



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of May 30, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

### Connect

- What is your favorite campfire memory? Favorite campfire food?

### Engage the Bible - Read **1 Samuel 16:1-13**.

#### The Context

**Real Sight** - We kick off a new series entitled... "Around the Fire" - stories of a David. There is something about a campfire that draws out great stories. In this series, we are going to look at real stories of the life of Israel's greatest king, David. He is the only person to be called a "man after God's own heart." Next to Jesus, David has the second most chapters in all of scripture dedicated to his life. David has 66 chapters of the Bible dedicated to his story, 73 Psalms he wrote and there are 59 references to him in the N.T. He is known as a great warrior, a king and a poet. Yet, like our stories, David's story comes with failures, flaws, and foolishness. In all of it, God saw something in a young shepherd boy no one else dreamed of. What stands out about David isn't the giants he killed, the psalms he wrote, or his ability to be the greatest King in Israel. What stood out about him was the same thing God saw as he tended the sheep all by himself, alone, and on his own. God noticed his heart. **The truth about a person is not a matter of the eyes but the heart. So: What's really going on inside your heart? Where are you placing your hope in? Don't stop seeing God as the answer.**

It's easy to lose sight of who we are in Jesus, and what He has given us. It's easy in the complexities and situations of life to get pulled away from seeing ourselves and God correctly. That's what happened to the nation of Israel and to their first king - Saul.

**They stopped seeing God as the answer.** How? The same way anyone can. The same way we can.

- **Something Changed**
- **A Concern Arose**
- **Comparison Begins**

Why? **People are quick to lose sight of what we have because of what we want.** Our heart gets pulled in different directions and look for different solutions. King Saul looked like the perfect human specimen for a king - on the outside. Yet, it's the heart - our character that matters. **Saul looked the**

**part but did not have the heart. He stopped waiting on God** - so he stopped trusting in God. His heart was drawn towards lesser things.

#### Discuss & Apply

1. When have you misinterpreted a situation, person, or resource by how things looked? What happened or what did you learn from that experience?
2. "The truth about a person is not a matter of the eyes but the heart." What are your thoughts on this statement? How have you seen this on the past?
3. When has pursuing what you wanted rather than what you needed had a dramatic impact on your life? If you were in the same situation again, how would you handle things now?
4. How have the last 14 months changed your life? Changed your heart or outlook on life?
5. What has drawn your eyes and trust away from God in the past?
6. Where do you tend to turn for help first when things get hard? Why? Where does God enter the equation?
7. What's really going on inside your heart in your thoughts towards God? How's your relationship with Him? Your Trust?
8. Where are you placing your hope for your future and situations or struggles?

**End your group time in prayer.**