

Be a Man After God's Heart: Life of David Study One Anointed

"¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David."¹ At the end of the Book of Ruth, we find the first mention of King David as Ruth's great grandson. This will be the first of close to 1,000 mentions of his name in the Bible, making him one of our most noted figures and certainly worth our fervent study. As we embark on this incredible journey of David's life and discover what it means to "be a man after God's heart," we are confident you will find hope and inspiration. We begin by making note of David's family history and the history of the Prophet Samuel. Both men came from families that faced many trials victoriously, leaving a legacy of heart and fight that can be traced in their lives.

In the story of Ruth, Naomi, her mother-in-law, faces the death of her two sons and her husband while in a foreign land called Moab, avoiding a famine in Israel. This loss was devastating to her and she was left with the two wives of her children: Ruth and Orpah. Ruth decides to stay with Naomi and care for her, forfeiting her chances of marriage and her reputation due to her Moabite origins. However, God honors Ruth's selflessness and not only redeems her reputation, He gives her an honorable husband and a son, Obed. Ruth and Naomi arise from a place of grief, loss, and devastation to a place of joy, peace, and power as members of Boaz's household. These are David's roots, this is where his story begins; from grief to glory and from poverty to influence.

David, much like his great-grandmother, is loyal, selfless, full of faith, and courageous. David was blessed to have such a strong family history and generational heritage from God through Ruth. He demonstrates faith and courage while privately killing lions and bears as a young shepherd boy, and publicly killing Goliath, the giant from Gath. From the beginning of Ruth's life we see that absolute abandon to God and His will is preeminent. Likewise, from the beginning of David's life, we see that same devotion to God as a young musician in the fields and in the palace playing for King Saul.

God truly was so good to David, he never stopped putting people in his life, before his birth and after, with powerful stories and humble hearts to look at and learn from. In 1 Samuel 16, David meets the prophet Samuel. Samuel plays a huge role in David's life. He took the time to hear from God on David's behalf and obeyed God by anointing David as the next king of Israel.

Like David, Samuel's story begins from a place of deep discouragement and devastation. His mother, Hannah, was unable to conceive and was tormented again and again by a "rival" because she was not able to bear children (which was considered a curse in those days). However, Hannah was a praying woman, and she told the Lord that if He gave her a son, she would give him back to God for His service all the days of his life. God granted her prayer, giving her Samuel. Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord and when he was a young boy she brought him to the priest Eli to live in the temple and minister to the Lord. Hence, Samuel grew up as a priest, ministered to God night and day, and was reserved for His service. This was the man who believed in and imparted God's anointing to King David.

¹ The Holy Bible, NIV, Ruth 4:16-17

After Samuel anointed him, David was never the same. “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.”² David received a great gift that day: supernatural power from the Holy Spirit. From then on, the Holy Spirit would be “upon” him to make him prosper and succeed in all he put his heart to.³ This humble, ceremonial anointing in front of his family, by Samuel, would mark the beginning of a transition for David. God marked him with His Spirit and it made a difference, a powerful difference.

As we study and marvel at David’s life, we must think about the important people God placed around him to move him forward into his holy calling and the gift of His Holy Spirit. David was great before his meeting with Samuel, but after, he left with the ultimate Helper. He didn’t walk alone and neither can we. So as a man who is chosen by God, don’t forget, you are anointed, the Spirit is in you, He is able to help you prosper and succeed in all God has called you to do!

Scripture Reading, NIV

1 Samuel 3:1-4, 19-21

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was.⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel...¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel

² *The Holy Bible*, NIV, 1 Samuel 16:13

³ *power* or *might* can be transliterated from the Hebrew word *tsalach*, meaning “to prosper or make succeed.”

as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.²¹ The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.”

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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."

1 Samuel 17: 32-37

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." ³³ Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Partner Assignment:

1. Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7, *"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.'"*
2. Read 1 Samuel Chapters 1, 16, 17, and Psalm 18 and 23.

3. Please meet with your prayer partner from this week to discuss the following questions on the chapters assigned for this week:
 - A. What about Samuel's story in chapter one is the most striking to you?
 - B. How do you think David felt being anointed as King and then playing music before King Saul? How does David demonstrate patience and solid character playing before King Saul?
 - C. In what ways did God speak to you when you read Psalm 18 and 23?

Sample Questions

Pre-Article Questions:

1. How has God used other people to influence you in your calling/draw you closer to Himself?
2. What do you think of when you hear the word "anointing"?

Text Questions:

1. In 1 Samuel 3: 1-4, Samuel was lying by the "Ark of God" when God spoke to him. Does anyone know anything about the "Ark of the Covenant," also known as the "Ark of the Testimony"? What did it represent? What do these verses say about Samuel and his priorities? *Hint: The Ark represented God's faithfulness to His people marked by His presence.*
2. Read part of Samuel's farewell speech to the Israelites in 1 Samuel 12:20-25, and think about the 1 Samuel 3 passages and 1 Samuel 16 passage. What else can you

gather about Samuel's relationship with God and his character from these readings?

3. What about 1 Samuel 16 moves you and why? How does Samuel impact David's life in Chapter 16?
4. What does our passage in 1 Samuel 17 reveal about David's character and heart?

5. Who is God putting around you to help you stay faithful to the task He has given you this semester?

Application Questions:

1. How does Samuel's character and heart inspire you and challenge you as a man of God?
2. Why does God choose David over his brothers? Have you ever been a situation where you judged someone's character and heart by their physical appearance? What was the result?
3. Why is it important as a man of God to have a "Samuel" in your life? What are some things that hold us back from actively pursuing an older man of God to pour into our lives and how can we overcome those obstacles? At David's anointing, the Holy Spirit came upon him in power from that day forward to help him succeed in all he did. Read Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 5:5, and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. How do these scriptures encourage you, knowing that the Holy Spirit who came upon David lives inside of you upon conversion? How have you viewed the Holy Spirit in your life? In what ways has the Holy Spirit made a difference in your walk with God?
4. David was a shepherd boy who became a king because his heart was steadfast. Like David, how can you serve God faithfully in the little now so that you may be responsible for much later? How can our small group help?