

The King & The Kingdom
1 Samuel 16 Discussion Questions

1. We have a saying in our day: “perception is reality.” Explain what this means. Do you agree?

We need to rethink how we view our situation.

2. According to vv.1-2, why does this seem like a bad situation from the outside looking in?

3. Even though this is a difficult situation, we discover God is in control and working in and through this situation. What are some other examples in the Bible where we see this? Can you think of a situation in your life that seemed bad at the time, but you can look back at the situation and see how God worked in and through it for His purposes?

4. Once David is anointed king, we might think that his life becomes less difficult. But we discover that his life in some ways becomes more difficult. What are some examples of this? What lesson should we learn from this?

5. We also see that life can be boring and mundane for David even after he is anointed king. Have you ever been frustrated because it seemed like your situation in life was dull and boring? What are some ways God works in our lives even in the normal and ordinary and mundane aspects?

We need to rethink how we view others.

6. In vv.6-7, why does Samuel assume Eliab will be the next anointed king? Why do you think Samuel has not learned the lesson yet that he should have learned from Saul?

7. The key verse is the second sentence in v.7. How would you paraphrase it or explain it?

8. Verse 12 says David is handsome, but v.7 says God doesn’t look at the outer appearance. How should we understand this apparent discrepancy?

9. What are some examples of snap judgments we make about people that we shouldn’t? Have you ever made a snap judgment about someone that you realized was wrong?

10. Why should the church be the one place on earth where this happens the least? Is it? What can we do to help overcome this?

We need to rethink how we view ourselves.

11. Just as we judge other people by the wrong standards, we often judge ourselves by the wrong standards. What are some common standards we judge ourselves against that can be unhealthy?

12. Why should the gospel prevent us from having too high a view and too low a view of ourselves?

We need to rethink how we view greatness.

13. What are some ways in our story that our normal view of greatness gets challenged?

14. What are some ways our normal view of greatness gets challenged by Jesus and His life?

15. What are some specific, practical ways we should live differently in order to faithfully take up our cross and follow Jesus knowing this is the path leads to glory and greatness?