

## CREEKSIDE LIFEGROUP STUDY

20251005

### LEADER NOTES

The following notes are designed to give the leader insights into how to lead the group study.

#### Opening Prayer

*"Lord, thank You for bringing us together as a group tonight. As we open Your Word, help us to see as You see, not judging by outward appearance but focusing on the heart. Soften our hearts to hear Your Spirit, guide our conversation, and build us up in faith and love for one another. May this time draw us closer to You and help us to live more like Christ. Amen."*

#### Sermon Recap Video

Watch the sermon recap video together as a group.

#### Study Questions

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What insights, comments or questions do you have about this week's sermon?

##### **Leader Insight:**

- Encourage people to process both Scripture and sermon together.
- Remind the group that this passage highlights God's sovereignty in choosing leaders (David over his brothers).
- Be ready to connect sermon themes back to God's concern for the heart, not appearances.
- Allow space for questions, even doubts—this is an opportunity for honest engagement.

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2. Share a time when you felt overlooked or like the "least likely" in a situation (like David as the younger brother), but God or others chose you for something meaningful.

##### **Leader Insight:**

- This is a vulnerability question—be prepared to share your own example first.
  - Encourage people to see God’s pattern of using “least likely” people throughout Scripture (Moses, Gideon, the disciples).
  - Listen carefully—this may reveal hidden pain or encouragement in group members’ lives.
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3. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. In what ways have you judged others based on outward appearances, success, or status? What changes when we focus on the heart like God does?

**Leader Insight:**

- Keep this non-judgmental—everyone has done this.
  - Highlight the cultural pressure to value status, image, or wealth.
  - Encourage practical examples of “heart-focused” living (e.g., seeing humility, faithfulness, or kindness as true measures).
  - This is a great opportunity to discuss discipleship as “seeing with God’s eyes.”
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4. David was anointed for a specific role despite his humble beginnings. Reflect on a moment when you sensed God’s “anointing” or calling in your life—perhaps through a gift or opportunity.

**Leader Insight:**

- People may hesitate to use the word “anointing.” Help them see it broadly: being set apart for a purpose, given a gift, or called into an opportunity.
  - Encourage testimonies—these stories inspire others.
  - Not everyone will have a clear “moment”; affirm that calling can also be gradual or daily.
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5. In the gospels Jesus will assess the hardness or openness of people’s hearts (Mark 3:5, Matthew 13:15). Reflect on a time when your heart felt “hardened” toward God or others.

**Leader Insight:**

- This may bring up sensitive stories. Create a safe, grace-filled environment.
- Remind people that God softens hearts through His Spirit, Word, and community.
- Leaders can normalize this by sharing how seasons of hardness often precede deeper growth.

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6. Read Romans 12:3. What would putting this verse into practice look like in your life?

**Leader Insight:**

- Verse emphasizes humility and sober self-assessment.
- Help group members identify practical applications: resisting comparison, not overestimating abilities, living dependently on God.
- Draw connections to “the body of Christ” (Romans 12:4-5)—our value is not in pride, but in belonging and serving.

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7. David’s family didn’t initially see his potential, but God did. Who in your life might need encouragement or affirmation to see how God is working in them? How could you call that out this week?

**Leader Insight:**

- Challenge group members to actively affirm someone this week.
- Remind them that encouragement often unlocks growth in others.
- Share examples: writing a note, sending a text, affirming someone in person.

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8. What one step can you take this week to embrace focusing on your heart rather than on external validation?

**Leader Insight:**

- Encourage small, specific actions (journaling, prayer of surrender, fasting from social media, affirming others instead of seeking affirmation).
  - This can become a practical accountability question for the group.
  - Celebrate progress, not perfection.
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