

# Chapter 11: From Shepherd to King



What is historically inaccurate about this photo 😊?

## *Discussion Questions*

1. Have you ever been fooled by appearances? Food looked good on television, The picture on the box lied, the biggest cookie was NOT the best?
  - a. Why do you think we get fooled so easily (or put so much into appearances?)
  - b. How did having someone who LOOKED like a king work out for Israel?
2. David was the seventh son of Jesse and wasn't even considered by his father to be worthy of Samuel's attention. What was God's criteria for choosing David to be anointed king?
3. How do we determine what a person's true character is?
  - a. How does this affect the way you treat/think about people?
4. Have you stood next to someone who is VERY tall?
  - a. How do you react/act around them?
  - b. What are your impressions and initial questions?
5. How do you think the Philistines treated Goliath? & What kind of person do you think the Philistine Goliath was like?
6. We don't have a time between the anointing and the confrontation with Goliath, but what kind of thoughts and actions would being anointed by Samuel drive a young man to?
7. Why do you think David was able to face a giant warrior like Goliath when so many others gave way to fear?
8. What causes people today to be "dismayed & terrified"?

9. When David is sent to the army camp it is after forty days (*morning and evening*) of Goliath's taunts.
  - a. How would those words affect those who heard it so often?
  - b. How do Christians react to similar taunts today?
10. What was Eliab's reaction to seeing David?
  - a. How were his words understandable, even though they were hurtful?
  - b. Do you think he was angry at David's reaction or his own behavior up to this point? & Why do you answer this way?
11. David was initially dismissed by Saul because of his age and experience.
  - a. Have you been in a similar situation?
  - b. How was it resolved?
12. What was the basis of David's confidence in facing Goliath?
  - a. How does personal experience and practice help in difficult or demanding situations?
  - b. What about on a spiritual level, does this play a part?
13. What did David place his confidence in and why?
14. What was Goliath's impression of the young man David?
  - a. What was David's response?
15. What does it mean to "run quickly toward the battle line"?
  - a. How is that something we can emulate?
16. What was the reaction of the Philistines in light of their expectations to what David did?
  - a. What about the Israelites?
  - b. How much faith did they have in what David was doing?
17. Have you ever had an instant connection with someone in friendship?
  - a. What kinds of advice and input do you think Jonathan contributes to David?
  - b. With the conflict between David and Saul how does Jonathan's actions show godliness?
18. What initiates Saul's jealousy of David?
  - a. Why is jealousy such a destructive practice?
19. Why did David meet with success in "everything he did"?
20. What kind of emotions does David have to process as he is pursued by Saul?
  - a. How does he express these emotions?
  - b. How is what David did an example for us to process difficulties?
21. What was the situation where David could have become king, but refused?
22. What was David's reason for not killing Saul?
  - a. What was Saul's reaction?
  - b. What would you have done if you'd been in that cave?
23. How did Saul die?
  - a. How was this different from the way he started his reign?
  - b. What do you attribute his decline and fall to the most?
  - c. What ways do we (individually and collectively) start out well but end badly?
  - d. How can we avert this & change that path?
24. What happened when David sought to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem?

- a. Who died and for what reasons?
  - b. What was David's reaction & how did his decision get changed?
25. How did David express his joy?
- a. How did his wife, Michal feel about this? & What was the result?
  - b. How can we appropriately express our joy as Christians?
  - c. How is it seen by those who don't share the same hope?
  - d. What (*if anything*) can we do to prevent or change this?
26. What was David's desire for the ark? What was his reasoning?
- a. With an attitude of "God deserves the best" how does this get expressed in our world today? How is it ignored?
  - b. How do you personally go about practicing 'God deserves my best'?
27. What was God's reason for keeping David from building a temple? & What was David's response?
- a. How do we often respond to not getting "our way"?
  - b. How is what David ended up doing something we can emulate?
  - c. How would that look in 2019?
28. What was the promise that God made to David?
- a. What were the implications of saying such a thing to a sitting monarch at the height of his reign?
  - b. Have you been affected by the promise God gave David?
29. What promises can you list that God has made to His Church?
- a. How have you seen God fulfill His promises?
  - b. What are the effects of revisiting those promises regularly?
30. What does the story show about David's heart for God?
- a. How do you cultivate a heart like David's?
  - b. How do you encourage a heart like David in the lives of other believers?