

HEART OF THE MATTER

1 Samuel 16:1–13

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual Study or
Group Discussion*



- When have you “judged a book by its cover” and found that your first impression of a person, place, or thing was wrong?
- *Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13.* Why does the prophet Samuel go to Bethlehem to meet with Jesse? Why do the elders of the town respond as they do?
- Why does Samuel first consider Eliab to be the one to anoint? How is this ironic (cf. 1 Sam. 10:23–24; 13:14)?
- As the brothers are successively rejected, how would their emotions swell and fall? By anointing him before his brothers, what is the impact upon David and upon his family and community?
- In what ways does our culture emphasize judging others by their outward appearance? What are some of the criteria we regularly use to evaluate people?
- When are you tempted to judge others by their outward appearance? What can this reveal about your own heart?
- As the LORD looks at your heart, what might bring God delight? About what in your heart do you find peace or joy? How can you give thanks to God for this?
- What in your heart do you feel needs change? What steps can you take to join God in bringing about this change? How can your small group or others support and pray for you as you do this?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.