Weekly Devotional

*Material from "The Story" curriculum by Randy Frazeewith Kevin and Sherry Harney.

Session 11 – From Shepherd to King

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7.

Imagine the scene: a scrawny sixteen year old shepherd boy takes out a 9'9" tall giant with one rock and a sling.
You may not have a gigantic giant taunting you to come out and fight. But you are probably facing a fewgiants of your own. Giants like the stack of past-due bills glaring at you. Like the divorce papers waiting on your signature. Or the depression that looms over you like the Hulk. It could be low self-esteem or insecurity or child abuse in your past. But you have your giants. And so do I. And we would do well tolearn from David.

Read Ch. 11 in The Story book or in your Bible (this week you will be reading from 4 different books of the Bible):**1 Samuel 16**:1, 4-13a; **17**:1-11, 16-54; 57-58; **18**:1-16; **Psalm 59**:1-5, 9-10a, 16-17; **1 Samuel 24**:1-22; **2 Samuel 22**:1-7, 47; **1 Samuel 31**:1-12; **2 Samuel 6**:1-15; 16-23, and **1 Chronicles 17**:1-27.

Think on these questions:

1. What do these passages tell us about GOD? (Who is God? What is God like? What has God done?)
2. What do these passages tell us about US (Human Beings)? (What/how are we supposed to be? What has gone wrong?)
3. What do these passages tell us about HOW WE SHOULD LIVE? (What has God done about what has gone wrong? What does He expect of us? How should we live?)

Closing Prayer:
As you take time to pray, here are some ideas to get you started:

- *Ask God to teach you to look beyond outward appearances (in yourself and in others).*
- *Pray for people you know who are in a challenging time of waiting. Ask God to carry them through and pray for wisdom to know how you can support or encourage them.*
- *Invite God to do what it would take to refine you and prepare you to be used by him in greater ways.*

Personal Action:
In our personal deserts 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.

Next Session: Please read ch 12 of The Story, "The Trials of a King" Welcome King David…..