

York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 17th October 2021

The King and I - Humble Beginnings
1 Samuel 16:1-13



These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.



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GETTING STARTED

Q1. When you think of faith and God, what is something you have experienced in your life?

Q2. What priorities do you have in life? Family, work, friends, etc. If you were to list these, would God be at the very top of the list? Only Jesus was perfect in that he never sinned, which means each one of us has had and will have times when God slips down this priority list. It's when we surrender the list to God and place him at the top that we allow God's rule to lead us each and every day. Can you remember the last time you asked God to rearrange your priorities? Do you want to ask him to do that now?

INTO THE WORD

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Q3. No matter what your background, God looks at the heart. Often, we have an expectation of the 'perfect Christian,' or what someone should look or act like, however scripture shows us that it's often the unlikely people that God uses to show His greatest achievements: Moses the murderer, David the youngest, and even tax collectors. What do you think this means for us? What does it mean to have a 'heart' that God looks for?

Read Luke 2:7

Q4. Have you ever thought, "How could God understand or forgive what I have done?" God's master plan shows that Jesus experienced it all, he was born into a manger, had his family disown him (Mark 3:31), his friends left him (Mark 14:50), one denied even knowing him (Luke 22:54-62), he was plotted against, beaten, falsely accused, imprisoned, whipped, spat on, and hung on a cross... and while he was there, what did he do? He forgave us (Luke 32:34-46). He even forgave the criminal who deserved the punishment (Luke 23:40-42). Jesus understands what you are going through and loves you enough to embrace you where you are at; the humble beginning of a journey and relationship with Him starts today. Place Jesus as the Lord and "King" of your life and the priorities and pressures of life will align with His. How can you allow Jesus to take control of the priorities that need alignment?

GOING DEEPER

This study changes tone here, you can spend time praying about aligning your priorities or do some study on how a loving God seeks to destroy evil in the Old Testament (OT) times.

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-7, 1 Samuel 15:3, and 1 Samuel 15:7-11,

Q5. God tests King Saul (1 Samuel 15:3), calling for the destruction of a nation. How can a loving God ask for this kind of destruction? God seeks to protect His people from corruption, but also seeks justice, often we read a passage like this and think that this God in the OT cant be the loving God that sent his Son. However, we need to understand some context to see the WHY God asked Saul to destroy the Amelekites.

Read Exodus 17:8 and Numbers 14:43 and 45

We see that since Exodus the Amalekites are attacking and killing God's people. We read in Deuteronomy of how evil they were.

Deuteronomy 25

¹⁷Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. ¹⁸When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. ¹⁹When the Lord your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

We see again in Judges how much of a problem they were, such as in Judges 3:3 and Judges 6:3.

God wanted to save his people from the evil deeds of the Amalekites and answer the prayers of his people to save them from this evil nation.

Saul however did not obey, and put his own ego, pride, lust, and greed before God's rule. It was these decisions that would result in God's people being exiled later in the OT as other nations influenced the Israelites.

Pray

Loving Father, we thank you that you that no matter how we started off in life you have a mighty plan for us. Give us the strength and courage to follow your plan, to hold firm to your rule and in doing so live a life of freedom knowing that your master plan is greater than we could ever understand. In Jesus' name, amen.