



23rd May:

**SAMUEL
& SAUL**



Dear Parent/Guardian

The first term of the 2020/2021 Sunday school year we looked into the book of Acts, throughout this we learnt about the first church, and the journey of Paul. Together we looked at how the disciples continued God's mission after Jesus' resurrection. We saw the amazing conversion of Saul to Paul. During the Daniel fast we looked at Galatians, which also referenced Abraham, and the book of Daniel.

During these times we were reminded of the incredible things God did for us all, and the vast history and build up to the event of Jesus on the cross, the event that redeemed us all.

For the rest of the year we will be going back to the start and will be discovering some of the many many incredible people that were involved in the lead up to the resurrection story. We will be going through the old testament and learn about one character each week.

Teaching videos, stories and worksheets, and zoom calls will continue throughout this meet and greet. During the school holiday we have chosen that although Sunday school sessions, whether physical or online, will not run. However, we will be releasing teaching videos and the weekly story and worksheet will be available. We felt that as there are so many stories to learn about this was the best course of action to help your children learn the most that they can.

you

-The Children's Team

Samuel and Saul

Ruth 1-4

During the reign of Eli the high priest, there was a woman named Hannah who was crying out to God for a son. Her husband, Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah desperately wanted one. So Hannah cried out to God because she knew that He could give her a child. They visited a priest who prayed for her. Then Hannah became pregnant then gave birth to a son. They named him Samuel because this meant, 'God heard' and Hannah had asked God for a son, and He heard her.

When Samuel was able to eat solid food and walk, Hannah took him to present him to God. She told God that she had stood before Him and cried for a child. And that He had blessed her with a son, and they had named him Samuel. Hannah then told God that she was giving Samuel to God. And that his whole life Samuel would be given over to God. Hannah dedicated Samuel to God. Then she prayed over Samuel.

Then Hannah and Elkanah went home to Ramah, but Samuel remained with Eli, the priest who prayed over Hannah.

Samuel and Saul

Ruth 1-4

During his time with Eli, Samuel obeyed God and would see his parents once a year when they would come to make their sacrifice to God. His mother would bring him a new coat, and his father would receive a blessing from Eli. Eli then prayed that Hannah would have more children, in thanks from God for her giving God her only son, Samuel. Hannah had three sons and two daughters as well as Samuel.

Whilst Samuel was with Eli, Eli's own sons were mistreating the Israelites. A man came to Eli and told him that because of their wickedness, and that Eli allowed this, his sons would die on the same day. The man then told Eli that God would give him a great priest.

Samuel continued to work and learn from Eli. One night God called to Samuel. God told Samuel what would happen to the sons and why. Eli asked Samuel what God had told him, and Samuel told him everything, even though he thought it may hurt his feelings. This told Eli that Samuel was a prophet of God.

So, God did not let any message he gave Samuel fail to come true. And everyone in the land knew that Samuel was one of Gods prophet. And God continued to show himself to Samuel through his word and visions.

Samuel and Saul

Ruth 1-4

During this time the Israelites were at war with the Philistines. One day the Ark of the Covenant came into the Israelites camp. This made the Philistines very afraid, because they knew the power of God. Because they had heard all about the Egyptians when they were fleeing Egypt. The Philistines were afraid of becoming the Israelites slaves, because they thought that the Israelites would treat them as they had been treated. Because they did not know the forgiveness and love of God.

Because of the fear, the Philistines fought hard and defeated the Israelites. And because of their sin and mistreatment of people, Eli's sons were killed. Someone from the tribe of Benjamin ran to tell Eli that his sons had been killed, and the Israelites had been defeated because they had not been with God and had run away from the Palestine's in fear because they did not trust that God would be with them. The man also told Eli that the Ark of the Covenant had also been lost to the Philistines.

When he received this news, Eli fell back on his chair in shock. Because he had feasted on the meat his sons had gained in mistreatment of the Israelites, Eli had become fat. So when he fell, he broke his neck and died. Eli had led the Israelites for 40 years. A new leader was needed.

Eli's sons had been killed so there was no successor, but, his daughter-in-law was pregnant. She gave birth to a son and named him Ichabod, meaning 'Israel's glory is gone'. Because Israel had not trusted God and so lost the Ark of the Covenant. Which was where God's Glory was. Samuel took over as ruler of Israel.

Samuel and Saul

Ruth 1-4

After being led by Samuel, his sons took over. But they were corrupt, just like Eli's had been, So, Israel begged for a king, not a judge. God told Samuel that the king will put the people to hard work. They will all work to serve the King, and not live to serve God. The king will not be kind to them. He will take land and their live stock, and a tenth of what the own. The king they choose will make them slaves in their own land.

So Samuel told the Israelites, but they did not listen. So they began to look for a king. There was an important man named Kish, Kish had a son named Saul who was the best of the Israelites. One day Saul went to meet Samuel, when he saw him God told Samuel this would be the man that would be king. He then sent Saul home.

Samuel then went to visit Saul. He poured the oil from a jar of olives on his head and blessed him. He told Saul that God had appointed him as king over Israel.

When Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed his heart and Saul became a different man.

Samuel then called the tribes and introduced the people of Israel to their first King, King Saul. Most were happy about this. Saul was 30 years old when he became King and served for 42 years. And had a son named Jonathon.

During his time as King, Saul did everything God said he would do against the Israelites.

Take-Away

God Knows.

God has plans for us, amazing plans. Plans we don't know about, but need to have faith about.

He wants us to trust Him. Sometimes, just like the Israelites, we don't trust Him because we only see the bad.

The Israelites wanted a King to lead them instead of God, because they wanted to see who was leading them and not have to trust they know what the person leading them wanted them to do.

Prayer:

Do you trust God, fully, with your life?

Is there any part of your life that you have given to a King or Queen. Have you made someone else the ruler over your life. Not your parents telling you to do things and guiding you, but when you are alone or with friends.

Who is your leader, God, or someone else?

Speak to God about it and ask Him to help you

Activity:

God is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Make Him a crown.

You can use anything you want, card, decorate a hat, a box.

Ask your parents to help you.