

**Week 7 Discussion Guide**

*Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as a man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. – 1 Samuel 16:7*

**Intro Questions:**

* What do you typically think of when you hear the phrase Kingdom of God?
* In what ways do we typically base our judgments on outward appearances rather than looking at the heart of a person?

**Key Passages:**

* 1 Samuel 16:7 (Core Passage)
* 1 Samuel 15-16

What stood out to you as you read the fall of one leader and the selection of the next?

* Judges 21:25, 1 Samuel 8:1-18, 1 Samuel 13:14

What came to mind as you meditated on these verses this week?

Did God challenge you through anything in these verses?

**Group Discussion:**

* Why did the people of Israel want a human king when they had God for their King?
* What do you think it means when we say “Your kingdom come” in the Lord’s Prayer?
* Read Luke 17:21 & John 18:36. How can the kingdom of God be here in our midst, and not of this world at the same time?
* Read Exodus 19:6 and 1 Peter 2:9. What does it mean for the kingdom of God to be a kingdom of priests?
* How can you relate the idea of “a kingdom” to today’s world? Think in terms of workplace, schools, families, and organizations--what makes them like a kingdom?
* Who is a leader you trust and why?
* How have you seen power corrupt leaders?
* What differences do you see between the leadership of David and Saul? Can you see those attributes (both positive and negative) in leaders around you?
* Israel suffered for choosing to follow a human king. Talk about a time that you got what you wanted, but at a price that was higher than you wanted to pay.
* What made David “a man after God’s own heart” even though he was flawed? What lesson does this offer for you and me?
* What characteristic of Jesus’ leadership could you apply to improve your own leadership practice?

**Action Steps / Application**

* Kingdoms are made of leaders and followers--both are crucial. Ask a friend which one you are and what three characteristics you best represent?
* Pick a characteristic of Jesus that you want to implement in your life to advance His kingdom. Write it on a piece of paper and put it someplace you will see it each day this week!
* On page 51, you were challenged to discuss with a friend or a mentor the three fatal flaws of Saul and four characteristics of Jesus’s leadership, and what similarities they saw in your life.
* Did anyone have a chance to have this conversation? How did it go? What changes are you making based on what they said?