



*HEARING
GOD*

BIBLE STUDY

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IVP SIGNATURE BIBLE STUDIES

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6 STUDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS



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1. Why was Samuel reluctant to go to Jesse's house? (See 1 Samuel 15:10-11; 16:1-2.)

2. Conversational life with God involves asking questions. What question did God ask Samuel? What question did Samuel ask God?

3. What does a person need to think, feel, or believe about God in order to unhesitatingly ask God questions?

4. What does it tell you about Samuel that he didn't insist on knowing the instructions before leaving home, but moved forward on God's assurance that he would show him what to do (v. 3)?

5. What about Eliab apparently made Samuel think he might be the one God was choosing to be king?

**When Samuel anointed Saul, Israel's first king, the text says Saul was "as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else" (1 Samuel 9:2).
But Saul did not live up to expectations.**

6. God answered Samuel's thought by saying he didn't look at someone the way people did. Today, what are the things people look at to consider someone a potential leader for God?
7. Taking into account the character of God and how God works with people, what do you think God was looking for in a king (v. 7)?
8. The choice of David seems to have been unexpected, possibly surprising Samuel, Jesse, and Jesse's other sons. What has to be true about us in order for us to expect the unexpected from God?

 **RESPOND** 

- * What would you most like about having a conversational life with God?

- * What are you and God doing together these days? If you're not sure, ask God right now to show you.

 **PRAY** 

As you pray, experiment with conversing with God about the ordinary events of your life. Ask God to help you grow in your awareness of his friendship and approach life as a conversation with him. Thank God for helping you learn to readily recognize his voice speaking in your heart.

 **NEXT STEPS** 

This week, pause briefly between everyday tasks, being open to anything God might want to say to you about these tasks. You might want to have a special object or picture nearby to help you pause and be still for a minute or two.

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