

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of October 2 - 8, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

We usually don't handle living in obscurity and being rejected by others well. Oftentimes, these experiences cause us to become angry and bitter. Although these initial emotions are normal, God allows the rejection we experience by man to teach us to rely solely on His love—which *always* accepts us, affirms us, and calls us to greatness.

As a young shepherd boy, David was often overlooked and rejected by his father (Jesse) and brothers. However, he remained devoted to God, who saw David's heart and faithfulness when no one else did. It was his unwavering devotion—forged by obscurity and rejection—that led to God choosing David as king over his brothers.

“Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.’¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, ‘Arise, anoint him, for this is he.’¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward...” (1 Samuel 16:11-13 ESV)

Similar to David, how we respond to living in obscurity and the rejection of man matters. God allows these experiences and seasons of life to strengthen our devotion to Him and prepare us for the greatness which He has called us.

Discussion Questions:

(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss.)

- Share what God is highlighting to you from the weekend sermon, the main thought, and/or the scriptures.
- Share about a previous season of obscurity or rejection you experienced. What did you learn about God's love and your faith?
- Are you currently experiencing a season of obscurity or rejection? If so, how are you choosing to remain devoted to God? What are you learning about your relationship with Him because of this?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to be devoted to God despite the season of obscurity or rejection they are facing.
- Pray that those you are reaching would receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and begin their discipleship journey.