

# After God's Own Heart: The Life of David

## *Lesson 1: Follow the Leader*

**If you had to describe the perfect leader, what kind of qualities would you include? Use the space below to record the attributes of the perfect leader.**

### **Requesting a King: 1 Samuel 8:1-9**

- In 1 Samuel 8:4-9, the Israelites demand that Samuel anoint a King. They give three reasons – 1. Samuel was old, 2. His sons did not walk in his ways, 3. All the other nations had kings reign over them. Are any of those reasons valid?
- A few chapters earlier, in 1 Samuel 3, Samuel is given his first prophecy from God. It concerns the behavior of the sons of Eli, the current judge. Even though Samuel saw the results of that first-hand, he still had the same situation when he was older. David faced that same challenge.
- Although this request surprised Samuel, it did not surprise God. In Deuteronomy 17:14-15, Moses predicts that they will want to set a king over them, and also what will happen as a result.
- When Samuel takes this claim to God, God tells him that Israel is not rejecting Samuel, they are rejecting God.

### **Selecting the First King: 1 Samuel 10:17-24**

- In 9:2, Saul is described as the picture perfect candidate for royalty – son of a mighty man of valor (even though he was from the smallest tribe), more handsome than any other Israelite, and head and shoulders above everyone else. What does this remind us about our criteria for leaders?
- Saul was nowhere to be found when they were going to anoint him. He was hiding among the baggage.
- The next few chapters show us that Saul's rule started well, and the rest of his life reminds us how difficult it is to finish well.

### **Anointing a New King: 1 Samuel 13-16**

- As we review the sins Saul had committed as King, what is the common thread connecting all of them?
- Samuel had reservations about anointing a new king. He fears that Saul will kill him (16:2). What does that reveal about Saul's state of mind?
- Contrast the way David is introduced to us to the way Saul was – Saul was tall and handsome, David was young and "ruddy." Saul was hiding when Samuel called for him, and David was working. When Goliath arrived on the scene, Saul was scared while David was brave.