



Small Group Discussion Guide

June 4, 2017

Sermon Title:

“Family Matters: Parental Expectations”

Sermon Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:1-6

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: As you reflect on your youth, did your parents ever express their expectations of you? Did they have an idea what you would become as an adult? Did they have any expectations of where you might work or how you might spend your adult years?

Discussion:

1. For those of you who have children, have you ever had any conversation around your expectations of them? Have you clearly communicated that to them? If so, in what areas?
2. Jesse of Bethlehem had 8 sons. One would be anointed the second king of Israel. How did the “interview” for the position take place? **(Reference: 1 Samuel 16:10)**
3. Who was the first son for Samuel to see and what was his reaction to him? **(vs.6)** What might we deduce from God’s word to Samuel? **(Vs. 7)** What might his stature have been? Would that have had any bearing on Samuel’s opinion? **(Ref: 1 Samuel 9:2)** To whom is this verse referring?
4. What was the most important characteristic upon which God looked? **(Vs. 7)** Have you ever been guilty of “judging a book by its cover?”
5. After Eliab, who was the next son?... and the next? **(Vs. 8, 9)** What was God’s response to each of these sons? What question did this leave Samuel asking? **(Vs. 11)**
6. Who was the last son to pass by which was ultimately chosen and anointed? **(vs. 13)** Where had he previously been? **(Vs. 11)**
7. Godly parents all have expectations for their children. Here is a few the Pastor mentioned:
 - ***Pursue what God places in your heart.** (You will not be fulfilled until you do!)
 - ***Don’t listen to “nay-sayers”.** (There are plenty of them around!) **(Ref: Nehemiah 4:3)**
 - ***Be decisive.** What problems might arise if you are not? **(Reference: James 1:8)**
 - ***Above all else, GUARD YOUR HEART!** **(Reference: Proverbs 4:23)** (This has been one of Pastor Dennis’ life verses for the past 14 years.)
8. Graduates (and all); here is a great memory verse. When anyone, (parents or other) express high expectations of you , think of this: **(Philippians 4:13... ..another good “life verse.”**

Closing: *Close by sharing pray requests. Praying for one other and each other’s families.*

Go Share Jesus in Service!