



January 14, 2018

## ICEBREAKER

Tell about a time you met someone and made a snap judgement about him or her, only to later learn that you are way off.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this chapter of The Story, many different people think they have David figured out. How did each of these people view David when they looked at him?
  - His father, Jesse (1 Samuel 16:8-12; The Story, pp. 145-146)
  - The prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 16:7-13; The Story, pp. 145-146)
  - His brother, Eliab (1 Samuel 17:28; The Story, p. 148)
  - King Saul (1 Samuel 17:33-39; The Story, p. 148- 149)
  - Goliath (1 Samuel 17:41-44; The Story, p. 149)
2. God saw David quite differently from everyone else. In light of this chapter of The Story, how did God see David?
3. This chapter includes two powerful prayers of David: one from Psalm 59 (The Story, p. 152) and another from 2 Samuel 22:1-7, 47; Psalm 18 (The Story, pp. 154-155). What do you learn about David's heart from these honest, passionate cries to God?
4. Randy said, "God put David through spiritual boot camp to chisel him and refine him into the kind of man who truly trusted God." Tell about a time God sent you to spiritual boot camp (or has presently enrolled you). How did God use this time to refine, strengthen, and grow you?
5. David had to wait fourteen years between being anointed and actually sitting on the throne. Have you ever had a lengthy wait to receive something you felt God had planned for your life? What kept you hopeful during the wait?
6. Reading The Story we discover that David had his share of struggles and sins. But through it all he was a man whose heart sought after God. What are the things that tend to distract your heart and pull it away from God? What can we do to keep our hearts focused on God and growing more in love with him?
7. (DVD question-skip if needed) In this session's DVD segment Randy made a provocative statement: "God can use our disobedient lives as effectively as he uses our obedient lives in the Lower Story to work out his Upper Story plans." Do you agree with this statement? Give an example from the bible that supports what Randy says.
8. The Story recounts that many of God's children had long seasons of waiting (often in tough times and sometimes in a desert). How can God use times of waiting and challenging seasons of life to prepare us for greater things in our future?
9. If you are in a time of waiting on the Lord right now, what can you do to remain faithful to God during this season? How can your group members pray for you and support you while you are in this waiting season?

## MOVING FORWARD

In our personal desert and seasons of waiting, we need to remember that God is with us. But we can also take comfort in knowing that God's people are walking with us too. Think about a family member or friend who is in the midst of a hard time. Pray for them. Ask God to use you as a conduit of his love, a visible reminder that he is with them, caring for them. And ask them how you might come alongside to offer care and support.

**PRAYER TIME** - Take prayer requests

**READ FOR NEXT SESSION** - Take time before your next group meeting to read chapter 12 of The Story.