



SMALL GROUP STUDY

A Prophet, A Politician, and A Poet

The second half of 1 Samuel tells the story of David, a man after God's own heart; Samuel, a prophet of God; and, Saul, the king who is more concerned with his own reputation than he is with his character. Three men who all started well; three men who all had flaws in their character.

Samuel

Samuel mourns for King Saul because the Lord has rejected Saul as king over Israel. But God tells Samuel to stop grieving, to get his oil and to go and anoint the new King, one of the sons of Jesse, the Bethlehemite.

Discussion Questions:

- a. How many times was David anointed as king of Israel?
- b. Why did God not choose Jesse's oldest son as the king?
- c. What is the difference in how man chooses leaders vs how God chooses leaders.
- d. What was Samuel's standard in choosing a king, what was Jesse's, what was God's?

Saul

The spirit of the Lord left Saul and Saul behaves very irrationally throughout the rest of the book. He is the king, but he is not walking with God. Whenever he sees the Lord's hand on David and others, Saul is jealous. Because of his jealousy he wants to kill David. David escapes the point of Saul's spear twice. In the end, Saul comes to a tragic end.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why did God quit speaking to Saul?
- b. Who does Saul consult with that God specifically forbade? Why did he consult with her?
- c. In what circumstance does Saul confess to David that he has erred and is a fool?
- d. How did Saul die?
- e. How could King Saul have ended differently, better?
- f. Examine your heart: Are there areas of your life where you are stubborn and have isolated yourself from others?

David

David was accepted in the sight of all the people. He behaved himself wherever he went. This makes King Saul nuts and David ends up becoming a fugitive in order to escape the murderous wrath of King Saul. On two separate occasions David has the opportunity to take the life of Saul, his enemy. However, he says he cannot kill the Lord's anointed and spares Saul's life.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why did David not retaliate when King Saul tried to kill him.
- b. What lessons can you learn from this when people throw spears at you, when they say things about you that are not true?
- c. Who is Abigail and, under what circumstances do her and David meet?