**WEEK 4 | 1 SAMUEL 16-20 | WAITING ON GOD**

HOMEWORK: Read 1 Samuel chapters 16 – 20

Compare and contrast David’s identification and anointing in 1 Sam. 16 to Saul’s in 1 Sam. 9-10. The key difference is in 1 Sam. 16:7 (also see 1 Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22).

* Why do you think God anointed Saul in the first place?

Read Proverbs 4:23, Mark 7:20-23, and Luke 6:45. “The ‘heart’ in Scripture refers to a person’s inward moral and spiritual life, including the emotions, will, and reason”

(ESV Study Bible).

* What can you do to “guard your heart”?

Consider what happens to Saul in 1 Sam. 10:10 and David in 1 Sam. 16:13 versus what happens to Saul in 1 Sam. 16:14. Notice that both the Spirit and the harmful spirit are “of/from the Lord.”

* How do you reconcile that God is good, yet sent this harmful spirit?

1 Sam. 17 is the story of David and Goliath, likely a very familiar story to many, so there is a temptation to scan over the reading quickly. Try to read it more contemplatively instead, even if this is your first time actually reading it in your Bible.

* Read it more than once; visualize yourself in the story in various parts.
* How do the Israelite soldiers feel as Goliath taunts them daily? Then after he is defeated? Why doesn’t Saul step up to lead?
* How does David feel before and after this battle? Imagine how his trust in God, already strong, was bolstered by this event!

Saul quickly moves from appreciating David to being jealous of him, so much so that he tries to kill David repeatedly! Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, James 3:16, and Galatians 5:19-21. We don’t talk about the sin of jealousy as much as other sins in that list.

* Why do you think that is? Why is jealousy a sin?
* Do you struggle with jealousy? How can you overcome it?

This section of 1 Samuel shows significant ups and downs in David’s life: his anointing and his defeat of Goliath are followed by Saul trying to kill David several times, both indirectly (sending him into battle) and directly, ultimately causing David to flee. Yet David never tried to take matters into his own hands to overthrow Saul.

* How do you think David was able to remain patient and wait on God to make him king, even through the ups and downs?
* What did Saul’s impatience in 1 Sam. 13:8-14 cost him?
* Why do you think we’re so often tempted to take matters into our own hands rather than wait on God?

God is often described as patient: see Exodus 34:5-7, Psalm 86:15, Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:8-9, 15. Patience is also a fruit of the Spirit: see Galatians 5:22-23.

* How have you experienced God’s patience in your life?
* Do you think David’s patience is part of the evidence that he is a man after God’s heart (1 Sam. 13:14)?
* Would you describe yourself as patient? If not, how can you cultivate this fruit of the Spirit and a heart like God’s?

Read Proverbs 18:24. David and Jonathan appear to have this kind of deep friendship/ brotherhood, built on a mutual trust in, and service to, the Lord.

* Do you have friendships like this?
* Are you building them in your Life Group? If not, how can you start?

**\*Come prepared this week to discuss the waiting on God.**