



1 SAMUEL 16:14-23

GETTING STARTED...

When it comes to Spiritual warfare, Christians have tended to fall into two equally problematic camps. On one end of the spectrum we can ignore the spiritual world, and we can begin function as practical atheists. On the other end, we can become so wrapped up in the spiritual world that everything becomes a matter of demons and angels, we can function as pantheists. The Bible helps us keep from either extreme by reminding us of the reality of the spiritual world around us. As we open the story of David we find spiritual warfare is involved and frames his story. Yet, we are also given the reassurance that God is in control of all things and the means by which we are invited into this spiritual warfare is simply by worship and prayer.

READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 16:14-23

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. ¹⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. ¹⁶ Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." ¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." ¹⁸ One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." ¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." ²⁰ And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. ²¹ And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. ²² And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." ²³ And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Contrast 1 Sam 16:13 and 14. Looking back into Saul's history, what is the reason for why God departs from him? (consider 1 Sam 15:23)
2. What is the reason for David's success in driving away this harmful spirit?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. Do you find yourself leaning towards functional atheism (no spiritual reality) or pantheism (everything is spiritual)? How can we make sure that are following God in this?
6. What place does worship have in your life? How has God met you in worship? How has God used it for your growth in the Christian life?
7. If you are comfortable, share a story where God has used a trial that you have gone through for good. How can we prepare ourselves to meet trials in such a way that trusts God through it?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*