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1 Samuel 16:1-13

THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART

1. What qualities do people look for in a leader when they vote for them and why?
2. Pray and read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.
3. Who decided that David was to be the next king of Israel (v.1)?
4. Why were the elders and Samuel fearful? Why was it important for Samuel's visit to be secretive (v.2-5)?

5. What were the desired qualities for a king, according to God and according to the people (v.6-13; esp. 7)?

6. What qualities of David are mentioned by the narrator in verses 12-13? Why?

7. Look up the following references to 'heart' in Scripture. How do these verses enrich our understanding of the heart and its role in our faith?
 - a. Genesis 6:5
 - b. Exodus 8:15
 - c. Deuteronomy 6:5
 - d. Psalm 51:10
 - e. Proverbs 3:5; 4:23
 - f. Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - g. Ezekiel 36:26
 - h. Matthew 5:8
 - i. Luke 8:15
 - j. Hebrews 4:12

8. Given the heart's importance, how might we assess our own heart?

9. 'People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart' (v.7). Is it possible to discern the hearts of others? If so, then why would we and what are the dangers of this? Discuss.

10. How might we let God's Spirit transform our hearts in our daily life?

11. Pray for each other.

