



WEEKLY STUDY

Week One

We begin a new series called The Comeback. We recognize that life knocks us down sometimes. We wonder if we have what it takes. Wherever you find yourself, remember God is with you and closer than you think! Jesus is in your corner. In this first week of the series, Pastor Gary walked us through the calling and anointing of young David.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,
You have often called the unlikely ones like the young shepherd boy David.
Your way has often shown us that you equip those whom you call.
Even when we feel unlikely and unworthy of your call, you can still be trusted.
Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 1 SAMUEL 16.1-3, MSG

God addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons." 2 "I can't do that," said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me." 3 Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint."

- Samuel has a unique role in the selection of a new and future king. God gives Samuel enough details to get him packing (and seems to ignore his protest). He promises that further details will come on an as-needed basis. What Samuel has here are the tools to anoint a king and instructions for his first step. Why didn't God just name David as king here? What could be the significance in allowing Samuel to go through the selection process?
- *Pray for confidence to take the next step God has laid out for you.*

TUESDAY: 1 SAMUEL 16.6-7, MSG

When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! God's anointed!" 7 But God told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart."

- As Pastor Gary shared in the message, we often feel unlikely and unnoticed. Samuel assumed that Eliab, the obvious-looking choice, was to be the next king. But there was an unlikely candidate missing from the line up of sons. Have you ever felt unlikely or unnoticed? Do you feel like you are able to look into a person's heart?
- *Thank God for God's ability to look into your heart, and then pray this prayer of Davids, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."*

WEDNESDAY: 1 SAMUEL 16.11-13, MSG

Then he asked Jesse, "Is this it? Are there no more sons?" "Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep." Samuel ordered Jesse, "Go get him. We're not moving from this spot until he's here." 12 Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking. God said, "Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one." 13 Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.

- David's omission from the line-up of sons is very telling. His identity was that of an outsider even among his own family. Samuel knew that God had not sent him to Jesse's household by mistake. It was this assurance in God's promises that led him to ask, "Are there no more sons?" God confirmed that David was the one chosen to be king. An outward sign of anointing oil was used to signify this truth. And even though he still looked like the same small "runt" that he was, he was empowered by the Spirit of God for the long road ahead.
- *Pray for a receptive heart to hear the words of calling that others speak over you.*

THURSDAY: EPHESIANS 4.1-2, NIV

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

- Once we experience a sense of our calling, it necessarily changes us. It doesn't make us perfect, but we are called back to this anointing over and over again as was David after times of great success and devastating failure. To live out our calling requires patience, humility and genuine love for others.
- *Pray for a heart of humility, patience and genuine love for others.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 4.18-21, NIV

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- This is Jesus’ outward proclamation of his calling. It is bold to stand before the authorities of any age and express a calling that is so powerful. Our calling may not always be well received by those around us. Jesus was so confident in his mission that he was willing to look silly and rock the boat.
- *Pray for confidence to follow Jesus into the places God is leading you.*

SATURDAY: 1 PETER 2.9-10, NIV

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Pastor Gary shared this passage as a reminder that you can affirmatively answer the question, “Are you the one?” We are a chosen people, not a status to be flaunted, but to be humbled by. The marker of our identity is that we have received mercy.
- *Thank God for your status of chosen-ness and anointing.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Gary shared these lines from a classic hymn of the church.

*Shackled by a heavy burden
'Neath a load of guilt and shame
Then the hand of Jesus touched me
And now I am no longer the same
He touched, oh, He touched me
And oh, the joy that floods my soul
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole
Since I've met this blessed Savior
Since He's cleansed and made me whole
I will never cease to praise Him (to praise Him)
I'll shout it while eternity rolls
He touched me, oh, He touched me
He touched me
And oh, the joy that floods my soul
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole*

- How do these words remind you that God can be trusted even in times when you might be doubting your own calling?