



**Life Groups in Central Telford Parish**  
**Autumn 2016 "Live Like You Mean It"**  
**Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016**  
**Be a Human amongst Humans**

This week we start to look at the life of King David. We will notice where he was and how he was selected. We will also look to see if there are any practical applications for today that we can find in this passage.

- **Welcome**

What three qualities do you think a leader needs? In what ways has God 'spoken' to you?

- **Worship**

Opening Prayer

Sing out your worship, some options could be:

Bind us Together Lord, Father God I Wonder, Shine Jesus Shine

- **Word**

Read 1 Samuel 16:1.

Where would you think that a future King would come from?

Have you been in any palaces? Buckingham Palace or Windsor Palace perhaps?

What was it like?

Bethlehem was just a small town, why would God choose someone from here to be king?

Read 1 Samuel 16:2-3

Samuel was a very powerful person, why would he be worried about what Saul would do?

What do you think that society was like at the time? Do you think that it is better or worse than today?

God told Samuel to perform a sacrifice in Bethlehem so as to give Samuel a reason for being there without giving Saul a reason to kill him. Samuel would have an excuse for being in Bethlehem, but this wasn't his real reason. Do you think that this subterfuge is justified?

God said that he would tell Samuel which person to anoint with oil. Once this person had been anointed the cat would be out of the bag. The subterfuge would be over and Saul would have to make a hasty exit from Bethlehem before Saul found out. But what about David? Was it right to anoint him as the next king and then leave him unprotected in Bethlehem?

Read 1 Samuel 16:4-7

Samuel made a snap decision and thought that Eliab looked like a good candidate for being the future king when he first saw him.

How often do people label others because of the way they look?

Are there occasions when this is a good thing, or a bad thing?

What sort of labels are useful?

When are labels a bad thing?

Read 1 Samuel 16:8-11

Having rejected all the sons of Jesse that Samuel had seen he had to ask if there were any more sons. Do you think that Samuel was starting to get a bit tetchy?

Why do you think that Jesse did not bring David to the sacrifice? Do you think that this would affect the way that David felt about his family?

Read 1 Samuel 16:12-13

What do you think about the description of David?

Why do you think that this physical description of David is the only physical description of a person in the passage? Especially as in verse 7 The LORD said 'Don't judge by his appearance or height'.

What do you think it means that 'the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on'?

- **Walk**

This reading is about the selection of Israel's next king, who will rule over the people.

How do we select our leaders today, in business, in our social lives, in our governments around the world?

Is there another way that we could choose our leaders?

Is there any 'one best way' to choose a leader? Why is that?

We have thought about qualities that a leader may have at the beginning of our Life Group Session today. But what different ways, or styles, are there of leadership and how do they operate? (Dictator, Democratic, Servant, etc).

In which situations are these appropriate / inappropriate?

At the time of the Samuel most people lived in groups. These groups could be Tribal Groups, Towns or Cities.

Why do you think this is?

What would happen to people who lived alone?

How does this vary from how we live today?

Do you think that it we have lost something by living a more individualistic Western lifestyle?

What are the benefits and drawbacks of living a communal lifestyle?

What attributes do you think people need to have so as to live peacefully together? (Listening, empathy, Servanthood?) As a family, as a nation? Are these attributes the same?

How can we improve our use of these attributes?

Jesus has often been cited as an example of great leadership, but what do you think it would be like to have been a follower of Jesus traveling around along with the disciples as part of his group?

Are there any things that you think could be used in our lives today?

Are there any people or things that you want to pray for?

Closing Prayer

- **Next Time ...**

Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> September:

**1 Samuel 16:14-23: Live in Balance with the Rhythm of Life**

We continue looking at the life of David.

