

## **David: Highs and Lows**

David and Samuel  
1 Samuel 16

### **Introduction:**

In the weeks ahead we'll be keeping company with one of the best-known characters in the pages of the Bible: David. At least we think we know him.

Parts of David's story are very familiar to us. Other parts of his story are less suitable for the kids at Vacation Bible School. Those stories remain in the shadow places of our awareness. What we are looking at in this series is the way David embodied highs and lows in his walk with God. This "man after God's own heart" was at times magnificent, at other times a mess.

We are much the same way.

As we launch into this series, let's be clear about our focus, the steel cable that runs through David's stories and holds them all together. David's highs really are not meant to tell us what a great guy he was. David's lows really are not meant to tell us what a scoundrel he was.

What we are meant to see in David's life is what we most need to see in our own. In the highs and the lows there is the rock-solid faithfulness of God.

Perhaps the first order of business this morning is to get your life situated in the landscape of highs and lows. Where are you right now? Maybe for many of us life is a strange blend of highs and lows. We can name blessings. We deal daily with life's burdens.

Cling to this truth today: in all things God is faithful. Always with us. Always at work for our good.

### **Scripture Reading:**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

### **For Discussion / Reflection:**

1. As you look at your life today, what highs are you thankful for? What lows have humbled you lately?
2. When you think of the biblical character "David," what stories come to your mind? In what ways do you find him a relatable character? In what ways is he not relatable?

3. Read 1 Sam. 16:7. How do we make judgments about other people? Are you unsettled or comforted that God “looks at the heart?”
4. Read David’s great prayer of confession in Psalm 51. What does David tell us about the heart in this Psalm?
5. What do you think it means that David was “a man after God’s own heart?” If that phrase were spoken of you, what would your life look like?

**Prayer:**

Merciful God, in choosing David as the one who would become King, you rejected our shallow ways of looking at other people. We make judgments based on appearance and clothing, on possessions and personality. But you, O God, tell us plainly that you look at the heart and see the depths of who we truly are. Knowing this, we make our confession and invite you to examine our lives. Forgive the ways our heart is often divided and deceptive. Forgive the ways we love your gifts above you, the giver of all things. Anoint us with your Spirit and set us apart to serve your purposes in this world, we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.