

Jacob's Well



Lesson Title: Where He Finds Us—In Insignificance



Key Concept: Wherever we are, in any situation, God can find us. We are all significant to God, and he finds us in all walks of life.



Scriptures:

And I am here to tell you that you and your family are the focus of all Israel's hopes." Saul replied, "But I'm only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least important of all the families of that tribe! Why are you talking like this to me?"
(1 Samuel 9:20–21 *New Living Translation*)

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and prayed, "Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And now, Sovereign Lord, in addition to everything else, you speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty! Do you deal with everyone this way, O Sovereign Lord?"
(2 Samuel 7:18–19 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: 1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Samuel 15:17; 1 Samuel 16:11; Judges 6:15–16; Matthew 1:5; Mark 16:9; John 4; Romans 10:20; James 2:25



Lesson Thoughts:

Social media offers fame and recognition randomly to those who perform well. A single lucky post can take a person from obscurity to the heights of fame. Even before this technology, getting discovered was largely limited to the randomness of proximity and connections. God, however, always sees us and we never have to perform to get his attention. He demonstrates this truth in many ways, but particularly in where he finds us.

Saul, the first king of Israel, struggled to understand how he came to God's attention. He was humanly insignificant and came from insignificant people—

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the smallest tribe and the least important family (1 Samuel 9:20–21). Saul became king reluctantly, and he never really “got it.” In an appeal to Saul, Samuel asked a very telling question: “Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord has anointed you king of Israel” (1 Samuel 15:17). In other words, God thinks highly of you. Saul’s replacement, David, was considered so unimportant that when Samuel informed his father that one of his sons would be the next king, Jesse overlooked David. Samuel had to ask: “‘Are these all the sons you have?’ ‘There is still the youngest,’ Jesse replied. ‘But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats’” (1 Samuel 16:11). Jesse deemed David insignificant; God deemed him a man after his own heart (1 Samuel 13:14).

Most of us can relate to Saul, David, and Jesse. When we consider that God calls ordinary people into his Kingdom despite social, familial, or economic status, ancestry, education, aptitude, failures, or weaknesses, we share the sentiment of the psalmist expressed in Psalm 8:4—who am I, that you are mindful of me?

These men are among the vast numbers of everyday people whom God sees, calls into his Kingdom, and qualifies to fulfill roles, even those for which they are not equipped. Many aren’t even trying to get “discovered” when God finds them (Romans 10:20). We, then, can take comfort in knowing we are here on purpose. He sought us! We are all significant to God, and he finds us in all walks of life.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) God choosing and reaching for the least likely seems to be a theme in the Scriptures. Who else did God use or see who was considered insignificant?
- 2) Of those named, why do you think God chose them? If the Scriptures tell us, why did God say he chose them?
- 3) Do you identify with any of these “least likely”? Why?
- 4) What does God using these people reveal about who he will and will not use?
- 5) Who is exempt from salvation or from being used by God?

Next Lesson: Where He Finds Us—In Chaos

Notes and Reflections

- 1) Think about where you are currently. Are you struggling to accept God's offer of salvation because you don't feel worthy? Are you refraining from Kingdom work (in general or in a specific call) because you see yourself as "insignificant" or "unimportant"? If so, how do the testimonies of other insignificant people in the hands of God inspire you?

- 2) Being "insignificant" is not what most of us aspire to. We want to be known and recognized. Are there, however, benefits to being a "regular" person?

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Notes and Reflections, cont.