YOUTH BECOMING
LEADERS
High School Christian Leadership and Global Transformation Institute



1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

YBL prayer stations have been adapted/rewritten for the youth institute context. All credit goes to the original creators.

THEOLOGICAL THEMES

1. **Calling includes preparation and waiting:** Samuel told Saul that his kingdom would end and that Yahweh had already chosen "a man after God's own heart" (13:13-14). Many scholars believe it was 12 years before David was anointed. David does his own waiting from the time he's anointed to when he becomes King. While waiting, David had experiences (shepherding sheep, defending against animal attackers, solitude, etc.) that were essential for his formation and dependence on God. What are those experiences today? How can you use what you already have and what God is shaping in you, instead of wanting someone else's gifts? David takes his sling instead of Saul's armor. Psalm 13.
2. **Obeying call shapes character**: David was named as a person "after God's own heart." In his waiting, David grows to trust God and to know God intimately. Even when he faced Goliath, David was not ashamed to admit that he was insufficient, but God was all-sufficient. We become a person "after God's own heart" only when we allow God to form us in His likeness (issues of holiness). Psalm 5, Psalm 17.
3. **Calling is God's work, not ours**: 1 Samuel 17:34-37 shift from "I" language to sharing what Yahweh did. Ultimately, Yahweh frees David and all of Israel from Goliath's hand. God's work with David starts before his anointing and continues through his life. David's life fits into a greater narrative of God's people and the coming Messiah. Psalm 22.

THEOLOGICAL THEMES

4. **Calling includes obstacles** we have to overcome with God's help—God was bigger than Goliath. David and the people of Israel could not rely on their own strength but had to rely on God's. God provides us help us in overcoming obstacles- David does almost nothing on his own but is always relying on God and others for shelter, escape, etc. Psalm 18.
5. **It is always God's call, not ours:** God called Saul and David. God declared what the king should do. When Saul and David try to circumvent God's will, that is when things start to go badly.
6. **God's call requires us to be servants:** We have to live like God is the King of our lives.
7. **God's call looks beyond what is seen:** God knows us more intimately than anyone. While our age, race, and abilities may be used by God, they will not limit God's ability to use us. Both the good and bad of David are portrayed in scripture, and we have access to the thoughts of his heart through the Psalms. David's brokenness does not deter God. Psalm 139.
8. **Living into calling requires us to constantly seek after God's heart.** Both Saul and David lose their way when they become complacent rather than continuing to seek God's heart. David's sin occurs when he is in the palace rather than leading in battle. While calling evolves, we lose our way when we stop pursuing what God has for us.

THEOLOGICAL THEMES

9. **Glorifying God is the purpose of calling:** All of David's success (Goliath, defeating armies, etc.) came because he relied on God and gave him the glory. God is the originator of calling. Psalm 30.
10. **Calling leaves space for failure and redemption—** David had the free will to fail even while being "a man after God's own heart," but David always repented. God speaks through Nathan (emboldening him) to correct David, and David turns back to God. He is remembered in Acts as a man after God's own heart. Redemption is possible, and the desire for intimacy with God is the deep current that pulls David to repentance. Psalm 51.

FOLLOWING GOD'S HEART

FEARS

As Samuel walked to Bethlehem, he didn't know exactly what to expect. Samuel was scared of angering King Saul. The town leaders of Bethlehem were afraid of Samuel and what his visit meant.

Sit down or take a comfortable posture. Invite the Holy Spirit into your heart through prayer to reveal any fears you carry as Samuel did. Create tight fists with your hands. This represents the fear you are holding onto. Take a deep breath. Ask God to help you surrender your fear to Him.

When you feel ready, slowly open your palms to feel the physical release of the fear.

Continue praying. Ask the Lord for strength and for Scripture to turn to to help fight fear.

Consider how Jesus is calling you today.



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ASSUMPTIONS

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

Samuel didn't expect a shepherd boy.
He expected someone older.
He expected someone who looked like a king.

Instead, God challenged his assumptions.

What assumptions is God challenging in your life today?

Are you open to what God has planned for you?

Are you open to having your assumptions changed? Why or why not?

Ask the Lord for guidance and steps to take regarding the assumptions you carry.



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ANOINTING

Read 1 Samuel 16:12-14.

Just as God chose David, God has chosen you, too, for a special plan and a special calling.

Be bold in your prayer. Ask God to show you this plan. Ask God to begin to show you your calling.

Write/Draw the impression He reveals to you.

Anoint yourself with olive oil (or place the sign of the cross on your forehead with the oil).

You are a child of the King ...
You are an heir to the Kingdom of God.

Thank God for calling you!



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GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

"There is no greater love than this—that a man should lay down his life for his friends."
-John 15:13

Read 1 Samuel 19. Notice the friendship between David and Jonathan. They were best friends. Jonathan was King Saul's son, but he gave up his throne to honor God and David, God's choice for the throne.

Who is your best friend? Pray and thank God for your best friend.

The people we surround ourselves with matter; they can draw us closer to God or pull us away. Ask God how you can be a better friend. Ask Him if there's anyone you need to extend friendship to.

Lay down your life for your friends.

Light a candle and pray.

PURSUING GOD'S HEART



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LOOKING INSIDE

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."
-Matthew 7:1

God had to remind Samuel not to judge people by their outward appearance. Whom do you judge by their outward appearance? Why?

Why do we judge/criticize others without knowing what's really in their hearts?

Write down on a sticky note the people or persons whom you judge or criticize the most... and pray about inviting them to the party.

ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU FOR LOOKING AT THE OUTSIDE RATHER THAN THE INSIDE.

Take a balloon, write their name on it, blow it up, tie it off, and attach it with tape & ribbon.



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OUR GIANTS

Read 1 Samuel 17:52.

God longs to defeat your giants. What giants are in your land and your life?

School, parents, bullies, peer pressure, fear, depression, comparison, anger, sex, lust, language, lying, eating disorders, unforgiveness, abuse, failure... what are your giants?

These keep you from all God has planned. God is bigger than all the giants and will help you defeat each one.

You may feel small and helpless, but our Creator has given you strength against your giants.

Collect 5 stones, one at a time, naming each for a giant in your life. Then place them in the stream that represents the Living Water of Jesus.

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ARMOR

Read 1 Samuel 17:59.

God wants you to be who you really are... not wear someone else's armor!

Saul offered David his own armor to wear into battle with Goliath. It was a nice offer, and David even tried it on... but it was too big. This armor would just get in the way of David's work.
David knew himself, trusted God, and was brave enough to stand up and say NO THANKS!

Whose armor are you wearing? Whose clothes are you wearing that may not be a good fit for you? Are you hiding behind something that masks your true self?

Take a minute to remember God is proud of you and right by your side. He wants you to be who you really are... not wear someone else's armor.

How has God prepared you for battle in your life and journey? Write on the front of the mask things that people see... and on the back, who you really are and the person God created you to be.



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ART IN DIFFERENT FORMS

Read 1 Samuel 19.

David was a musician and songwriter… Most of the psalms in the Bible… David wrote.

After killing Goliath, David got hired to play music for King Saul. The music David played soothed the evil spirits in King Saul, making him feel better! What music soothes your soul?

What music do you want to play for the KING? (King Jesus)
Do you have favorite song that brings you closer to God or closer to your real self?
What song does this for you?
What song does the King want to sing for you?
Read the psalms provided…

Write a psalm, song, poem, or letter of praise to God. David was totally honest with God in his songs… He didn't hold back…he showed God just where he was emotionally…if he was happy, sad, scared, joyous, angry. Let God see the real you when you talk with Him.



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REPENTANCE

Read Psalm 51:7.

God always provides opportunities for us to repent.

David wanted Bathsheba. Because he was king, he got what he wanted.

It led to immediate consequences and pain & suffering later in David's life. He chose to get what he wanted rather than obey God and God's laws.

Take some time with Jesus to talk about your own rebellion... stubbornness... sin... junk.

Write down your junk and shred it. Then, wash your hands in the water.
Though your sins be scarlet, they will be washed white as snow.

Thank Him for His forgiveness.



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PRAYER JOURNAL

What is Jesus saying to you today?

At this station, you will find a prayer journal. You may respond to God by writing your own thoughts here if you would like. You can write a word, write a prayer, describe an event from today, draw a picture....whatever you wish to do.

This is your space to speak to God.

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FREE CREATIVE

Create your prayers with the supplies provided.

Feel free to display your work so others can worship with you.



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SUPPLIES NEEDED

Prayer stations are designed for 2-3 students at a time. You will need the following materials for the prayer stations described above:

- Miscellaneous:
  - Some prayer stations are more reflective and do not require many supplies. Make sure students have their Bibles or place at least one Bible per prayer station.
  - Have plenty of writing utensils and paper available if students desire to jot things down.
  - Also consider having throw pillows, rugs, or blankets available for students to sit/find comfortable postures.
- Fears
  - See Misc.
- Assumptions
  - See Misc.
- Anointing
  - Anointing/Olive oil
  - See Misc.
- Gift of Friendship
  - Candles
  - See Misc.

PURSUING GOD'S HEART



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SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Looking Inside
  - Sticky Notes
  - Balloons
  - Tape
  - Ribbon
  - Sharpies
- Our Giants
  - Blue rolled/Crinkled paper or a drawn-out stream
  - Bags of stones
- Armor
  - Blank Masquerade Masks/White Masks to write on
  - Sharpies
- Art in Different Forms
  - See Misc.
- Repentance
  - Paper Shredder
  - Bowl filled with water/Soap/Towel
  - See Misc.
- Prayer Journal
  - A college-ruled journal
- Free Creative
  - Beads
  - String
  - Scissors (Both normal cut and different patterns)
  - Playdoh/ Clay
  - Scrapbook Paper
  - Markers and Colorful Pens
  - Glue Sticks
  - Stickers
  - Anything you can think of that would allow students to express creatively.



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