International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
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1 Samuel 16:4–13 Discussion Questions

Choose 1 or more Questions from each of the five below.

1. Samuel obeyed the LORD and invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice (1 Samuel 16:4–5).

What does Samuel's obedience teach us about faithfully doing what the LORD commands?

Why should we prepare our hearts to worship God and hear His Word?

How can we help our families and others prepare to study the Bible together?

2. Samuel thought Eliab looked like the LORD's chosen king, but the LORD corrected him (1 Samuel 16:6–7).

Why might Eliab's appearance have impressed Samuel, especially after his experience with Saul?

What does the LORD's statement that He looks on the heart teach us about how He judges people?

How should we respond when the Bible corrects our first impressions or opinions?

3. The LORD had not chosen the seven sons Jesse presented, and David was still keeping the sheep (1 Samuel 16:8–11).

What did Samuel do when none of the sons before him was the LORD's choice?

What can we learn from Samuel's willingness to wait until David was brought to him?

How can this account encourage someone who feels overlooked while faithfully doing ordinary work?

4. The LORD chose David, though Eliab later accused him of having an evil heart (1 Samuel 16:12; 17:28–30).

How does Eliab's accusation contrast with what the LORD had revealed about His choice of David?

Why should we be careful about claiming to know another person's motives?

When someone misjudges us, how can we seek to honor God in our response?

5. The Spirit of the LORD came upon David, and Jesus promised to make His home with those who love Him (1 Samuel 16:13; John 14:20, 23).

What does the Spirit's coming upon David teach us about his need for God's help to serve Him?

According to Jesus, how are loving Him and keeping His Word connected with His promise to make His home with us?

Knowing that God sees your heart, what will you ask Him to change as you seek to obey Jesus this week?