

“Walking by Faith”
David – The heart of faith (1 Samuel 16)

Losing a heart for God

“Appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” (1 Samuel 8:5)

The Lord looks at our hearts

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’ (1 Samuel 16:7)

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:1-2)

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities. (Isaiah 53:5)

Hearts shaped by God

1. Preparing our hearts in the quiet places

“Delight yourself in the Lord” (Psalm 37:4)

“The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1)

2. Purifying our hearts after sinning

Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’
Nathan replied, ‘The LORD has taken away your sin.’ (1 Samuel 12:13)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16)

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Digging Deeper Questions for Small groups or personal reflection

Losing a heart for God

Why is it so easy to be influenced by our culture, believing that what it offers is really what we want?

Can you identify something in your life that has drifted from following God’s ways to following the world’s ways?

The Lord looks at our hearts

When have you judged someone based on external appearances? How did God correct you?

How can the Holy Spirit help us have a better discernment of people’s hearts?

Preparing our hearts in the quiet places

How do you grow your heart for God in the time you spend alone?

What dangers are there for you in spending your time preparing for the ways that you can gain affirmation from other people?

Have you enjoyed using quiet times with God by reading and praying through the psalms? Which ones have particularly helped you draw closer to Him?

Here are some of David’s that you could try: Psalms 19, 23, 27, 37.

Purifying our hearts after sinning

What does true repentance for sin entail, do you think?

You might want to use Psalm 32 or 51 as a way to bring your sins to the Lord.

How might regular repentance in your life purify your heart and bring you greater joy?