

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 30-May 6, 2023
"THE NOBODY THAT GOD NOTICES"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you were hiring someone for a higher position, what's the one skill they absolutely must have?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. In this passage, God tells Samuel not to judge based on outward appearances, but to look at the heart. How does Samuel's initial reaction to Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, reflect common biases and prejudices we may have? In what ways can we apply the lesson of "man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" in our daily lives and interactions with others?
2. When David was anointed, he was just a young shepherd boy. How can this story encourage us to trust God's plan for our lives, even when we don't feel qualified or ready for what he has in store for us?
3. Samuel was hesitant to anoint David because he was afraid of the consequences if Saul found out. What fears or concerns do we have when it comes to following God's plan for our lives, and how can we overcome them?
4. David's anointing was a private event, known only to Samuel and David's family. How can we find joy in serving God even when our work goes unnoticed or unappreciated by others?
5. The passage shows that even though David was anointed as the future king, he won't immediately become king until 10-15 years later. What can we learn from David's waiting period, and how can we learn to trust God's timing in our own lives?
6. What qualities do you think God values in a leader, and how do these qualities compare to what society values in leaders today? How can we apply the message of this passage to our own leadership roles, whether in our families, communities, school, or workplaces?

7. NEXT STEPS

God notices the unnoticed, sees the unseen, and values the undervalued.

- ☐ Though I don't know the future, God knows and has gone ahead. I will trust in him.
- ☐ I will strive to see people as God does and look for their inner qualities and not judge them by their outward appearance.
- ☐ I will base my identity in the fact that God knows me and values me and not in what the world says.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that trusts in God's sovereignty and the joy of knowing that he loves and values you.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

May 1 1 Samuel 16:1-13
May 2 1 Samuel 16:14-23
May 3 1 Samuel 17
May 4 1 Samuel 18
May 5 1 Samuel 19
May 6 1 Samuel 20
May 7 1 Samuel 21