



Four Tests We Must Pass To Fulfill The Purposes of God for Our Lives

Icebreaker: What are your plans for Labor Day weekend?

Read Together: Acts 13:36 (ESV), 1 Chronicles 29:26-30 (ESV)

Discuss:

- David was not perfect, but He was a man after God's heart. How can we determine that David had a heart toward the Lord?
- David was anointed about 15 years before he was appointed to the throne. That's a lot of waiting! What do you do in seasons of waiting?

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1. The Arrogance Test

Read together: 1 Samuel 17:32-36 (ESV)

Discuss:

- How do you respond when you are told you cannot do something when you want to do it?
- What does pride look like in your life?

2. The Abuse Test

Read together: 1 Samuel 19:9-11 (ESV), 1 Samuel 19:9-12 (ESV)

Discuss:

- Have you experienced abuse related to your calling from God?
- How did you handle the abuse you experienced?
- How did God show up for you during times when you experienced abuse?

3. The Advantage Test

Read together: 1 Samuel 24:16-20 (ESV)

Discuss:

- What advantages did David have that Saul did not have?
- Discuss how David responded to the advantages you listed.
- How did Saul respond to David's advantages?
- How can we respond to those around us whom God has given an advantage?

4. The Association Test

Read together: 2 Samuel 1:13-16 (NLT), 1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)

Discuss:

- Can you remember a time when you lied to try to gain favor with a leader? What was the result?
- The company we keep matters more than we know! Who in your life is encouraging you to live right and have integrity?
- Take a few moments to ask God what friends you need to be around to be more aligned with God's call for your life.

Prayer:

Father, I want to pass the tests and be a person after your heart. Help me to hear your voice. Help me to humble myself so that I am not in need of humbling. Help me to pray for those who abuse me and draw proper boundaries. Help me to see my advantages as gifts from you. Help me not to compare myself, but rather, be grateful for what you have given me and trust you to bless my neighbor in the ways you see fit. Please help me to associate with those that will lead me deeper with you and help me accomplish your desires for my life!
In Jesus' name, Amen