



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

Share one resolution you've made for 2021 and why you made it. If you don't set resolutions, share why not.

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will release my past to God's redemptive work of grace in my life.
- I will not allow my past to negatively influence what God has ahead of me.
- I will let go of the weight of shame and guilt and embrace God's redemptive love.
- I will focus on what's ahead and not dwell on what's behind.
- I will press on towards Christ-centered living.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

In this series we're going to be discussing a man named David. David had good looks, was accomplished, and extraordinarily gifted, but most importantly he had a good heart. There are three things that I believe made David's heart great in God's sight. I invite you to do a little heart check and see how your heart measures up. Number one is this: I believe you'll see as we get to know David that his heart was characterized by a sense of passion. We don't want to go to the grave with a heart that was cold and calculating and protected and safe. The second thing about David is that he was characterized by deep reflection. David spent a lot of his life waiting alone with God, he was leading a flock of sheep through the wilderness for years. God was shaping his heart in solitude and quiet. And God wants to do that for you and me if we'll give him a chance. The last thing that characterizes David's heart is his undivided love. David loved people with the loyal heart of a shepherd, no matter who they were or what they had done. Let's follow the example of David, who was a man after God's own heart. As you go about your week, may you go with a David-like undivided love for God and for people.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In 1 Samuel 13:14, Samuel tells King Saul that his kingdom will not last, that God has sought a man "after His own heart" to become king. How would you identify a person like this?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-7. What is it about outward appearances that can be misleading? What does it mean that God looks at the heart of an individual?
3. Have you ever felt you had nothing to offer, or your contributions didn't matter to the kingdom of God? Why?



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)**

4. As a group, make a list of as many traits as you can of a heart characterized by a passion for God. Discuss why these traits made the list.
5. David spent many years waiting to become king. Why do we so often view waiting as wasted time? What have you learned through times of waiting on God in your life?
6. Read Psalm 1:1-3. How does meditating on God's word cause our spiritual roots to grow deep? How much time do you spend meditating on God's word?

## **NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)**

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will freely express my heart, with no shame or embarrassment.
- I will allow God to shape a deep and reflective heart in me.
- I will commit to reading through the Psalms this year.
- I will love the people in my life with a loyal heart like David.
- I will extend grace and love to difficult people.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

- 1 Samuel 13:14
- 1 Samuel 16
- Psalm 9:1
- 1 Chronicles 15:29
- 2 Samuel 6:21-22
- 2 Samuel 23:15-17
- Psalm 139:23
- Psalm 1:2-3