

**God Looks at the Heart**  
Small Group Discussion Questions  
December 7, 2025

**1. Warm-Up / Opening**

1. What are you looking forward to or not looking forward to as Christmas approaches?
2. What emotions usually rise in you as Christmas approaches—anticipation, joy, stress, dread, something else? Why?

**2. Outward Appearance vs. the Heart**

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13 together.
2. In what ways does our culture pressure us to focus on outward appearance—physical beauty, success, image, etc.?
3. How frequently and in what ways do you find yourself comparing or judging others by outward appearance?
4. How would your relationships or your daily interactions change if you saw people the way God sees them?

**3. A Heart That Pursues the Lord**

The sermon listed 5 qualities and contrasts of a heart that pursues the Lord:

- A. Faith & Trust vs. Fear
- B. Love for God's Word & Prayer vs. Living by our own law
- C. Humble, God-Centered Perspective vs. Pride & Self-centeredness
- D. Gratitude & Praise vs. Complaining & Entitlement
- E. Genuine Repentance vs. Excuses Denial & Hard-heartedness

1. Which of the five heart qualities do you sense the Spirit highlighting in your life right now?
2. Is there an area where you've been resisting God's transforming work?
3. What practice or step of obedience or surrender is God inviting you to take?

**4. Connecting to Advent and the Gospel**

1. What do you think people would choose in a king today?
2. The sermon highlighted that Jesus is a far better King than the one we would have chosen. We often just want God to fix our circumstances. Can you think of a time when God changed your heart, rather than just fixed your circumstances?
3. How does it change your view of Advent to think of Jesus as the King who transforms hearts rather than just circumstances?

**5. Prayer Time**

- Invite the Lord to transform your heart. Pray for...
  - God to fill you with faith as you encounter the fears in your life.
  - A deeper love for God's Word and a soft, teachable heart.
  - A spirit of Humility to see people & events through a God-centered perspective.
  - Gratitude and praise to characterize your life.
  - A soft, humble heart of repentance when faced with godly conviction.