

# Life Group Guide

## “Potential Beyond the Surface”

March 12-18, 2017

### Prep:

Please make sure to review the material in the guide so you are prepared for the conversation in your Life Group.

### Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group.

### Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation on servanthood

### Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:17-24, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

#### Saul Proclaimed King

**17** Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. **18** And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ **19** But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.”

**20** Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. **21** He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot;<sup>[e]</sup> and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. **22** So they inquired again of the Lord, “Is there a man still to come?” and the Lord said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.” **23** Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. **24** And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

#### Samuel Anoints David

**1** The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

**2** But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”

**3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” **4** Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

**5** Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

**6** When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

**7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**8** Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” **9** Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” **10** Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” **11** So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

**12** So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

**13** So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

## Reflection/Vision Statement Time

- We recommend taking about 4-5 minutes for people to reflect after the passage. But before you do, say something like:
  - “I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on this passage and the video, come up with any questions, connections, or what the passage says to you tonight.” Ask people to think about the differences between why and how Saul was chosen as king versus David. Encourage your group to really read into the richness of the passage and to build their answers off of the content.

## Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

**Context:** Saul was anointed as the first King of Israel- however, as Pastor Bob spoke about last Sunday, it didn't take him long to lose the favor of God. When winning a military victory, Saul disobeyed a direct command from God to sacrifice the spoils of war in attempt to seem more powerful and impressive. He even refused to execute the enemy king so that he could parade him around as a trophy of war. From this moment on, Saul's authority begins to slip away without the power of the Spirit of God behind him. He begins to jealously guard his position and authority. Soon, it becomes clear that another King will need to be selected. David and Saul start their career and live out their kingship in very different ways. Ultimately, they leave very different legacies.

**Question:** What are some qualities that you believe an influential person possesses?

**Question:** What are some qualities that you believe incompetent or uninfluential people possess?

**Question:** What are the differences you see between why David and Saul were chosen to be king? (*eg.- Saul is TALL, outwardly kingly. He is chosen in a process driven by the FEAR of not having a ruler. David is young and less developed physically, but God sees his HEART in verse 7 of chapter 16*)

**Observation:** While Saul is recognized for being a capable and imposing man, David is essentially a hidden gem. He is not famous, he doesn't come from a big city, and he isn't even the most (outwardly) impressive man in his own family. But God chooses *him*.

**Question:** Judging from the passage, what do you think it is about David's heart that impresses God so much, and qualifies him to lead?

**Observation:** Just because other people don't see the external physical evidence of it yet, doesn't mean that David is unqualified. He has cultivated bravery through defending his sheep from lions, responsibility by watching and grooming a flock for years, and a heart of worship from the time he spent singing to God on his harp. These were gifts that were developed out of the limelight, in a *secret* place, but now they will for the first time be promoted on a public scale.

**Question:** Have you ever felt like God was doing a work in you that was preparing you for something, but nobody noticed or knew about it? What was it? Was it hard to keep investing without seeing the tangible fruit or getting affirmation from others? Did you ever see the work come to pass?

**Question:** Have you ever overlooked greatness in someone else because they didn't fit the image of what you thought it *should* look like? What about in yourself?

**Observation:** David spent years cultivating the qualities that would make him a Godly leader. However, it took an *outside* voice to call out these qualities in a way that launched him into a new season of fruitfulness. The passage says that the Spirit of God empowered David only after he had been *anointed* by Samuel *in front of his brothers*.

**Observation:** Our calling was designed to be activated by affirmation. Likewise, our affirmation was intended to activate *others*.

**Question:** Who is someone in your life that recognized the hidden gold and called it out of you? How did they do that, and how did this affect you going forward?

**Observation:** When looking back at the comparison between David and Saul, which of the two do you resonate with the most? Do you feel like you are striving to promote yourself like Saul, or do you feel like you are in a season of cultivating your gifts in secret like David?

**Prayer:**

**(LIFE GROUP LEADERS):** Pray for those who are working in the secret place to be faithful to something God has called them to. Offer prayer for people in your group who are struggling to see their own potential. We believe God can release the power of His Spirit

