



St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reflection Questions for March 22, 2020

Psalms 23 paints an image of God as a **shepherd** ("The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want...") and a **host** ("You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.") What image or language for God resonates most for you? Is that image connected to a particular experience or memory? Are there any images or language for God that creates an adverse reaction for you, or is harmful to you?

The first reading tells a story of Samuel finding a new king in David. God passes over all of David's brothers before choosing him. Have you ever felt ignored or passed over for an opportunity?

Samuel initially wanted Eliab, one of David's older brothers, to serve as king. He had apparently been blessed with good looks and it was natural to assume that God's "blessing" would extend to leadership. But God states very clearly that there is much more involved: "The LORD looks into the heart." In the world of the Old Testament, the "heart" represents what we would call "the mind"--the seat of the will, the intellect, and decision making... all attributes that Samuel could not "see," but God could. When have you reacted based on assumptions or stereotypes, or experienced people relating to you based on assumptions or stereotypes?

Are you confused on who Samuel is, why is he looking for a new king, and why it matters? Check out this short video to learn more about the book(s) of Samuel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJOju5Dw0V0>