

Follow God's Plan
Prophetic Living – Part 6
Life Church St. Louis – April 5, 2020
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker
Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

1. Listen for God's direction

1 Samuel 15:35 (ESV) And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

1A. Be open to change

1 Samuel 16:1a (ESV) The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?"

1B. God has everything planned

1 Samuel 16:1b (ESV) Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

1 Samuel 16:2-3 (ESV) And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, will kill me." And the LORD said, "... invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

2. Follow God's plan, not yours

1 Samuel 16:6-7 (ESV) When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 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."

2A. Wait for God's instruction

1 Samuel 16:10-11a (ESV) And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "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 ..."

2B. Obey God carefully

1 Samuel 16:12-13 (ESV) And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

3. Know God directs all

1 Samuel 16:14-16 (ESV) Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "... 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."

3A. God opens doors

1 Samuel 16:17-18 (ESV) So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." 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."

3B. God grants favor

1 Samuel 16:21-22 (ESV) And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight."

Action Plan for This Week

☐ Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read 1 Samuel 16).
☐ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

☐ Invite a friend to watch the service online next week.

☐ How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Follow God's Plan Study Guide

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Intro. What does Ephesians 2:10 say about God's purpose for your life?

Intro. What are the options for a person who gets off God's path for their life?

Intro. How can Proverbs 3:5-6 give you hope in the midst of the current crisis?

1A. How should we respond when someone we care about rejects God and follows their own way (1 Samuel 15:35)?

1B. Why did God have to prod Samuel to stop grieving (1 Samuel 16:1a)?

1C. In what way does 1 Samuel 16:1b show us that God had everything planned?

1D. Why shouldn't have Samuel been afraid to obey God (1 Samuel 16:2-3)?

1E. When faced with life's fears and challenges, what should we do?

2A. How did Samuel respond when he first saw Jesse and his sons (1 Samuel 16:6-7)?

2B. Why do people place so much emphasis on outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:10-11)?

2C. What do you think it means to be empowered and anointed by the Holy Spirit for a specific task (1 Samuel 16:12-13)?

2D. How might God's plans for your life be different from your desires?

3A. What was the reason that Saul was tormented with an evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:14-16)?

3B. How had God prepared David for the next step in his life's plan (1 Samuel 16:17-18)?

3C. In what sense can our talents and abilities teach us about the plans God has for our lives (1 Samuel 16:17-18)?

3D. What can David's example teach us about the ways in which God guides and directs the events of our lives?

3E. What positive things may God be doing in your life and our world through the present crisis?