
Engage

Dear Lord, please guide our hearts, and help us to grow into the person You want us to be. Rather than following our own ways, purify our hearts and make us more like You. Please guide our paths and help us take steps that will guide us towards Your plans for our lives and not our own desires. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.



1 SAMUEL



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

A Disciple After God’s Own Heart

1 Samuel #5: Growing Your Heart for God

Pastor Chris Kam

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.”

So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Introduction 1 Samuel 15, 16:1-13, Psalm 27:10

The people of God wanted a King. God gave Saul as a king. Sadly, Saul did not obey God. The last straw was in 1 Samuel 15 where he disobeyed God. God wanted to wipe out the Amalekites and the animals but Saul made Agag a trophy instead of killing him. Saul also kept the best animals "for the Lord". So, Samuel put Agag to death and went back to Ramah. Samuel did not meet Saul until he died.

1 Samuel 16 starts with God asking Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn over Saul?" God has already rejected Saul. God also regretted making Saul king. God has feelings too, but He has a plan. Saul is rejected. Samuel is dejected. David is elected.

Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. He was the father of David. Jesse was in Bethlehem. Bethlehem means city of bread. Jesus says that He is the bread of life. There is a connection between Jesus and Bethlehem, his ancestors' birthplace. God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem, where Jesse was. He was to bring along a young cow for sacrifice and invite Jesse to the ceremony. Samuel was afraid as he had to pass Gibeath, Saul's hometown, to reach Jesse. Did God ask Samuel to lie? No, Samuel did not have the obligation to tell Saul everything. Likewise, we do not have to say everything to someone. We only need to be wise and say what is necessary.

Samuel needed to prepare Jesse and his sons to attend the sacrifice. Samuel thought Eliab was a suitable candidate but God reminded him that He looks at the heart and not the outward appearance.

You cannot hide any secrets from the Lord. Many years ago Pastor Chris had noodles in SS2. He was given 10 cents extra as change, from the lady. It was bugging him at night. He went back the next and returned the 10 cents. The lady remarked, 'Still got people like this?' The Lord reminded Pr Chris. "If you cheat 10 cents, you may cheat 1 Ringgit and maybe a million in the future."

Jesse lined up seven sons but all were rejected. Jesse left David out, as he was the youngest. This 8th son was forgotten, as though he was 'nobody's child'. David

recounts this experience in Psalm 27:10. David was probably between 10 to 15 years old when Samuel anointed him with oil. Though young, he was to God, good enough to be king.

Key lessons:

1. God is working in our waiting

- Apostle Paul waited 10 years from the time He met God in Damascus before he started his ministry.
- Moses - 40 years
- David – 20 years

God will take His time to mould and grow us.

2. God is more interested firstly in who you are in Him than what you do for Him *1 Sam 16:12-13, 1 Peter 3:3-4*

God is interested in what is inside your heart.

- It is easy for God to take you out of the world but hard to take the world out of you.
- Don't go places where your talents or gifts take you, but your character cannot sustain you

Don't be in a hurry. Wait until your heart is ready. If you cannot handle your finances, money can destroy you. If you cannot handle popularity and fame, the pressure will get to you. If you search on Google: "Famous people who committed suicide", do not be surprised at the long list available.

For David, the Holy Spirit came upon him at his anointing but it would be 20 years of preparation before he became king.

3. God is not just the God of big days but everyday *Psalms 23, Psalm 16:1, Psalm 8:3-5, Psalm 78:70-72, Revelation 22*

Be faithful in your 10 cents so that God can take care of your RM 1 million. It always begins with the small things.

- Psalm 23 sums up David's life as a shepherd. Although he had a lowly job. He was always secure in God. He learned to play his harp and that helped him to write the psalms. He must have swung his sling so many times that it was useful in his battle against Goliath.
- Psalm 16:1 says that God was David's source of safety and refuge

- Psalm 8:3–5 shows that He rested well in God's presence and admired His creations by looking at the heavens and stars. David worshipped and appreciated God.
- Psalm 78:70–72 shows how God grew David from a shepherd to a king to feed the nation of Israel.

Although he messed up later, David was still credited as the man after God's heart. There is only one David in the Bible. David is mentioned in 66 chapters and many places and people mention his name, including:

Jerusalem : City of David

Bethlehem: Town of David

Jesus: Son of David. Jesus also mentions that He is the root and offspring of David.

Conclusion

Pastor Chris received a prophecy that he would be No. 2 in the church. For 22 years, he stayed on as No. 2 as it was prophetic. One day, Pastor Daniel asked Pastor Chris to seriously consider the role as the Senior Pastor. Pastor Chris struggled with the suggestion. He consulted two of his mentors. The first mentor said, "Because you don't want it , it's yours." The second pastor repeated the exact same advice. Though Pastor Chris did not have any ambitions to be the Senior Pastor, God used his humility and surrendered heart. God is still using him mightily and blessing him, as well as the church.

His reminder to us is that the human heart will keep getting in the way, so we must remain humble.



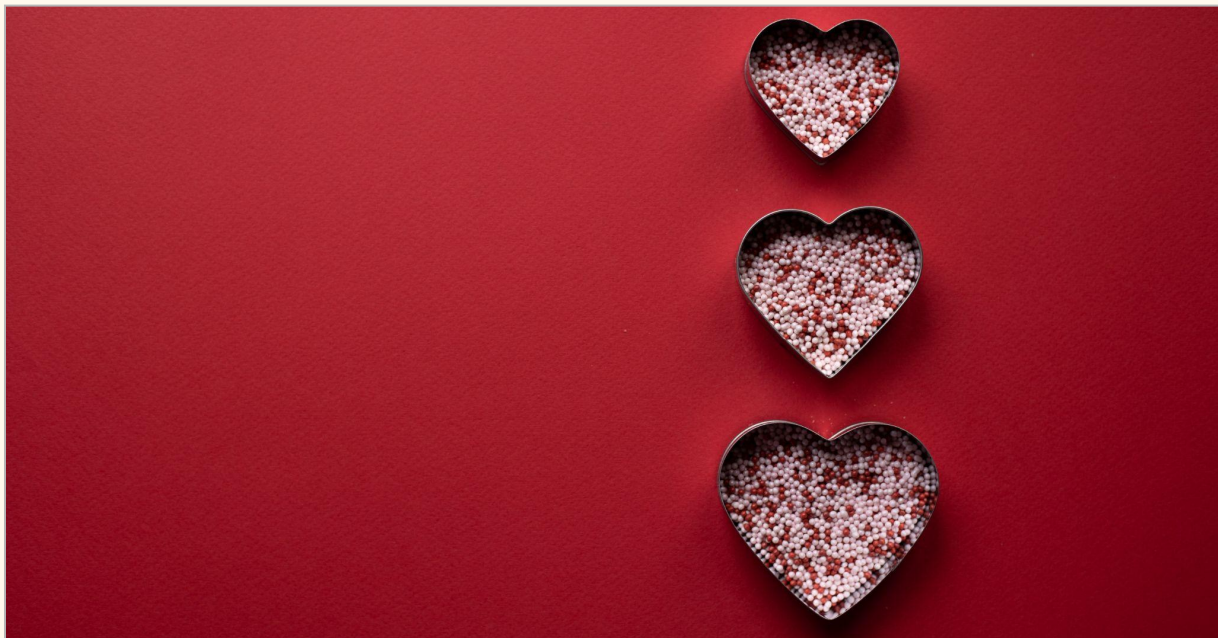
APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- Go to your phone's settings and look for Digital Well Being. Share with your CG how much time you have spent on your phone today/the past week. Besides using the phone, how else do you spend your free time?
- If you were asked to write a Psalm, what would be in your first or second stanza? What would stand out about your life currently?



Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- If you were in Samuel's shoes, what would you convey to King Saul should he catch you as you were passing through Gibeah? Was Samuel being untruthful when (if) he did not state his actual reason for going to Bethlehem?
- Why do you think Eliab totally forgot about his youngest son David? Have you experienced being forgotten as well?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- What are the key things God spoke to you through this sermon about being a man or woman after God's own heart?
- Discuss the real-life implications for you from these two statements:
 - It is easy for God to take you out of the world but hard to take the world out of you.
 - Don't go places where your talents or gifts take you, but your character cannot sustain you.
- Are you able to recognise the way God is shaping and moulding you in your godly character? Share some instances of how that is happening.
- Why do you think God is more interested first in who you are in Him than what you do for Him? Discuss this in the light of 1 Peter 3:3-4.

Question Bank *(Extra questions that you can use to bring your discussion further as you see fit):*

- Was it fair or was it too harsh a punishment when God rejected Saul as king?
- Why should the gospel prevent us from having too high a view and too low a view of ourselves?
- Are you currently in a 'season of waiting'? What promises or prophecies have you received but have yet to see them come to fruition? What are you doing while you wait upon God?



SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Linford Miles on Unsplash

Your phone time might get you a PhD

Before I start, switch on your phone. Do the following:

1. Open the Settings app.
2. Select Digital Wellbeing & parental controls.
3. Hit Dashboard.
4. Check the time under Screen Time.

What is your daily screen time? Monthly? Yearly? If you had used your phone hours on studying, could you have upgraded yourself? Maybe earned yourself a PhD?

David had the most undesirable job. He was a shepherd. He was in the fields too long until his own father did not even consider him to be anointed by Samuel.

Let's say David spent 20 years as a shepherd boy. If he spent 10 hours a day on the field, he probably would have had 8 idle hours where he rested and looked at the fields while his sheep were grazing. In these 20 years, I can say David made good use of his time. He became a good shepherd. He also protected his sheep by using the slingshot professionally to kill predators. He became closer to the Lord. He must have had a built shape because he was strong and brave fighting with wolves and bears. He learned to play the harp just by watching "Jewtube " on his phone. We see how

these attributes actually became useful on his journey becoming King. He wrote most of the Psalms. When Saul wanted to kill him, he actually played the harp and put Saul to sleep. His most epic battle with Goliath is one of our fond Bible stories of all time. Lastly from, shepherding herds of sheep, he shepherded a nation as King,

Fast forward today, if David's herd was a modern farm with CCTV and drones to oversee the sheep. David would be in an air conditioned room monitoring his thousands of sheep on monitors. This would make him have more idle time to browse the internet. At 10 hours a day and 6 days a week, he would have more than 50,000 hours of free time to use his phone. How would he use it? Would it have made him the man after God's heart? Would he be strong enough to fight the bears and wolves? Let alone Goliath. Would he play the harp or be a "Garage Band" expert on his Ipad?

The whole world was in a standstill for 2 years during the pandemic. Due to technology, we were still able to live it decently with no interruption to food supply and the internet. Like David, at 8 hours a day, 6 days a week, we had about 5000 hours of effective idle time. How did we use these 5000 hours? I will be the first to confess here. I didn't use it wisely. Until today, the thought of "What if i used the time to get closer to god (my quiet time wasn't great), get fit (I paid for an online fitness membership that I didn't use), played an instrument (I still have the ukulele I bought during the pandemic). Praise God we could attend church online. It was the only solace I had during the pandemic. As I was renting a house by myself, He has allowed me to host 8 foreigners who have lost their visa , finances and couldn't return during the pandemic. Despite having nothing, I was able to bless a few with what I have.

People like David, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth and even Samuel were only blessed by God after many many years of hardship and pruning to be the person God intended them to be. Once they became ready, we can see how God blessed them abundantly and we still talk of them 2000+ years later.

Time is always more valuable than money. Let us always glorify God with the 24 hours he has given us. In return, we will be glad we did because we can then see how God has blessed us in our journey.

Contributed by Abbey Thangiah



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Pray for Philippines:

- Pray for more Filipino churches to raise up and send out missionaries committed to worldwide evangelism.
- Pray for honesty, justice, and fairness to replace corruption and greed in the government.
- Pray for the church to stand firm on biblical truth and to be unified with one another.
- Pray for Metro World Child (with Pr Bill Wilson) ministry work with the children in Manila.

Pray for Japan:

- **Spreading the Gospel** - Most Japanese do not know a Christian and have little, if any, idea what the gospel is about. There is a real need for Japanese Christians and missionaries to be bold and creative in making Jesus known in their families, neighbourhoods, workplaces and schools. New ways of evangelism are also needed to reach the next generation.
- **Planting churches** - In Japan nearly 1,500 communities with populations of 3,000-50,000 have no church. There are also many social groups in large cities that are unreached. As the population of Japan is projected to halve by the year 2100, many regional towns could disappear. Wisdom is needed in deciding how to plant new churches that will thrive in this context.
- **Revitalising churches** - The average Japanese church now sees less than one baptism a year. With increasingly elderly congregations, the church needs to reach the next generation for Jesus in order to survive. Yet 30 percent of churches do not have any children's work.
- **Raising Gospel workers** - Nearly half of Japanese pastors are over 70 and only 10 percent are under 50. Thirty percent of churches have no pastor. Missionary numbers have also dropped 40 percent since 1997. There is an urgent need for more gospel workers and more lay ministry. Yet with long working hours and little free time, few Japanese are able to make room for much more than attending a worship service.

- **Mobilising the local church** - As a whole, the Japanese church is declining and quite divided along denominational lines. It is easy to feel discouraged. May the church remember the Great Commission and be one that goes out to the whole world and tells the gospel to all people. The number of foreign residents in Japan is also increasing, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity.



MISSIONAL

Note to CGL: Inspire and encourage the Cell Group members to participate in the activity suggested below (from our CrossFields, Missions department) together to cultivate a culture of being a missional church.

GO IMPACT BEYOND

Planning a CG activity? Why not try something different to cultivate a culture of being a missional church? Inspire your CG to engage with our local AGW beneficiary, Autrui Global (Autrui).



WHO is Autrui?	A non-profit organisation founded in 2019 with the vision of creating a future with better health for everyone, everywhere. Believes enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social status.
-----------------------	---

HOW can your CG engage with Autrui?	Autrui Global is starting a health education programme focusing on topics such as nutrition and personal hygiene for underserved schools to build resilience and teach students simple, everyday tasks they can do to live and grow healthier: Dates: September 22, 29 and October 13, 20, 2023 Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm Location: Destiny C3 Education Centre, Subang Jaya (Refugee School by Destiny C3 Church) Demographic: Majority Pakistani and Indian Language: English Volunteer Role Descriptions: 1. Facilitators - assist the Programme Trainer in carrying out activities & teaching plans. 2. Photographer - capture teaching moments.
Interested to explore further with your CG?	Contact person: Ms J. Abigail Peter Telephone no: +60 16-333 0875 Email: abigail@autruiglobal.com Website: https://www.autruiglobal.com/

For more information about other AGW beneficiaries, click here:
[**https://bit.ly/AGWLocalBeneficiaries**](https://bit.ly/AGWLocalBeneficiaries)