

== IN SEARCH OF A KING ==

Understanding 1 Samuel

Small group questions

1 Samuel 16-17, The king who saved his people

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact the bishop!

1. What is the passage about?

- Can you summarise chapter 16 in one sentence?
- Can you summarise chapter 17 in one sentence?
- Discuss ... “The Bible is misused when Goliath becomes whatever ‘big problem’ you face in your life and the moral is to be more like David”.
- “Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him” (16:14). How do we know this a periodic emotional distress (not demon possession)?

2. What does it teach us about God?

- Discuss ... “The essential issue of the text is *God’s anointed king delivers God’s incompetent people from their stronger enemy*”.
- What is unlikely about the way God chooses to save his people through David? What was the lesson for Israel?
- God saves though his people don't deserve it. Did Israel appreciate this? Discuss the endless cycle of Israel abandoning God, facing enemies, calling out to God, God saving them, only for them to abandon him again.

3. How does it point us to Jesus?

Discuss this points raised by Mark

- God saves by raising up a saviour!
- God saves by an unlikely means
- God saves an undeserving people

What will you take from this study today? How has this changed or challenged the way you understood the David and Goliath account? Give thanks to God for raising up a Saviour for us, saving us by an unlikely means and saving us – a people who don't deserve it.