

**Character Study: David**  
**Part 1 – A Man after God’s Own Heart**  
**I Samuel 13-17**

**What’s happening?**

- Because of King Saul’s disobedience, God chose another man to rule in Israel. The man God had chosen is first described as a man after God’s own heart. (13:14; note 15:23, 28)
- God directed the prophet Samuel to go to Bethlehem and meet with Jesse. There the Lord would direct Samuel to anoint one of Jesse’s sons to be the next king over Israel. (16:1-5)
- God told Samuel not to judge Jesse’s sons based on their outward appearance, but rather understand that God looks at the heart. (16:7)
- Jesse presented his sons to Samuel, and was anxious to see which one the Lord had chosen to be the next king. None of those sons were selected, however, so Samuel asked if there were any others. Jesse mentioned he had one other son, David, who was his youngest son and was responsible for taking care of the sheep. David was brought before Samuel and Samuel announced that he was the one God had chosen. (16:8-13)
- David demonstrated his confidence in the Lord by fighting the Philistine giant named Goliath. David defeated Goliath with just a sling and a stone, quickly gaining popularity among the Israelites. (17:1-54)

**What’s God doing?**

- > In choosing David as the new king, God showed that what He looks for in a person is a surrendered heart that is devoted to doing His will.
- > God used Goliath as a means to show the Israelites His power over their enemies and to demonstrate how He can use even the most unlikely person for His service.

**What’s to learn?**

- When you look at yourself and how God can use you, do you focus on your shortcomings or do you focus on the God of the Universe who has the power to use you for whatever purpose He so desires?
- Is there a “Goliath” in your life that you are faced up against? How are you going to react to such a trial? You can either quiver in defeat or stand strong in the power of God and witness the victory He brings! Trusting in God and His power is the key to victory!