

News to Know

Refuge Team Night: Wednesday at 6:30 PM

This week, we are planning for a very special night. We're asking students to invite their "team"...whether that's a sports team, theater cast, band section, dance group, or any club they're a part of. Our prayer is that this will be a night where many new students get to hear the Gospel and experience God's love in community.

Because we're expecting a larger group, we'll gather in the **Sanctuary** this week. Please encourage your student not only to come, but to extend an invite to their team and bring someone with them. After the service, we'll also enjoy pizza together as a way to connect and build relationships.

If you're able to join us, whether to greet, serve food, or simply have conversations with students, I'd love for you to be part of this evening. Your presence matters and helps create the welcoming environment we want every student to experience.

Sunday Morning Small Groups

Join us for small groups this Sunday at 9:45 or 11:00!

DiscipleNow 2026

If you're willing to volunteer in one of our service areas for DiscipleNow, please sign up [here](#).

Abounding Grace Girls' Bible Study

We offer a great Bible study for girls each Sunday at 6:00 in Grace Cottage. Kelly Harper and Margo Cupps do an incredible job leading it.

Refuge this Week

On Wednesday night we'll be in 1 Samuel 16, where Samuel is sent to find a new king—David. What's interesting is that the beginning of David's life looked completely ordinary. He was just a regular boy. This week, we're going to talk about what it means to embrace being ordinary and how God works through it.

The first truth we'll see is this: Don't let old stories steal new chapters. When Samuel learned that Saul would no longer be king, he was heartbroken. But God told him to stop grieving and go anoint the new king. If Samuel had stayed stuck in mourning over Saul, he would have missed what God wanted to do next. In the same way, we can let past disappointments keep us from stepping into the new things God has for us. Samuel could have missed David...what might we miss if we hold on to the past instead of trusting God with the future?

Second, God measures by the heart, not the hype. When Jesse brought his sons before Samuel, each one looked like king material but God didn't choose them. Finally, Samuel asked if there was another son. Jesse admitted there was, but basically said, "He's not king material." That son was David, the one God had chosen. God reminded Samuel that He doesn't judge the way people do. We look at the outside...appearance, talent, stats, image...but God looks deeper. He looks at the heart. Some of you spend a lot of energy building up your resume, your reputation, or how others see you. But God isn't impressed by hype, He's after your heart.

Third, God doesn't work through the flashy, He works through the faithful. When they went to get David, the Bible says he was "ruddy, with beautiful eyes, and handsome." That word ruddy

could mean he was red-headed or freckled. Or it might mean he was sunburnt, sweaty, and smelled like sheep. Either way, David didn't look like a king, he looked like a kid. But that's the point. God works through the ordinary. He chooses the overlooked. He's not after the spotlight, the biggest platform, or the flashiest person. He's after faithfulness. You don't have to be extraordinary to do extraordinary things with God, you just have to be faithful.

Next, the Spirit turns everyday lives into extraordinary stories. Samuel anointed David with oil. That might seem strange to us because we don't usually anoint people with oil today. But in the Bible, anointing with oil always symbolized God's Spirit empowering someone to do His will. It wasn't about crowns, titles, or looking important, it was about the Spirit of God filling an ordinary person to do something extraordinary. When you believe in Jesus, the same Spirit lives in you. He gives you supernatural ability to do what you could never do on your own to live out God's calling, to obey Him, and to surrender your life completely to Him.

Lastly, the greatest calling isn't what you do for God, it's who you are in God. After David was anointed, he didn't become king right away. Instead, he went back to tending sheep. It was in the pasture, in the ordinary, quiet, overlooked places that God was shaping him into the man he needed to be for the palace. The same is true for us. God uses the "pasture seasons" of our lives to build character, patience, honesty, and faithfulness. Many of you are in that place right now. It might feel small, hidden, or unimportant, but it's actually God's laboratory. He's preparing you, developing you, and shaping your heart for what's ahead.

Resource of the Week

This week's resource is titled, "You Are Not the Judge of Your Parenting." You can find it [here](#).



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