**The Story Sunday Morning Discussion Group Week 11**

God looks at David and see a king (no one else saw David this way)

Fourteen years between anointing and inauguration…God is working

God takes note of David’s heart

How David’s story points to God’s Upper Story…God is seeking to get us back

Discussion questions:

1. In this chapter of The Story, many different people think they have David figured out. How did each of these people view David when they looked at him?
* His father, Jesse
* The prophet Samuel
* His brother, Eliab
* King Saul
* Goliath
1. God saw David quite differently from everyone else. In light of this chapter of The Story, how did God see David?
2. This chapter includes two powerful prayers of David: one from Psalm 59 (The Story, p.152) and another from 2 Samuel 22:1-7, 47; Psalm 18 (The Story, pp.154-55). What do you learn about David’s heart from these honest, passionate cries to God?
3. It’s been said that “God put David through spiritual boot camp to chisel him and refine him into the kind of man who truly trusted God.” Tell about a time God sent you to spiritual boot camp (or has presently enrolled you). How did God use this time to refine, strengthen, and grow you?
4. David had to wait 14 years between being anointed and actually sitting on the throne. Have you ever had a lengthy wait to receive something you felt God had planned for your life? What kept you hopeful during the wait?
5. Reading The Story, we discover that David had his share of struggles and sins. But through it all he was a man whose heart sought after God. What are the things that tend to distract your heart and pull it away from God? What can we do to keep our hearts focused on God and growing more in love with him?
6. It’s been said that “God can use our disobedient lives as effectively as he used our obedient lives in the Lower Story to work out his Upper Story plans.” Do you agree with this statement? If so, give an example from the Bible that supports it?
7. The Story recounts that many of God’s children had long seasons of waiting (often in tough times and sometimes in a desert). How can God use times of waiting and challenging seasons of life to prepare us for greater things in our future?

Homework: 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 the, caring for them. And ask them how you might come alongside to offer care and support.