



## PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

## LESSON 9 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

1. What was your takeaway from last week's study on **Esther's fast** that was helpful to you?

**SAMUEL - SEEKING DIRECTION**

Samuel was dedicated to the Lord as a very young boy, faithfully serving as a respected prophet, judge and priest to Israel. Late in his life, Israel's Elders asked for a king like the surrounding nations, God led Samuel to anoint Saul as the first king of Israel.

2. Pray as you read about Samuel seeking direction from God in **1 Samuel 16:1-13**; describe a time where you have sought direction from God (maybe you are in that season now).
3. At the time of anointing Saul as Israel's first king, Samuel gave clear instructions that Saul was to follow. Summarize what they were, Saul's actions, and resulting consequences in **1 Samuel 10:8** and **1 Samuel 13:8-14**.
4. How did Samuel describe the quality God was seeking in the man who would be appointed as the next leader of Israel (**1 Samuel 13:14**), and what do you think that means?

5. **Read 1 Samuel 15:10-11.** What words or phrases describe God's disappointment with Saul's disobedience. How did Samuel respond and why do you think he responded this way?
6. Summarize the conversation God has with Samuel and the task the Lord gave him in **1 Samuel 16:1-3.**
7. a) According to 1 Samuel 16:4-7, what do you love or appreciate about Samuel's response, and how did God surprise Samuel?
- b) What powerful truth(s) is(are) imbedded in **V7**? What are some situations in which you tend to look at the outward instead of the inward qualities in someone?
8. **Read 1 Samuel 16:8-13.** Samuel went through a process to determine which of Jesse's sons was God's choice. Why do you think God did not just tell him who to anoint and how could you personally apply this process as you go through a decision-making?

9. Consider how Samuel was directed by God throughout his life as a prophet in Israel as you read David's words in **Psalm 25:8-9**. List any attributes of God you find and tell how they encourage you as you seek His direction.

10. HEART REFLECTION

**Psalm 73:23-26** "Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Write a prayer concerning any areas of your life for which you are seeking God's guidance. Try to incorporate words or phrases from **Psalm 73** (above) and from the **1 Samuel** passage this week.

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PRAYER REQUEST