



Scotts Hill Baptist Church

AFTER GOD'S HEART • A NOBODY, NOBODY KNEW • 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13 • 9/13/2026

MAIN POINT

Even when we feel forgotten, overlooked, or uncertain about what God is doing, we can trust that God is sovereign, sees the heart, knows us personally, and is faithfully accomplishing His purposes in our lives.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever felt overlooked or forgotten by someone who was important to you? What happened?

Why do you think we tend to place so much importance on outward appearance, accomplishments, or status?

When life feels uncertain or out of control, what do you naturally tend to do?

Sometimes we can feel like a "nobody"—overlooked by others, uncertain about our circumstances, or unsure whether God is doing anything significant in our lives. First Samuel 16 reminds us that God sees what others cannot see. While people look at outward appearances, God looks at the heart. Even when David was forgotten by his own family, God had not forgotten him. God was completely in control and had a purpose for his life.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-5.

What do these verses reveal about Samuel's emotional state after Saul was rejected?

What did God tell Samuel to do, even though Samuel was afraid?

Samuel was grieving over Saul and anxious about what might happen if Saul discovered what God had commanded him to do. Yet God gave Samuel an assignment and assured him of what he should do. Samuel's fear did not change God's plan. He obeyed and went to Bethlehem as God commanded.

What can we learn from Samuel about trusting God when we are anxious or uncertain?

How can God's sovereignty give us confidence when life feels out of control?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 16:6-10.

What did Samuel initially assume when he saw Eliab?

What did God tell Samuel about the way He sees people?

Samuel initially judged Eliab based on his appearance and stature. But God corrected Samuel's perspective: "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." God was not looking for the most impressive-looking or outwardly qualified person. He was looking at the heart.

What are some outward qualities our culture encourages us to value?

How might focusing too much on outward appearance distract us from developing a godly heart?

What are some qualities of a godly heart that God desires in His people?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 16:11-13.

Why do you think David was not initially included when Samuel came to Jesse?

How do you think David might have felt being left behind while his brothers were brought before Samuel?

David was the youngest and was keeping the sheep while his brothers stood before Samuel. He appears to have been overlooked by his own family, yet God had specifically chosen him. David may have seemed insignificant to others, but he was not forgotten by God. Samuel anointed him, and the Spirit of the LORD came upon him.

What encouragement do you find in knowing that God sees and knows you even when others overlook you?

How should knowing that God has not forgotten you change the way you view your current circumstances?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

When life feels out of control, what would it look like for you to actively rest in God's complete control?

What outward qualities are you most tempted to use as a measure of your worth or the worth of others?

What internal qualities of a godly heart is God currently calling you to cultivate?

Have you ever felt forgotten or unseen? How does this passage encourage you?

How might knowing that God sees your heart change the way you live when no one else is watching?

As someone who has surrendered to Christ, how does the presence of the Holy Spirit encourage you in your daily life?

What is one truth from this passage you need to remember this week?

PRAYER

Close in prayer, thanking God that He is completely sovereign even when our circumstances feel uncertain or out of control. Thank Him that He does not judge us according to outward appearance but sees and knows our hearts. Thank Him that even when we feel forgotten or unseen, He knows our name and has not forgotten us. Pray

that God would cultivate godly hearts within His people and that, as those surrendered to Christ, we would faithfully walk in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

COMMENTARY

1 SAMUEL 16:1-5 — GOD'S ASSIGNMENT

Samuel was grieving over Saul when God redirected him toward His next assignment: anointing a new king from among Jesse's sons. Samuel was understandably anxious because Saul could have responded violently if he discovered what Samuel was doing. Yet God provided a way forward, and Samuel obeyed.

This reminds us that God's purposes continue even when circumstances appear uncertain. Samuel's fear did not place God's plan in jeopardy.

1 SAMUEL 16:6-10 — GOD'S ADJUSTMENT

Samuel initially assumed Eliab was the one God had chosen because of his outward appearance and stature. God corrected him with an important principle: people look at outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

The passage challenges us to evaluate ourselves and others according to godly character rather than the standards of the surrounding culture. What appears impressive to people is not necessarily what God values most.

1 SAMUEL 16:11-12 — GOD'S APPOINTMENT

David was the youngest of Jesse's sons and was not even initially brought before Samuel. While his brothers were being considered, David was keeping the sheep. Yet God had already chosen him.

David's apparent insignificance did not mean he was insignificant to God. The one whom others overlooked was the one God appointed.

1 SAMUEL 16:13 — GOD'S ANOINTMENT

Samuel anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him from that day forward. David's appointment ultimately served God's larger purposes for His people.

The passage reminds believers that God's calling does not depend upon human recognition. God knows His people, sees what others cannot see, and equips those He calls for His purposes.

THE HEART OF THE APPLICATION

When life seems out of control, rest in the truth that God is completely in control.

When culture tells us that external features are most important, focus instead on the internal qualities of a godly heart.

When you feel forgotten or unseen, remember that the Creator of the universe knows your name.

And as one who has surrendered to Christ, walk in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.