

after God's heart

a series on the life of King David



Keeping God's Commands

We are launching into a new series starting this Sunday titled "After God's Heart." In this series we will be tracing the life of King David to see why it was that he was called a man after God's heart. Throughout this series we will have the opportunity to consider the conditions of our own hearts and to let God continue to grow and shape our hearts.

LOOKING BACK:

- Vision Statement: Explain the purpose of lifegroup.
- Introduction Question: What is your heart's desire?
- Praise Reports and Prayer Requests.
- Accountability Question: How have I pursued and encountered Holy Spirit this last week?

LOOKING UP: 1 SAMUEL 13.1-14

1 Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years. **2** Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes. **3** Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!" **4** So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal. **5** The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. **6** When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. **7** Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. **8** He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. **9** So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. **10** Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. **11** "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, **12** I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." **13** "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept

*the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. **14** But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."*

Discussion Prompts:

- What stands out to me from this passage?
- What does Saul do that God considers foolish?
- Why might God decide not to establish Saul's kingdom for all time?
- What do I learn about being a person after God's heart?

LOOKING FORWARD:

Practical: In today's passage we see that being a person after God's heart entails keeping God's commands.

- Why might keeping God's commands be so important to God?
- How is it that keeping God's commands means we are people after God's heart?
- Are there ways I am not keeping God's commands?
- What would it look like practically this week for me to purposefully keep God's commands?
- Close by praying for each other to be able to be people after God's heart this week.

Prayer Maps: Let's revisit our prayer maps to help us keep in mind our calling to be the salt and light that those around us desperately need. Being people after God's heart does not just have to do with what we do on our own, but also how we engage with those around us.

- Take a few minutes to re-map out our communities and people we see on a regular basis.
- Then ask God to bring to mind certain ones that we might not see too often.
- How can I make space in my schedule this week to pray regularly for those on my prayer map?