

# March 30 – April 5

Connect with God | The Lord looks on the heart

**Icebreaker:** When you think of a king what qualities come to mind? How important are these qualities when it comes to connecting with God?

*In this session, we will consider that to connect with God we must focus on qualities beyond what most people would be looking for in a king.*

## Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13

- What led God to reject him as king? (See 1 Samuel 15)
- Have you ever had to move on from something or someone you deeply cared about, even when you knew it was necessary? How does that compare to Samuel's grief?
- Why was Samuel afraid of going to Bethlehem? Why were the people of Bethlehem afraid as he arrived?
- What traits was Samuel expecting in a king, based on his reaction to Jesse's sons? How do these expectations mirror Saul's qualities in 1 Samuel 9:1–2?
- Re-read the key verse 1 Samuel 16:7
  - What does this tell us about what people value?
  - What does this tell us about God's values?
- What does this passage reveal about David's physical traits? What hints do we get about his spiritual readiness, even as he is overlooked by his family?
- What set David apart from what would have been typical of kings? How might this have surprised Samuel, Jesse, or even David himself?
- How would you have responded to all of this if you were David?
- How would you have responded to this if you were David's brother?
- What does the Spirit's presence on David show about God's empowerment? How does this compare to the Holy Spirit's role in believers today (e.g., Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 12)?

## Application

- What is it about appearance and strength that naturally draws us in, and how does culture reinforce this?
- Talk about a time you struggled with comparing yourself to others based on appearance or abilities. How does this passage challenge you to think differently?
- David wasn't weak or ugly—yet God prioritized his heart. How can we appreciate beauty and strength without losing the priority of the heart?
- How might obsessing over looks or achievements distract us from God, like it did for Saul or Samuel?
- What's one habit you could start this week to focus more on your heart?
- How could prioritizing the heart over externals free us from things like insecurity, comparison, or pride?