

## WEEK

2

### Welcome & Open with a Brief Prayer

### Icebreaker

### Scripture for the Week:

"1 Samuel 16:1—"Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." (NLT)

### Overview:

The world we live in is filled with challenges and difficult situations that cause grief and disappointment. Grief isn't something we face only when someone dies. Many transitions in life, even good ones, can spark grief such as saying goodbye to your child as they leave for college. In order to live fully, there's a time to let go of the old and, somehow, embrace the new. This week, we witness how Samuel lamented or grieved the disobedience of Saul. Finally, God said it was time to anoint a new king—to fill his flask with anointing oil and go find the man whom God had chosen. Facing grief and disappointment is never easy. How we grieve is an important aspect of getting through it. Do we recognize it or deny it? Do we choose to walk through it or skirt around it? Sometimes anger masks our grief or disappointment. This week, we'll be looking at how Samuel dealt with disappointment and grief and how his life might apply to us.

## QUESTIONS

1. What are some situations where a person might experience grief?
2. Why do people experience disappointment?
3. Has there be a time when you've experienced grief or deep disappointment? Would you be willing to share about a time when you were disappointed?
4. What was helpful for you in working through grief or disappointment? How did you "fill your flask with oil" as the Scripture describes?
5. Where did you see God at work in your grief or disappointment?
6. How do you think you will handle grief or disappointment in the future?

**To Consider:** In the week ahead, when circumstances don't go as you expected, notice your initial reaction. Is it disappointment, grief or even anger? What might your prayer be?

## PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests.

Closing Prayer—Include those requests in your closing prayer.