

# Why Lead Now?

By John Babler

## Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

### Assignment One

Read the comments related to 1 Samuel 16:4–11 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What do you think your reaction might have been if you were in David's position?

### Assignment Two

Read the comments related to 1 Samuel 16:12–13 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What is the significance of the statement, "The Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward"?

### Assignment Three

Read the comments related to 1 Samuel 17:32–27, 45–50 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What are the three most important concepts relating to leadership in these passages?

### Scripture to Memorize

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7*

### Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will be able to describe why it is important to lead, no matter your age, and how God helped David be a leader even as a youth.

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## It's in the Book

30 minutes

### Real-Life Scenario

There's a bully at your school or workplace. He does not know you are a Christian, but you encounter him yelling and threatening a friend of yours. As you listen, you hear the bully ranting about how stupid it is to be a Christian and how he is going to punish your friend for having such stupid beliefs. What would you do?

**Read** 1 Samuel 16:1–13 out loud.

### Studying the Passage

**Verses 1–3.** The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul . . . you shall anoint for him whom I declare to you.” The current king, Saul, had disobeyed God, and God rejected him as king. God told Samuel to go and anoint a new king in his place. Since Saul was still alive and in power as king, Samuel was fearful that anointing his replacement could cost him his life. God told him how and where he was to go and affirmed his commandment to anoint the new King.

**Verses 4–11.** Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. . . . “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him; for we will not sit down till he comes here.” Samuel obeyed the Lord. He looked at Eliab and was impressed with his stature and appearance, but God had not chosen Eliab.

God revealed an important truth to Samuel. That same truth is also important for us today: “man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” After seeing seven of Jesse’s sons and God rejecting all of them, Samuel asked Jesse if there was another. Jesse mentioned the youngest son and Samuel requested his presence.

### Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now share an answer to the following question: What do you think your reaction might have been if you were in David’s position?

### Studying the Passage

**Verses 12–13.** And he sent and brought him in. . . . the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. God told Samuel that David was the one, and Samuel anointed him.

**Verse 13.** the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. The coming of the Spirit authenticated David’s ability to lead even at a young age. No doubt, this was a great encouragement to young David! Today, when you lead according to God’s Word, you are not alone. You have the Spirit within you, as well as God’s Word to guide you.

### Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share your answer to the following question: What is the significance is of the statement, “The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward”?

### Discussion Questions

Do you believe God calls young people today to future leadership positions? To present leadership positions? Why or why not? Can you share an example of someone you know who has experienced such a call? Have you?

### On Your Own

Read 1 Samuel 17:32–37. In the space below, write something you fear. Then write a brief prayer, asking God to help you follow David’s example and fully trust in Him.

Read 1 Samuel 17:32–37 out loud.

### Studying the Passage

**Verses 32–37. David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” . . . “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.”**

Goliath, a Philistine champion who was a giant, had been taunting King Saul and his soldiers for forty days (see 1 Samuel 17:1–16). His taunt was a daily request for someone to come fight him. If Goliath won, Israel would become the slaves of the Philistines. If he lost, the Philistines would become the slaves of Israel.

When David came to camp to bring his brothers some food from his father, he heard the challenge. Saul told David he couldn’t fight Goliath, since he was only a youth. But even as a youth, David gave testimony of how God provided strength that allowed David to kill lions and bears while he was a shepherd. David showed his faith by saying that the same God who protected him from lions and bears would protect him from Goliath (v. 37).

Read 1 Samuel 17:45–50 out loud.

### Studying the Passage

**Verses 45–50. Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, . . . So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.** This is a well-known Old

Testament story. The story shows the power of God in the life of a young man, and it shows his willingness to be bold and confront a giant and an army in the name of the Lord. David clearly gave God the credit for the defeat of Goliath. Even before the battle, he said he was coming in the name of the Lord and that the Lord would deliver Goliath to him.

### On Your Own

In the space below, write about a leadership role you believe Christ is calling you to in the immediate future. Then, if you see a “giant” standing in your way, describe that obstacle. Write a brief prayer, asking God to defeat the giant so you can move ahead in the leadership role.

Write about a leadership role Christ may be calling you to in the more distant future. Again, pray for God to remove any giants that are in your way.

### **Heart and Hands**

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below, and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

### **Since Last Week**

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

### **Grace-Filled Accountability**

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

### **Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service**

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

### **Prayer**

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

## At Home: Nail It Down

Why lead *now*?

David was called as a young man and empowered by the Spirit of the Lord. Even though he knew God had called him to be king, he ended up on the run from King Saul. During this time, he was a leader before he ultimately became king.

He had two opportunities to kill Saul but would not raise his hand against the Lord's anointed. As he led, he was a witness to God and honored Him.

David provides a good example of someone who led *now*—even before he was in an official position of leadership. You can follow David's example and lead *now*! The Bible gives you direction and examples to follow.

As you lead a crowd or even just a few people, you can be salt and light (Matthew 5:13–16) and verbally share the truth of God's Word.

### Follow up Question

*What are some ways and who are some people you can begin leading now?*

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.