

1 Samuel 16:1–13 | God
Looks at the Heart
Small group study

“ People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Introduction After Saul's failure as king, God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from Jesse's family. Samuel is immediately impressed by Eliab, Jesse's eldest son. But God sees something Samuel cannot see. David, the youngest son, is not even invited to the gathering. He is out tending sheep. Yet he is the one God chooses. This story invites us to reflect on how easily we judge others by outward appearances and how differently God sees people.

Opening Reflection

Has there been a person who surprised you as you got to know them better.. What was it about that person that changed your first impression?

Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 together.

1. Letting go of the past (vv. 1–3)

Samuel is still grieving over Saul when God calls him to a new task. Why do you think Samuel finds it difficult to move forward? What might this teach us about trusting God when things do not turn out as we hoped?

2. The danger of first impressions (vv. 6–7)

Even Samuel, an experienced prophet, assumes Eliab must be God's chosen king because of his appearance. Why are we so easily impressed by appearance, personality, confidence, or achievements? How might these impressions influence our judgments of others?

3. The one who was overlooked (vv. 8–11)

Why do you think Jesse did not volunteer David to Samuel?. What does David's absence suggest about his place in the family? Have you ever felt overlooked or underestimated? How did that experience affect you?

4. Seeing as God sees (v. 7)

God tells Samuel that He looks at the heart. What do you think this means? How might we look beyond outward appearances? In what ways might this value change the way we see others?

5. Learning to discern together (vv. 12–13)

David was an unexpected choice, but God saw something others had missed. As a church community, how might we become more attentive to people whose gifts, character, or potential are easily overlooked? What might this passage teach us as we discern the kind of shepherd God is calling to serve our congregation?

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Personal reflection: Who in your life might you need to see differently? And what might God be inviting you to examine in your own heart? Prayer.

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「人看外貌，耶和華卻看人心。」

引言 掃羅作為君王失敗後，上帝差遣撒母耳前往伯利恆，從耶西的家族中膏立一位新王。撒母耳起初對耶西的大兒子以利亞伯印象深刻。但上帝看見了撒母耳所無法看見的。最小的兒子大衛甚至沒有被邀請參加這次聚會，當時他正在外面放羊。然而，他正是上帝所揀選的那一位。這個故事邀請我們反思：我們是多麼容易根據外表來評判他人，而神的眼光又是何等不同。

開場反思

有沒有這樣一個人，當你更深入了解他時，卻讓你感到意外？是那個人的哪一點改變了你最初的印象？

請一同閱讀《撒母耳記上》16:1–13。

1. 放下過去（第 1–3 節）

當上帝呼召撒母耳承擔新任務時，他仍在為掃羅哀悼。你認為撒母耳為何難以向前邁進？當事情不如我們所願時，這對我們信靠上帝有何啟示？

2. 第一印象的危險（第 6–7 節）

就連經驗豐富的先知撒母耳，也因以利亞伯的外表而認定他必定是神所揀選的王。為何我們如此容易被外表、個性、自信或成就所吸引？這些印象又會如何影響我們對他人的判斷呢？

3. 被忽視的那一位（第 8–11 節）

你認為耶西為何沒有主動向撒母耳推薦大衛？大衛的缺席暗示了他在家中的地位為何？你是否曾感到被忽視或被低估？那樣的經歷對你產生了什麼影響？

4. 以上帝的眼光看人（第 7 節）

神告訴撒母耳，祂看人的心。你認為這意味著什麼？我們該如何超越外表來看人？這個價值觀會如何改變我們看待他人的方式？

5. 學習一同明辨（第 12–13 節）

大衛是個出人意料的人選，但神看見了別人所忽略的特質。作為教會群體，我們該如何更留意那些因恩賜、品格或潛力而容易被忽略的人？當我們辨明神呼召何種牧者來服事我們的會眾時，這段經文能教導我們什麼？

結語反思與禱告

個人反思：在你生命中，有哪些人你或許需要以不同的眼光看待？神又邀請你檢視自己內心中的什麼呢？禱告。