

# king's chapel

*Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of May 13, 2018

**This Week's Focus:** The love and acceptance that truly matters and that we all long for is only found in Jesus Christ.

**This Week's Text:** 1 Samuel 16

"What does it mean to be a person after God's own heart? Seems to me, it means that you are a person whose life is in harmony with the Lord. What is important to Him is important to you. What burdens Him burdens you. When He says, 'Go to the right,' you go to the right. When he says, 'Stop that in your life,' you stop it. When He says, 'This is wrong, and I want you to change,' you come to terms with it because you have a heart for God." **Chuck Swindoll**

**Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What is Samuel grieving at the beginning of chapter 16? Why did God reject Saul as leader over Israel? Give some examples of how Saul had rejected God's word over the course of his reign.
- Why do you think the elders of Bethlehem "trembled" as they greeted the prophet Samuel?
- Why does Samuel conclude that Eliab is God's anointed? What characteristics do you overvalue and use as a standard to judge others? What appearances do you work hard to maintain that have become your identity?
- Discuss what it means that God "looks on the heart." How did God teach Samuel (and us) this important lesson?
- According to God's word, what is the default condition of every human heart? Reference Genesis 6:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-12. Was there anything about David that solicited God's favor and anointing? Are you trusting in your own accomplishments to gain God's favor and love or in Jesus Christ?
- How did God equip David to lead his people Israel? What was the Holy Spirit's role in Old Testament times? How is it different from how the Spirit works in us and the world today? Reference Ephesians 1:13, Acts 1:8, John 16:7-11, 1 Peter 1:2.

- What judgement did God send Saul for his defiant disobedience? How do we reconcile the fact that God is good and that he also uses evil according to his just purposes? Reference Isaiah 45:6-7, Job 2:10.
- Discuss the difference between Saul's oppression and the Apostle Paul's "thorn in the flesh". Reference 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.
- Is God's sovereign power over the universe a source of encouragement and comfort to you?
- How did God graciously supply the relief to Saul's oppression?
- How does this passage point to the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ? How does this passage encourage you to live on mission declaring and demonstrating the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?