

— the sample —

# BETH MOORE DAVID

*Seeking a Heart Like His*





— the sample —

# DAVID

*Seeking a Heart Like His*

## ABOUT THIS STUDY

*David: Seeking a Heart Like His* examines the “man after God’s own heart.” In this 11-session study, David will delight and disappoint you. You’ll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. If you’ve ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, join Beth Moore on an exciting and intimate journey to know King David, and discover how you too can have a heart like our own God.

First released in 1996, this updated edition of Beth Moore’s study of the life of David features all new video and a revised print study to speak to today’s modern woman.

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

<b>Member Book</b>	005337219	<b>\$14.95</b>
<b>Leader Guide</b>	005337220	<b>\$6.95</b>
<b>Leader Kit</b>	005189428	<b>\$199.95</b>
(contains DVDs, Member Book, and Leader Guide)		
<b>Audio CD Set</b>	005337221	<b>\$39.95</b>

Product pricing and availability subject to change without notice.

DON'T MISS A SINGLE SESSION!  
INDIVIDUAL VIDEO AND AUDIO  
DOWNLOADS ARE AVAILABLE AT  
[LIFEWAY.COM/BETHMOORE](http://LIFEWAY.COM/BETHMOORE)

To order: [lifeway.com/bethmoore](http://lifeway.com/bethmoore) | 800.458.2772 | LifeWay Christian Stores



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR


Beth Moore has written best-selling Bible studies on the Patriarchs, Esther, Moses, Paul, Isaiah, Daniel, John, and Jesus. *Breaking Free*, *Praying God's Word*, and *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things* have all focused on the battle Satan is waging against Christians. *Believing God*, *Loving Well*, and *Living Beyond Yourself* have focused on how Christians can live triumphantly in today's world. *Stepping Up* explores worship and invites us to reach a new level of relationship and intimacy with God.

Beth's ministry is grounded in and fueled by her service at her home fellowship, First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. Beth believes that her calling is Bible literacy: guiding believers to love and live God's Word. *David: Seeking a Heart Like His* grew from her fervent desire that women know greater intimacy with God.

Beth has a passion for Christ, a passion for Bible study, and a passion to see Christians living the lives Christ intended. God bless you as you join Beth and explore the new and updated version of *David: Seeking a Heart Like His*.

Beth loves the Lord, loves to laugh, and loves to be with His people. Her life is full of activity, but one commitment remains constant: Counting all things but loss for the excellence of knowing Christ Jesus, the Lord (see Phil. 3:8).





# Become a Woman After God's Own Heart

## Look Around!

Explore this sample taken from the first week  
of study of *David: Seeking a Heart Like His*.  
Visit [lifeway.com/bethmoore](http://lifeway.com/bethmoore) for more  
information or to order.



# CONTENTS

## WEEK ONE

Summoned from the Sheepfold . . . . . 10

## WEEK TWO

Sowing the Seeds of Jealousy. . . . . 34

## WEEK THREE

Survival Skills and He Who Wills. . . . . 58

## WEEK FOUR

Tragic Ends and Faithful Friends . . . . . 82

## WEEK FIVE

The Long-Awaited Throne . . . . . 104

## WEEK SIX

A Man After God's Own Heart. . . . . 126

## WEEK SEVEN

The Wages of Sin . . . . . 148

## WEEK EIGHT

The Unrelenting Sword . . . . . 170

## WEEK NINE

Back Where He Belonged. . . . . 194

## WEEK TEN

The Final Years and Settled Fears. . . . . 218

Endnotes . . . . . 240



# DAVID *Seeking a Heart Like His*

viewer guide | session one

---

Our objective is to study the life of David. We will launch our journey with Scripture's first reference to him; then we will flash back momentarily to capture our historical context.

Read 1 Samuel 13:1-14.

Consider the following statements as starting points:

1. A person's \_\_\_\_\_ never begins with his or her own. Two figures loom large in David's introduction: \_\_\_\_\_, Israel's last \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, Israel's first \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Our lives are often laboriously \_\_\_\_\_ with another we have neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor fully \_\_\_\_\_. The lives of Samuel and Saul were knotted by two simple words: "\_\_\_\_\_."

- The name *Samuel* is a compound of the Hebrew words for \_\_\_\_\_ (*shem*) and \_\_\_\_\_ (*el*), and means he over whom the name of God has been said. In Hebrew the name also \_\_\_\_\_ very similar to the verb *ask* (*sha'al*).



- The Hebrew name *Saul* (*sha'ul*) is drawn from this very same word and literally means \_\_\_\_\_. Ralph W. Klein presents Samuel as the one “who had been asked (‘\_\_\_\_\_’) of God (v. 20) and who had been dedicated (‘\_\_\_\_\_’) back to God (v. 28).”<sup>1</sup> (See 1 Sam. 1.)

- First Samuel 8:1-10 again has the play on words between the people’s request and the word *Saul*.<sup>2</sup>

- In 1 Samuel 13:12 “Sought the ... favor” means “to \_\_\_\_\_ by caressing: to \_\_\_\_\_, flatter.”<sup>3</sup>

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ that exceeds \_\_\_\_\_ often settles with \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Ralph Klein, *Word Biblical Commentary*, Vol.10 (Waco: Word Books, 1983), 9.

2. *Ibid.*, 76.

3. Robert L. Hubbard Jr., gen. ed., “The First Book of Samuel” in *New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company), 346.



WEEK ONE

# Summoned from the Sheepfold

Day 1

A Father Unlike His Son

Day 2

An Arrogant King

Day 3

Straight to the Heart

Day 4

Chords of Comfort

Day 5

One Smooth Stone





DAY 1

# A Father Unlike His Son

TODAY'S TREASURE

"Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

1 Samuel 14:6

Our study of David begins with Scripture's first mention of him and ends with his last breath. We begin shortly after the birth of the Hebrew monarchy. The Israelites were beginning to reap what they had sown in their demand for a king like other nations had. We will meet several important figures in Hebrew history who tremendously impacted David's life.

From our first glimpses of David, you will begin to wonder how one person could be so utterly typical in some ways and so completely atypical in others. The question will bless us and haunt us throughout the next 10 weeks. Our first unit is the study of David's youth and the relationships that would shape his future. Anticipate all God wants to teach you this week.

Try to approach the week without preconceived notions and assumptions from former studies of the life of David. Allow God to give you a fresh approach to His ageless Word. Grant Him the delight of teaching a completely willing student. Begin your study by reading Today's Treasure. Pray that God will speak to you through His Word.

In the margin please write a brief prayer of commitment to the God who has drawn you personally to this study.

I am blessed beyond measure to take this journey with you. The member book you hold in your hands is the revised, updated version. I first studied this remarkable narrative 16 years ago; but, true to His faithful form, God engaged my attentions and stirred my spirit with the same force the second time around. Isn't that part of what we love about the study of Scripture? Because it's a living word, it falls just as fresh in every re-encounter if we're willing to approach it with a fresh heart. The words of commentator Robert Alter elated me as I took this second look. May God use them to stir your anticipation as well:

The major sequence that runs ... from 1 Samuel 1 to 1 Kings is one of the most astounding pieces of narrative that has come down to us from the ancient world. The story of David is probably the greatest single narrative representation in antiquity of a human



# DAVID *Seeking a Heart Like His*

life evolving by slow stages through time, shaped and altered by the pressures of political life, public institutions, family, and the impulses of body and spirit, the eventual sad decay of the flesh... And nowhere is the Bible's astringent narrative economy, its ability to define characters and etch revelatory dialogue in a few telling strokes, more brilliantly deployed.<sup>1</sup>

Oh, how I pray that the Holy Spirit will invade our study with such internal force that these ancient historical figures will come alive before our very eyes. We will encounter many colorful personalities over the next 10 weeks.

Our journey begins with Saul and Jonathan, a father and son who had a tremendous impact on David. Saul was the reigning king of Israel. Jonathan, his son, was heir apparent to the throne. Our study begins in the middle of the reign of King Saul, the people's choice.

Hopefully, you have seen video session 1, which sets our study in historical context. If not, first take time to read 1 Samuel 8–11. One of the most definitive points made in our introduction concerning Saul was that his position exceeded his passion.

Have you ever been in that kind of predicament? If so, when?

We are not victims of our passions or our lack of them.

At one time or another, most of us have been. Our present journey will illustrate a crucial concept that could practically save our lives and, undoubtedly, our integrity at times: We are not victims of our passions or our lack of them. God really can grant us a fiery heart toward Him and toward what He favors. This is the love David later described as "better than life" (Ps. 63:3).

Good news and bad erupted from Samuel's prophecy in 1 Samuel 13:14. The bad news was that the kingdom of Israel's first monarch would not endure. Saul had a bad habit of compromising the commands of God. The king refused to wait on the Lord, trust in His Word, and follow His directions. Saul proved that a person can have good characteristics without having good character. The good news was: "The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart."

Our first assignment introduces us to Jonathan, son of King Saul, a man quite different from his father. The one who became so dear to David is sure to become dear to us. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23.

Describe the relationship between Jonathan and his armor bearer based on these verses. Try to be specific.

First Samuel 14:6 is probably the most powerful statement in the reading assignment. In the margin write your own paraphrase of the portion of Scripture that begins with "Perhaps the LORD."



Jonathan and his armor bearer were impressive men and worthy examples. Let's allow two points to draw our attention.

**1. Jonathan's perception of the Lord's ways.** His keen perception of the Lord certainly did not come from his father because Jonathan's understanding exceeded that of Saul. Jonathan had his own relationship with the Lord, completely separate from his father's. Jonathan made two profound statements in verse 6:

- "Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf."
- "Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

Consider how these statements reveal Jonathan's distinct perception of God's ways: Jonathan *knew* the Lord could save, no matter *who* or *how many* were fighting the battle. In fact, he knew that if God chose to save, *nothing* could hinder Him. His faith in God's strength and determination was solid: God could do anything. His only question was whether or not God would choose to do it through them that day. Reread Jonathan's words: "Perhaps the LORD will act in *our* behalf." He *knew* God could do it; he didn't know if He *would*. Whether or not He did, Jonathan understood God's response to be based on sovereignty, not weakness. Jonathan's attitude reminds me of several other young men who also faced the strong possibility of death.

Read Daniel 3:16-18. How was the apparent attitude of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego similar to Jonathan's attitude?

Read the following and choose the answer that most often reflects your attitude when the odds seem stacked against you.

- God could help me, but He doesn't seem to want to very often.
- My beginning faith fades quickly when I don't see results.
- I often feel alone, as if God is not interested in my battles.
- God works mightily through the mighty and no one else.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to have faith like that of Jonathan and the three men in the blazing furnace, don't you? As you pursue this study, you are strengthening your faith.

Read Romans 10:17 and fill in the diagram below, charting the two components that lead to faith.

\_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → FAITH

You might have said that hearing through the Word of God results in faith. Two critical elements result in faith: the message of Christ and our experience of



hearing the message. Jonathan was not the only impressive individual in our first reading assignment. Look at the significant example of his armor bearer.

**2. The armor bearer's commitment to Jonathan's authority.** You probably noted the armor bearer's constant obedience to Jonathan's commands. You can draw a wonderful parallel between the armor bearer and a Christian.

What is God's command to us in Ephesians 6:10-13?

- Stand and watch the salvation of the Lord.
- Put on the whole armor of God.
- Ignore the enemy and he will have to flee.

What is the stated purpose of the command to put on the armor?

- We will intimidate our enemy.
- We keep from getting slaughtered.
- We can take our stand against the Devil's schemes.

Whose armor are we supposed to put on? \_\_\_\_\_

We are God's present armor bearers. We're not just to carry it. We are to put it on. I want you to see just how much we compare to Jonathan's armor bearer. Take a good look at the word "struggle" in Ephesians 6:12. The Greek word *pale* means, "A wrestling, struggle, or hand-to-hand combat." The word described the wrestling of athletes and the hand-to-hand combat of soldiers. It denoted the struggle between individual combatants in distinction from an entire military campaign.<sup>2</sup> Our "struggle" against our enemy is a very personal battle. *Pale* does not describe a corporate battle. It describes a struggle that involves only ourselves, the One whose armor we bear, and our enemy.

Jonathan's armor bearer set a wonderful example. Take a look back at 1 Samuel 14 and let's draw a few applications that may help us in our battle:

- The armor bearer listened carefully to Jonathan's instructions. To be victorious, we must also listen carefully to the instructions of the One whose armor we bear. The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, will both prepare us and protect us.
- The New International Version describes Jonathan's armor bearer as being with his master "heart and soul" (v. 7).

What you think the armor bearer meant by pledging himself to Jonathan "heart and soul"?

At this point in your journey, how often would you describe yourself as being with God "heart and soul"?

- often
- occasionally
- rarely
- I don't believe I've ever really been with God "heart and soul."

We must listen carefully to the instructions of the One whose armor we bear.



In the margin write a brief prayer regarding any desire you have to be with God “heart and soul.”

- The armor bearer followed behind Jonathan. His master led him into battle. He did not choose the battle. Jonathan made sure he went ahead of the armor bearer so that he could take the blows of the enemy. When we received Christ as Savior, we enlisted in an army we weren’t acutely aware existed. We would avoid our spiritual battles if we could, but our Master is always careful to lead the way. We must always “climb up” after Him. Notice that 1 Samuel 14:13 says, “The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.” Our enemy will fall before our God. We are only deadly to the enemy when we go behind Him.

Based on the impressions of Jonathan you received in day 1, how would you describe him?

Read 1 Samuel 14:24-52. How did Saul put his army in jeopardy?

- He forced his men to fast.
- He forced them to settle in enemy territory.
- He forced them to fight an enemy too powerful for them.

According to 14:31-33, what things happened as a result of their “fast”?

What tragedy almost resulted from Saul’s selfish command?

- Jonathan was almost put to death.
- David nearly lost his life.
- Saul was nearly captured by the Philistines.
- The men almost died of starvation.

Note an important fact about fasting. God, not man, must call “fasts.” Fasting called by God will result in strength, not weakness. Fasting for any other reason works against us rather than for us. It is a wonderful and highly effective discipline of God, but we must follow His instruction for fasting so we will be empowered rather than depleted in our battles.

Unfortunately, we’re highly capable of fasting for all sorts of misguided reasons. In the last 25 years of women’s ministry, I can’t count the times I’ve seen women use fasting as an excuse for radical dieting and weight loss. Not only is it dangerous but it also can be deadly. On the other hand, our motive for fasting may be good. It’s just not necessarily God.

Have you ever withheld food from yourself for a considerable length of time when it wasn't God's idea?  yes  no

If so, in the margin describe how you felt and what eventually happened.

Hasty, self-centered vows can cost us. Not only did Saul's army end up sinning against God but Saul easily could have lost his son. God tried to teach Saul a very serious lesson that day. Saul's pride could have caused him to keep a foolish vow. Better to repent than to add foolishness to foolishness.

In each battle we've studied today, we've seen evidence that God is for us in battle, not against us. He wants us fortified before our enemy with faith like Jonathan's, obedience like the armor bearer's, and proper fuel like Saul's army should have received. May He grant us the wisdom that leads to divine strength. I'm so glad you came along today. I'll meet you here tomorrow.



DAY 2

## An Arrogant King

TODAY'S TREASURE

"But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" 1 Samuel 15:22

Begin your study by praying that God will speak to you through His Word. Today we observe a confrontation between King Saul and Samuel the prophet. The confrontation speaks to us as we consider our approach to God's instructions. The Scriptures we will read will likely leave quite an impression on you.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35. In one sentence state what you believe is the theme of this chapter.

What is the most shocking or troublesome verse or statement in this chapter in your opinion and why?



Which of the following words best describes God's response to Saul's actions in verses 11 and 12?

- fury       jealousy       indifference  
 bitterness       grief       guilt

According to verse 11, how did Samuel respond to Saul's disobedience?

Saul had gone to Carmel to set up a monument in his own honor. What does that suggest to you about Saul's heart?

When Samuel confronted Saul, what reason did Saul give for sparing the livestock (v. 15)? Choose one.

- The livestock could provide food and clothing for the Israelites.  
 The best livestock was spared to offer as sacrifices to God.  
 The stock of the Amalekites was healthier than Israel's livestock.  
 The livestock would be an impressive addition to Israel's assets.

In your opinion, which of the following statements most reflects Saul's apparent attitude according to verses 20 and 21?

- Partial obedience is still obedience.  
 God doesn't make His instructions clear enough to be followed.  
 God's ideas are good unless a better one comes along.

What does verse 22 mean to you? Respond in the margin.

Our God seems so unlike the One who ordered an entire people destroyed, doesn't He? If God is love, light, and cannot tempt us to sin, we must need to know more to adequately evaluate this grave command of God. We need to know the history of the Amalekites. They were the first people to attack the Israelites after their exodus (Ex. 17:8-16). After initial defeat, they attacked Israel again, forcing them back into the Sinai wilderness (Num. 14:39-45).

Read Moses' words to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 25:17-19. Note everything you learn about the Amalekites by completing the following:

They met the Israelites on their way out of Egypt and ...

They had no ...

The Israelites would eventually blot out ...

The Israelites must not ...

# DAVID *Seeking a Heart Like His*

Jonah 3:10 and 4:1-2      God is sovereign. He owes us no explanation as to why He ordered this entire population to be exterminated. However, we can assume they were a vile and godless people because God is merciful and compassionate.

Look up the Scriptures in the margin and note what they have to say about God's mercy on wicked people.

Ezekiel 33:11      The passages from Jonah and Ezekiel clearly demonstrate God's desire to forgive and rescue all people from evil. From all the Bible says about the Amalekites, I assume they rejected every opportunity to repent of evil and turn to God.

Saul made some serious and inappropriate presumptions. He kept King Agag alive, not to spare his life out of mercy, but to present him as a trophy—a public exhibit. He did not slaughter the sheep and cattle for the very same reason: He saved the best to make himself look better. First Samuel 15:9 ends with a sad commentary on Saul's actions: "These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed." Saul had the audacity to improve on God's command.

Several breaches in character become evident in this dramatic chapter. Let's consider each of these traits.

**1. Saul was arrogant.** If we needed any further proof of Saul's pride and audacity, verse 12 certainly provides it. Saul went directly to Carmel and built a monument to himself. A short time later Samuel reminded Saul that God had anointed him king over Israel when he was small in his own eyes.

Check the following words that describe what you think Samuel meant by the term "little in your own eyes."

self-conscious    low self-esteem    self-denying    humble

Of the four answers to the last question, circle the ones that describe a positive, Christ-honoring form of being "little in your own eyes."

For Saul being little in his own eyes meant being self-conscious. We could certainly speculate that his self-esteem was inappropriately low. The Bible encourages self-denial and humility as positive forms of recognizing our "smallness" before God.

.....  
Briefly describe a time in your life when you knew God was humbling you so that He could more fully use you.

What are a few ways you could keep your heart humble before God?



**2. Saul refused to take responsibility for his actions.** He first excused himself for disobeying God by claiming he spared the best of the sheep and cattle for a sacrifice to the Lord. Amazing, isn't it? Comparable reasoning might be a person claiming the reason he robbed a bank was to give a greater tithe and offering to the Lord. (Frankly, I'm surprised we haven't seen that one come up in the news.) Believe it or not, we can sometimes use God as our excuse for disobedience too. One woman told me she was certain God's will was for her to leave her husband because she simply wasn't happy. Another woman explained to me that she had found the man God intended her to marry, though she was already married.

Can you think of an example of disobedience in God's name?

Saul not only tried to use God as his excuse for disobedience but he also claimed he was afraid of and gave in to the people (v. 24). The king of Israel with God on his side scared of his people? Somehow I doubt it, don't you?

When we've done something wrong or foolish, we find shouldering the responsibility difficult, don't we? At times we are all tempted to blame someone else when we've blown it. I wonder if the outcome might have been different if Saul simply had admitted he'd made a wrong choice.

Unlike Saul, we have lots of opportunities for good choices. Our first choice should be to obey God. Our second choice should be to take responsibility for poor decisions when we make them. Let's try an experiment this week: Ask God to make us keenly aware when we try to "pass the buck" instead of taking responsibility for something we should or shouldn't have done.

Be courageous enough to record in the margin any instances when you recently were tempted to blame someone else for your actions.

I'm amazed at the inclinations of our human nature. Thank God He can change that nature. Don't get discouraged. Awareness is the first step to change.

**3. Saul minimized the seriousness of disobedience.** In verse 23 Samuel compared rebellion to the sin of divination or witchcraft. The comparison seems puzzling until we consider that rebellion is a means by which we attempt to choose our own futures by our independent actions. Divination attempts to foretell or sway the future. In the same verse God likens arrogance to the evil of idolatry. When we are arrogant, who becomes God in our lives?

The chapter concludes with a harrowing scene. Samuel hacked King Agag to pieces. Samuel's actions were neither in haste nor based on displaced piety to say, "I told you so." He acted in grieved obedience.

As we conclude our lesson today, what did you learn about Samuel's heart in verses 11 and 35? Respond in the margin.

I wonder if the outcome might have been different if Saul simply had admitted he'd made a wrong choice.

Based on 1 Samuel 15:22, why do you think obedience is more important to God than sacrifice?

Perhaps Samuel's heart was the reason God used him as He did. Samuel's heart never grew cold and condemning. God allowed Samuel to be emotionally involved but enabled him to maintain objectivity so that he could speak "the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). Saul learned that obedience was better than sacrifice. Samuel learned that sometimes obedience is the sacrifice.



DAY 3

## Straight to the Heart

TODAY'S TREASURE

"The LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" 1 Samuel 16:7

I love wrapping familiar passages around me like a security blanket and feeling their warmth.

Begin by praying that God will speak to you through His Word. Can you tell from our "Treasure" that we have a special chapter to study today? I love to discover new truths through Scriptures, but I also love wrapping the familiar passages around me like a security blanket and feeling their warmth. Perhaps we'll have the joy of experiencing the best of both worlds today. We'll study the old and familiar with a fresh new look. I can't wait to get started!

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What profound assignment did God give the prophet Samuel in verse 1?

Why was Samuel initially reluctant to go to Bethlehem? Choose one.

- His health was failing.
- He felt unworthy.
- He was afraid Saul would kill him.
- His sons were unruly.



Samuel first assumed God's choice was Eliab, Jesse's oldest son. Based on God's response to Samuel, why do you think Samuel chose Eliab?

When Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons, Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest ... but he is tending the sheep." What other words come to your mind when you think of the word "tending"?

Which of the following words describe Jesse's youngest son?

- rugged                       ruddy                       handsome  
 tall                               strong                       shy

In the margin write the Lord's commandment to Samuel in verse 12.

How did the Spirit of God manifest Himself in the life of David from the time He came upon him?

- in power                       in glory                       in countenance  
 in zeal                               in authority

Samuel's stubbornness amuses me. Notice his response to Jesse once he learned that Jesse had one more son. "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." He certainly knew how to get them moving. Don't forget how everyone trembled when he arrived in Bethlehem. No one wanted to have the prophet of God drop by unannounced.

David, a young teenager, arrived on the scene with no idea what awaited him. He was handsome with a reddish complexion and no doubt smelled like sheep. He obviously was not his own father's first choice nor would he have been Samuel's. The prophet initially assumed God's choice was Eliab. This choice made the most sense. He was the eldest son, and he looked like a king.

God taught Samuel a very important lesson. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." He reminded Samuel that the human mind has an overwhelming tendency to make assumptions based on appearances. God's choices don't always make sense to us.

When my oldest brother was born, my mother wholeheartedly gave him to the Lord. By age five he was showing remarkable signs of musical talent. He earned many honors by high school and developed impressive leadership skills. He earns a very good living as a conductor and composer in the secular entertainment world. My big brother has always been a hero to me. He not only is the most talented person I've ever known but he is one of the dearest.

I came along in the family order as the fourth of five children and never could find my niche. I could not sing or play an instrument. I was not outstanding at anything. Strangely, God heard my mother's devotion, and He honored her desire to give a child back to the Lord to serve Him. For reasons

# DAVID *Seeking a Heart Like His*

I will never know, He did not choose the one who made the most sense. In fact, my beloved older brother has chosen an entirely different religion that does not include Christ as Savior. God appears to have pulled out the one who made the least sense—me. I can't even tell you what He saw in my heart worth using. He is simply a God of grace, looking for those who will not take an ounce of credit for what He alone can do.

Can you think of a time when God's obvious choice for you did not make sense based on outward appearances? If so, in the margin describe the experience.

God's choices don't always make sense to us, but they are never haphazard or random. A few considerations about David shed light on why God may have chosen him. The first consideration is his genealogy. Let's do a little research.

The Old Testament Book of Ruth tells of a woman and her mother-in-law after the deaths of their husbands. Ruth is not only one of the most important women in Hebrew history but she also had a special relationship to David.

Read Ruth 4:13-17. Who was Ruth in relation to David?

- David's great-grandmother
- David's grandmother
- David's aunt
- none of the above

Look at Matthew 1:1-17. Whose genealogy is listed?

What two titles is Christ given in verse 1?

- the son of David
- the son of God
- the son of man
- the son of Abraham

The genealogy David and Christ shared was of obvious importance. In verse 3, you can see that both were descendants of Judah, one of the sons of Jacob. In the prophecy Jacob spoke over Judah, he told him that "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet" (Gen. 49:10). You see, David was not a random choice. He was one of the most important figures in the genealogy of Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5).

I never fail to be encouraged by Christ's heritage. On the list you will find names of many offenders but few blameless characters.

How do you respond to the fact that the only perfect person on Christ's genealogy is Christ Himself? Respond in the margin.

In many ways David's life foreshadowed or pictured details of Christ's life. God illustrated the unknown about the Messiah through the known about David. David was not divine nor perfect, as we will quickly see, but God will use him to teach us truths about the One who is. I think you'll enjoy knowing that the



name Jesse is a “personal name meaning, ‘man.’”<sup>3</sup> Christ referred to Himself as the “Son of Man” more than any other title. He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (Matt. 16:13). Isn’t it interesting that the King of Israel who often prefigured Jesus was also technically the “Son of Man”?

David’s occupation also made him a candidate for kingship. At first glance, few similarities appear between a shepherd and a king, but we will discover that David received invaluable experience keeping sheep. Psalm 78:70-72 states: “He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.”

What evidences do you see in these verses to refute the idea that God called David in spite of the fact that he was a common shepherd?

What are a few of your occupational skills?

Have you ever felt that your occupational skills were useless in areas of service to God?  yes  no

Can you think of any ways God can use or has used you because of your skills and not just in spite of them? If so, list them in the margin.

Few things seem less spiritual than keeping smelly sheep, yet God used David’s skills for eternal purposes. Those who went to “fetch him” (KJV) could not have easily torn David from his sheep. You can be certain he did not leave his sheep shepherdless. Someone had to stay in David’s place while he ran home. He even returned to his sheep after the anointing (v. 19).

When David arrived at home, Samuel saw that he was “ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.” Still, Samuel did not move. He had already made a mistake based on appearances. Then God said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”

These words send chills up my spine.

Complete the following from 1 Samuel 16:13. “So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day ...”

The Holy Spirit just can’t seem to arrive without power, can He? (See Acts 1:8 in margin.) As we study the life of a certain shepherd boy, we will no doubt see testimony of that power again and again. Samuel stood before a young lad and with awe and reverence poured the oil on his head. Although the oil surely blurred the vision of the one whose eyes it bathed, God’s vision was

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**ACTS 1:8**

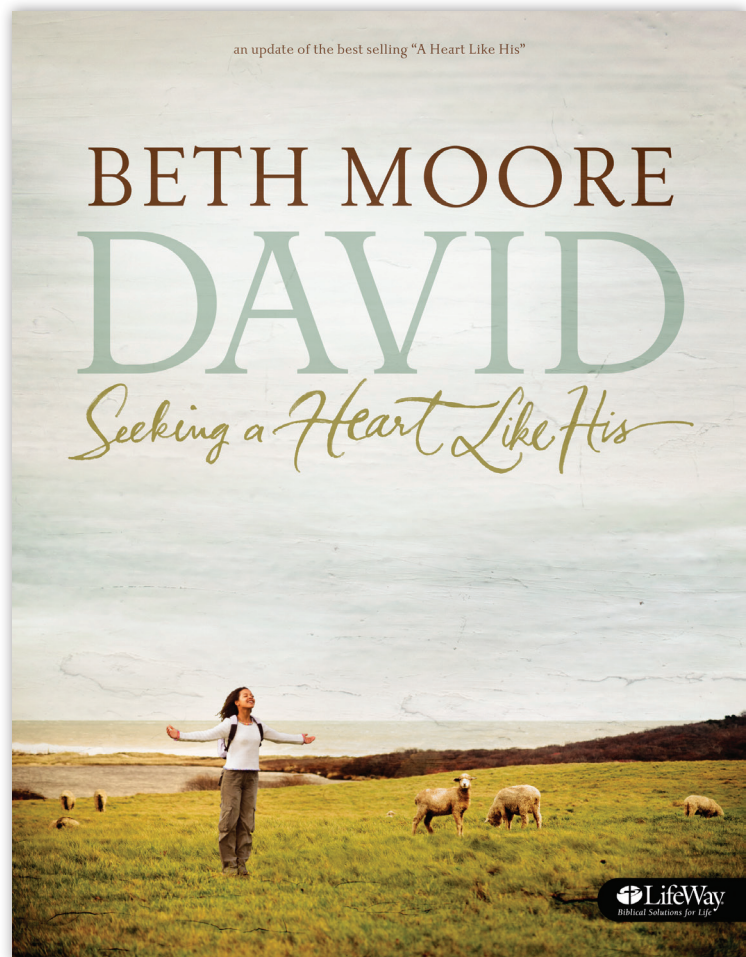
# DAVID *Seeking a Heart Like His*

crystal clear. He had said, “I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons” (1 Sam. 16:1, KJV). The Hebrew word for *provided* is *ra’ah*. It means “to see, to look at, view, inspect, regard, to perceive; ... to feel; to experience.”<sup>4</sup> Second Chronicles 16:9 says, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (NKJV).

That day so many years ago, the eyes of the Lord looked throughout the whole earth and fell on an obscure village called Bethlehem. There He found a heart—one like unto His own. He found a heart tendered to little lost sheep, and He showed Himself strong on behalf of that heart, just like He promised.



TO ORDER DAVID  
OR DOWNLOAD  
PROMOTIONAL HELPS, VISIT  
[LIFEWAY.COM/BETHMOORE](http://LIFEWAY.COM/BETHMOORE)







WITH WORSHIP BY

TRAVIS COTTRELL

# BETH MOORE



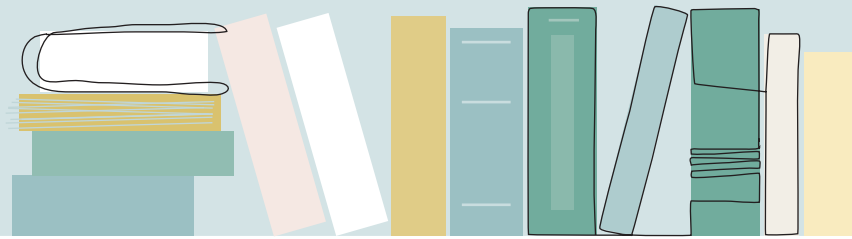
LIFE-CHANGING BIBLE STUDY! INSPIRING WORSHIP!

**[LIFEWAY.COM/LIVINGPROOF](http://LIFEWAY.COM/LIVINGPROOF)**

Event subject to change without notice.

LifeWay | Women

COMPLETE YOUR



BETH

MOORE

LIBRARY

**BETH MOORE's** collection of LifeWay Women Bible studies covers relevant topics from believing God to loving difficult people. Each in-depth study helps guide you on your journey to find the answers to life's toughest questions. **How many have you done?**

Go to [lifeway.com/bethmoore](https://lifeway.com/bethmoore) to see the full list and complete your Beth Moore Bible study library.





VISIT OUR BLOG!  
[LIFEWAY.COM/WOMENALLACCESS](http://LIFEWAY.COM/WOMENALLACCESS)  
FOLLOW OUR TWEETS!  
[TWITTER.COM/LIFEWAYWOMEN](https://twitter.com/LIFEWAYWOMEN)  
LIKE US ON FB!  
[FACEBOOK.COM/LIFEWAYWOMEN](https://facebook.com/LIFEWAYWOMEN)

*because*

here you can  
be yourself.

LifeWay | Women