

FLAWED HERO

THE LIFE OF DAVID

WEEK 1

May 23/24, 2015

The king before The King



This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Every hero has flaws, even the ones we read about in the Bible. In the life of David—a king of Israel and a man after God's own heart—we see a hero with glimpses of greatness and wounds of pride. Through David's failures, challenges, and triumphs, we see a greater Hero. The hero was not David, but God Himself. God humbled David and pointed people back to the one, true, King.

MAIN TEXT

1 Samuel 16:1-13, ESV

GETTING STARTED

Which Old Testament character is your favorite? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. When you think of David, what comes to mind? Is there one story in particular that stands out to you, or certain characteristics that you think of when you hear his name?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 out loud as a group. Why did Samuel travel to Bethlehem? What was the difference in how Samuel was evaluating the men and how God was? What can we learn from this?
3. David was initially overlooked by his father and brothers and wasn't invited to the sacrifice. What were some of the reasons why David's family would've overlooked him? How might've his brothers felt watching as David was chosen and anointed by Samuel? Have you ever felt bitter about God's calling in someone else's life?

4. Nobody expected a shepherd boy (David) to be the greatest king of Israel, just like nobody expected someone who was born in a barn (Jesus) to be the Savior of the world. As you were growing up, were there expectations for your future from the people around you?
5. From God's selection of David, we see that God's choice tends not to be the world's choice. Have you ever made a decision that got criticism from others, but you still went through with it? What was the result?
6. This weekend, we learned that once God chooses us, we must respond with humility and service. Jesus set the example for these two characteristics in Philippians 2:5-8. Read that passage out loud as a group. What does a proper posture of humility look like? What is the difference between being negative about your value or worth and being truly humble?

NEXT STEPS

We learn from the story of David that the Lord uses people whose character overshadows their capability. Our character is a reflection of our heart. Character doesn't mean perfection. David had character, but he was far from perfect. He fell hard, more than once. That's why this series is called *Flawed Hero*. However, David still pursued the Lord and was described as a man after God's own heart.

Examine yourself: How's your heart? Is your heart about you (your agenda, advancement, and happiness), or is your heart pointed to and focused on Christ?

Discuss as a group: What is one thing you can take away from God's selection of David and apply to your life this week?