

## APPLICATION

- Reflect on the times you judged others based on physical attributes or appearances. Take some time this week to ask God to see people through His eyes and to approach others without bias or favoritism, as Jesus did. Consider also how you can encourage the next generation to do this.
- Years alone as a shepherd helped mold David into a man of upright heart and skillful hands. How might God be molding you in this season? Starting today, how can your perspective change regarding your future?
- No matter how young you are, there is a next generation to whom we can encourage servant leadership. What can you start doing to believe and invest in the next generation?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for raising you up to prepare you for His greater purpose. Ask God to give you the skills and the right heart to do His will.
- Acknowledge that all you have and all you've accomplished is because of God. Thank God for all He has blessed you with—tangible and intangible.
- Believe that by God's grace and strength, you can inspire the next generation toward servant leadership. Pray for the next generation to love God and lead others to Him.



## Inspired Servant Leadership

WEEK 2

## WARM-UP

- What is one exam, project, or task you did, even though you weren't ready for it? What happened?
- Name a person who saw more in you than you did. Who is this person, and what did he or she say about you?
- Share about a time when you were promoted or given a new responsibility. How did your previous tasks prepare you for the new ones?

**WORD** <sup>70</sup>He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; <sup>71</sup>from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. <sup>72</sup>With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand. **PSALM 78:70-72**

In the Bible, David is known as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Though he began as a shepherd at a young age, he became a biblical model of servant leadership, with a humble heart and noble character. This week, we'll talk about how God chose David and formed him into a servant leader. We hope this will encourage us and the generations after us to submit to God's purpose and transforming grace.

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## 1 | God chose David to serve Him.

*He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds . . .*

**PSALM 78:70**

David started very small. He was the youngest of eight sons in his family, and he took care of the sheep (1 Samuel 16:11). Neither the prophet Samuel nor David's own father expected him to be the anointed king of Israel. But God corrected them, reminding them that while *"man looks on the outward appearance, the LORD looks on the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7). More than outward appeal and social popularity, God chose David because of his heart. How does the prophet Jeremiah describe our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9)? Why is it so hard to make sure one's heart remains pure?

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## 2 | God brought David up to shepherd His people.

*. . . from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.* **PSALM 78:71**

David started by shepherding sheep, but God's plan for him was to shepherd people. Even before this, David was equipped with the exact tools he would need to get where God intended. God had molded David in both skills and character. Saul, who was king at the time, unknowingly took the future king into his service because David was skilled with the lyre. When David faced Goliath, he was unafraid and declared by faith, *"the LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine"* (1 Samuel 17:37). He struck down Goliath by God's power, not his own. This was the same way he would lead God's people as king. Have you ever looked

back on your life and realized why certain things had to happen? How do you believe God is preparing you for His next task for you? How do you think God is preparing the next generations for the future tasks He has for them?

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## 3 | David shepherded God's people with an upright heart and skillful hands.

*With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.* **PSALM 78:72**

Because God had chosen David and molded him, he was able to lead God's people. Above all, David let God lead him as he led the people. The word *upright* means pure, perfect, and innocent. This does not mean that David was perfect; in fact, he sinned more than once against God. But, he always responded in humility and had a repentant heart. Being upright meant that David led God's people with no personal agenda. Aside from looking at and molding David's heart, God also blessed David with skillful hands. Our hearts must be teachable and humble as well. We should continue to let God lead us, even as we lead others. What is our role in raising servant leaders? How can we believe and invest in the next generation?

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