role God may be using to develop character for a calling you don't yet see. Don't despise small beginnings or hidden seasons. Remain faithful to where God has placed you, knowing He is preparing you for something greater than you can imagine.

Day 5: The Spirit's Mighty Presence

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:13; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18

Devotional: The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day forward. This wasn't a one-time experience but a continuous empowerment for the journey ahead. David would face giants, armies, persecution, and kingship all requiring supernatural strength beyond his natural abilities. The same Spirit that empowered David is available to you. You weren't saved to live in your own strength but to walk in the Spirit's power daily. Whatever God has called you to parenting, ministry, your career, overcoming temptation requires His Spirit's empowerment. This isn't about a one-time experience but a daily filling, a continuous surrender to His presence and power. Today, invite the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh. Acknowledge your need for His power in every area of your life. You cannot fulfill God's purposes in human strength alone.