

*The Vine***Week One: Who Are You?**

May 11 – May 17, 2008

Welcome to another series of The Vine. For the next few weeks, we will be tracking different aspects of David's life through 1 & 2 Samuel. In this first issue, we will be looking at how David came on the scene. We don't have a birth story for David. When we meet him in chapter 16, he is busy shepherding the flock, unaware that he is about to be anointed and step into history as one of the best known kings of all time.

Once again we will be using the Inductive Study Method in The Vine. This involves three steps. The first step is **observation**. You will notice that some of the questions are designed to have you look directly into the text to find facts, to find connections, to find anything as long as it is in the text. Don't go over this step too quickly because it is critical for the upcoming steps. The second step is **interpretation** where we take what we learned in the previous step and tie it together to find out what the main ideas are in the text. Why did the author write this? What would the original hearers thought of this? Once we have considered those two steps, we can proceed to the third step which is **application**. How do the main ideas in this text affect me, my heart, my actions, my beliefs today? (If you wish to learn more about this method, go to [www.thirstytree.org/study.html](http://www.thirstytree.org/study.html).)

As we look at the text in 1 Samuel, one of the things we are going to notice is the difference between David and the other people. What makes someone a good king? What makes someone a good person? How are your external appearance and inner heart related? These are some of the concepts that we are going to sift out of the text. Be prayerful. Be diligent. Be open and ask the Lord to speak to your heart.

*First Encounter***Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.**

What is the Lord's attitude toward Saul? (Also see 1 Samuel 13:13-14.)  
What is Samuel's attitude toward Saul? Why does Samuel feel this way?

Saul was the people's choice. How is David going to be different?

## Samuel & Saul

Who is this guy Samuel? His birth and calling are explained in the first chapters of 1 Samuel. He lived during a period of transition when the people of Israel changed from being led by judges to being led by kings. When the Israelites ask for a king, they go to Samuel and Samuel goes to God. He acts as the last of the judges and the first of the prophets. In 1 Samuel 9, in response to the people's demand, Samuel anoints Saul, the first king of Israel. Saul looks the part of a king, "an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites—a head taller than any of the others." Saul has some military success, but it soon becomes clear that his goal is to honor himself and not the Lord.

Look at 1 Samuel 15:32-33. Why would the elders respond to Samuel as they did?

[Note: Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:17)] How would you feel if you were Jesse throughout this day?

We will continue this passage in the next encounter. But for today, notice how much value we place on how people look. On physical appearance. On job titles.


**Prayer Reflection:** Lord, help me to see myself and others as you see us. Cultivate my heart to be a heart that pleases you.

## *Second Encounter*

**Read all 23 verses of 1 Samuel 16.**

What was the initial response to Eliab? Why? What would have happened if he was installed as king? How is it an advantage if your king looks like a king?

List all the things it says about David in this passage.



How many significant things happened in verse 13? Which is the most significant and why?

How do you feel about the fact that “the Lord looks at the heart”? Does this encourage you or discourage you? Why? How much energy do you spend on enhancing your outward appearance? How much on your heart? What practical steps could you take to cultivate your heart?

**Prayer Reflection:** Protect me from just considering the external for others and for myself. Take some time to pray through Psalm 8.


## *Third Encounter*

### **Read 1 Samuel 17:1-30**

What is the problem? How is the Israelite army responding to the problem? How long has this been going on? Eliab shows up here again. How does he compare and contrast with David? With Saul?

What is the task Jesse gave David? How much encouragement does David get from his family? Why do his brothers respond as they do?

How does David see the problem differently than everyone else? Does this make him foolish? Has he lost track of reality?



As we looked at earlier, some people view the external as important while others (and God) look at the internal as more important. How do these two groups look at problems differently?

**Prayer Reflection:** Lord, let us see when your name is being disgraced. Allow that to bother us and to motivate us. Give us a heart that will love you and strength that will respond rightly when your name is dishonored.

## *Fourth Encounter*

### **Read 1 Samuel 17:31-58**


What does Saul think of David? How is this consistent with his personality? How does David answer the king? Why doesn't he use the king's resources?

What is Goliath's response to David? Why does he "despise" him?

David tells Goliath what all the affects of the battle will be. What is the ultimate result?

What does David bring to the fight? List all the reactions to David winning.





David's end goal was that "the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel." He was not looking out for his own personal issues or problems. How would your life be different if you thought this way? If you considered how the Name of the Lord was honored around you and in the entire world? What if we only fought when we could truly say, "the battle is the Lord's,"? How would that change things?

**Prayer Reflection:** Lord, give me courage to join the fight when the battle truly is the Lord's. Pray through Psalm 19

## *Fifth Encounter*


**Read all of 1 Samuel 16 and 17 reviewing what you have learned and talking to God about it.**

In these chapters, what is consistent about David? About Saul?

What are the end results for Goliath and his army? For David and the Israelite army? For the name of the Lord?

When the Lord is being dishonored, why is it easy to sit on the sidelines? Do you think God can use you in the battle?

**Prayer Reflection:** Pray through Psalm 8, a Psalm of David. Pray that your mind and heart will be prepared for the weekend worship.



# Small Group Guide

NOTE: This guide is provided to help Small Group Leaders take their groups through the passages. The following questions are suggestions. As you plan your group, you have flexibility to use this as you wish. For example, this week we covered chapters 16 and 17 in 1 Samuel. This may be too much for your small group to cover in one setting. So as a leader, you need to decide if you want to do both chapters, only 16, or only 17. Pray well. Consider your group and may the Lord bless your time in scripture.

## 1 Samuel 16

1. [Note: This may take a long time for your group. Feel free to skip this one.] Skim through 1 Samuel chapters 1 through 15 and build the background of Samuel and Saul.
2. Describe what we know about the three main characters of Samuel, Saul and David.
3. What are the different emotions Samuel feels as he goes on his mission?
4. Does God tell Samuel to lie?
5. How do you think Samuel felt after son number 7?
6. Look at verse 13 and discuss which would be the most significant thing that happened there.
7. Explain how the relationship starts between David and Saul. What does this say about their individual relationships with the Lord?
8. Does external appearance have anything to do with the internal heart?



9. Why are we so easily fooled into considering the outward appearance?

10. Discuss some practical steps that can help us cultivate a good heart.

## *1 Samuel 17*

1. Throughout 16 & 17, compare and contrast David and Saul. David and his brothers. Why does Eliab get so mad?

2. Has David lost track of reality in thinking he could fight Goliath?

3. In verses 34 to 36, how is David shrewd in his answer to the king? Why does it work?

4. Was David scared?

5. Was this a fair fight?

6. What if we could reword verse 45 as our battle cry? How could you reword it for a personal issue in your life? How could you reword it for an issue in the world around you?

7. How is David's relationship with the Lord made clear in this passage? How is this motivating you to develop your relationship with the Lord?

8. Have your group pray through Psalm 23.

Written by The Vine Team.  
Email [thevine@kcconline.org](mailto:thevine@kcconline.org)  
with comments or questions.  
We would love to hear what  
you think about it. We are also  
looking for people willing to  
help create The Vine. If this  
interests you, let us know.