

LESSON 6

SAMUEL SERVES THE LORD WITH TRUST

OBJECTIVES

1. To comprehend that serving God faithfully means trusting Him.
2. To practice faithful servitude.

MEMORY VERSE

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own
understanding; in all your ways
acknowledge Him, and He shall direct
your paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

PRAYER

1. Thank You for guiding us safely through another week.
2. You guide us safely every day of our lives, therefore we trust You.
3. We are older now and will begin serving You.
4. Please give us the faith to trust You during our service to You. That Your will be done, not ours. That Your name be glorified and not ours.



Overview

1. Character Study on Samuel

- God told Samuel to stop grieving over Saul's failures. He should go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem and anoint a new king (1 Sam 16:1).
- In Bethlehem, Samuel saw Eliab, Jesse's son. From his appearance, Samuel thought he would be king. But God said that man judges a person's appearance, but God judges a person's heart (1 Sam 16:6-7).
- Jesse's other sons passed before Samuel, but God rejected them (1 Sam 16:8-10).
- David, Jesse's youngest son, passed before Samuel. God told Samuel to anoint him king (1 Sam 16:12-13).

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True God

3. Life Application—Trust in God's Plan

4. Activity—Treasure Hunt



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Young Samuel Served God

Samuel was born during a period when Israel did not have a king. It was a very corrupt time. Every Israelite did whatever they felt was right, which meant they did not necessarily follow God's laws. The priests were also corrupt. While serving as priests, Hophni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, stole the Israelites' offerings and committed other sins. As a result, the Israelites' faith weakened and they stopped obeying God's laws. To punish them, God sent the Philistines to war with the Israelites and to cause suffering.

While most of the Israelites around him continually sinned against God, Samuel was different. Starting as a young boy, he lived in the tabernacle with Eli the priest to serve God faithfully. He served as Eli's assistant and opened the tabernacle doors every morning to welcome the worshippers. Samuel's service pleased God. God would speak to Samuel and tell him what He planned to do.

King Saul, the First King of Israel

The Israelites demanded a king. They could no longer tolerate the corrupt priests and prophets. They also wanted to mimic their neighboring nations. Their request displeased God and Samuel, but God permitted it. Samuel warned them that a king would take their best land, crops, and animals. He would take their sons and daughters to be their servants. But

the Israelites could not be swayed. So, God sent Samuel to the land of Benjamin to find them a king.

In the land of Benjamin, God told Samuel to anoint Saul as king. Saul was a very tall man, but he was also very humble. When Samuel spoke to him, he mentioned that he was from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe of Israel. And his family was the least of all the families in Benjamin. When Samuel presented Saul to the people of Israel, Saul hid among the equipment. Clearly, this was a man who did not feel he was worthy of being king.

Fall of King Saul

After becoming king, Saul changed. He became proud. Evidence of his pride was shown through his disobedience; he disobeyed God twice. First, Saul failed to wait for Samuel to arrive to offer a sacrifice. Instead, Saul offered it himself. Second, God commanded Saul to war with the Amalekites as punishment for ambushing the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. God commanded Saul to kill every person and animal. Instead, Saul spared the best cattle and King Agag. Saul's disobedience resulted in God rejecting him as king. He sent Samuel to the land of Judah to look for a new king.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students are in the period of middle childhood (ages 9 through 11). This period is also known as the “tween years.” They are leaving childhood and entering adolescence. In this stage, they will begin to change physically, emotionally, and mentally, which will continue into adolescence.

The social relationships of children at this age will begin to change. They will begin to grow independent from their parents and begin to form stronger friendships with their peers, especially those of the same gender. As a result, they will begin to experience more peer pressure. They will become more aware of their body and the physical changes that will occur as they approach puberty.

The students will also change mentally as they mature. As school becomes more challenging, they will face more academic pressure. Their attention span will increase. They will be able to understand the viewpoints of their peers more clearly. These changes will make them more susceptible to the social environment around them.

As the students' religious education teachers, we must support their development. They will encounter new situations, experiences, and people, which may cause them anxiety. Use this lesson to teach the students that they can trust in God and His words. God is a constant. He is the North Star from which they can navigate through the uncharted seas of their lives.



Opener

5 Minutes

Trust is the foundation of human relationships. People are willing to establish relationships because they trust each other.

In the comic strip “Peanuts,” the main character, Charlie Brown, always misplaces his trust in Lucy, one of his antagonists. Lucy will propose to Charlie Brown to run and kick a football while she holds it for him. Charlie Brown believes her and runs to kick the football. Just as Charlie Brown is about to kick the football, Lucy pulls it away. Charlie Brown misses the football, but his momentum carries him into the air and he then falls on his back. After this experience, Charlie Brown vows not to trust Lucy anymore, but in the next comic strip, he falls for it again. From this example, we see how important trust is and how important it is to place trust in the right person.

[The teacher can show and read this comic strip to the class. Please do an Internet search with the keywords: “Charlie Brown”, “Lucy”, and “Football”.]



Vocabulary

trust: assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something
anoint: to apply oil to someone as a sacred rite, such as a choosing by divine election



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. As you go through the lesson, the students will fill out the worksheet. Pause at the blanks to give students adequate time to fill them in, and make sure they have completed the question before moving on. The answers have been underlined in this section.

Samuel: Dedicated for God's Use

Let's start our study of Samuel's life of service with one verse: "But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod" (1 Sam 2:18). Samuel started his service in the tabernacle of God from the moment he was weaned. Does anyone know, or remember, what his mother's name was? [Allow students to respond.] Yes, her name was Hannah. For a very long time, Hannah was unable to have a baby. So, she prayed to God to give her a baby, and in return, she promised that she would offer him up for God's service. Therefore, we can see that Samuel knew from the very beginning that he had been dedicated to serve the Lord.

Let us now read 1 Samuel 3:1-15. This passage recorded the incident when God first spoke to young Samuel. Even at a very young age, Samuel had already communicated with God. This criterion—God's guidance—is very important for anyone who wants to serve God, in any capacity.

In this passage, how many times did Samuel hear the LORD's voice before he finally responded? [Allow students to respond; he heard His voice four times.] How did Samuel finally answer God? [Allow students to respond.] Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant hears." What did Samuel understand about his role in life? (He knew that he was a servant of God.) As a servant, he must do two things: he must allow God to speak, and he must hear what God spoke. If we apply these two actions to our lives, what would they be? [Allow students to respond; to seek God's voice by reading the Bible, praying, and having fellowship with the people of God.]

Today, most of us do not physically hear God calling us like He called Samuel. But God still speaks to us, through the Bible, through the answers we receive when we pray

deeply in communication with Him, and sometimes, through the people and happenings around us. A servant of God does not do his own thing according to his own ways. A true servant of God seeks God's will and does things according to God's way.

Samuel Mourns for Saul

Samuel had great hopes for Saul, but became despaired because Saul had disobeyed God twice. "And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel. Now the LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?'" (1 Sam 15:35-16:1a).

God's rejection of Saul caused great turbulence within Samuel. Since Samuel's youth, he shared a close relationship with God. Samuel developed confidence knowing that God was with him. "So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground" (1 Sam 3:19). When Samuel grew older and judged the Israelites, he spoke and acted confidently because he knew that God was with him and that he was acting according to God's will (1 Sam 7:6-15).

Samuel Trusted God to Choose a New King

But after God rejected Saul, Samuel's confidence was shaken. Samuel questioned God's instruction. He was afraid that Saul would kill him if Saul found out that he was going to Bethlehem to anoint a new king (1 Sam 16:2a). God provided a ruse for Samuel, which Samuel followed trustingly (1 Sam 16:2b-4a).

Samuel followed God's instructions and came to the house of Jesse the Bethlehemite to anoint a new king. Samuel had each of Jesse's sons present themselves to him. When Samuel saw Eliab, Samuel said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!" (1 Sam 16:6b). But the LORD responded to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16:7). Again, Samuel trusted God and rejected Eliab. Then, Jesse presented his son Abinadab to Samuel, and

again Samuel said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one” (1 Sam 16:9b). One by one, seven of Jesse’s sons were presented to Samuel. And every time, Samuel obeyed God and rejected him.

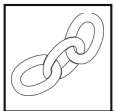
This must have been difficult for Samuel. God had sent Samuel to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem to anoint a king, but He rejected every son that was presented. After the hurt from Saul’s failure, it would seem logical that Samuel’s confidence in God would continue to wane. But, regardless of whether it was logical or not, Samuel continued to trust God.

He trusted that God would anoint a new king in the house of Jesse. When the last son passed before Samuel and he had not yet anointed Israel’s next king, he knew that his job was not done. So, Samuel asked Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” (1 Sam 16:11a). Jesse mentioned that the youngest son was still tending the sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to call his youngest son and present himself to him. When David came in the house, Samuel saw him and the LORD immediately said to Samuel, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!” (1 Sam 16:12b). Samuel obeyed God and “took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from

that day forward” (1 Sam 16:13).

In the lives of human beings, there are many variables. We do not control where we will live, how long we will live, or how we will live. But God has determined these things for each person: “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (Acts 17:26). He also has insight into our hearts “for the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam 16:7). God has a deep knowledge of who we are and what will happen to us.

Human beings are willing to trust those who understand their situation and are able to guide them through their problems. The Lord has the wisdom and knowledge to lead us through our troubles and guide us safely. He created us and determined the course of our lives. He understands our hearts and our desires. He will guide us through our problems and lead us to safe harbors. He is the true North. Therefore, “trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Prov 3:5-6).



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

God is the creator of the universe. He created human beings and determined the span of our lives and the events contained in it. He knows the desires in our hearts and knows our personalities. Thus, we must trust Him when He leads us. He loves us and will always lead us to what is best for us. “For I [God] know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jer 29:11).

Knowing that such a great God loves us and died for us, we should always give thanks to Him in prayers and in our words. Our gratitude should also be demonstrated by the way we live our lives; we must always do things that glorify His name.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. Where did God send Samuel to anoint a king? God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem.
2. What did Samuel say to himself after he saw Eliab? “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before Him!” (1 Sam 16:6b)
3. What did God say to Samuel after he saw Eliab? “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam 16:7).
4. Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel. How many of those did God reject? All seven.
5. After rejecting seven of Jesse’s sons, why did Samuel ask if all his sons were present? Because God told Samuel that He would anoint a king from Jesse’s house, and Samuel had not yet found the king. Samuel trusted God, and therefore knew that not all of Jesse’s must have been present.
6. When David presented himself to Samuel, what did God say? What did Samuel do? God said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!” (1 Sam 16:12b). Samuel obeyed God and “took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward” (1 Sam 16:13).

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. appearance, physical, see, outward, heart
2. thoughts, thoughts, ways, ways, higher, ways, ways, thoughts, thoughts
3. thoughts, peace, evil, future, hope



Life Application

10 Minutes

TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN

A faithful servant is one who trusts God. He trusts God to guide his life and to help him navigate through difficulties. He trusts that God's guidance is the best for him, even though it may lead him through difficult times. God's presence will lead him through and bring him to green pastures and still waters. It is just like David's psalm. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Ps 23:4).

We must trust in God because He knows more about us. He created us, therefore, He knows about our disposition, our desires, and our plans. He also knows His plans for us. These are good plans that will give us joy and fulfillment. Being human beings, we don't have the same understanding as God. Thus, our plans are often flawed. Therefore, we should trust God, because His plans are perfect. It is just as God spoke to Isaiah, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Is 55:8-9).

We, being human beings, have our own desires and plans. When those plans conflict with God's plans, we become very sad. Samuel was very sad that God rejected King Saul. Samuel had hoped that Saul would unify the Israelites in obeying the word of God. We are like Samuel. We have mapped out our lives based on our goals and desires. We picture ourselves successful in our desired profession, with our desired families.

[Have the students answer the following questions on the worksheet.]

Questions

1. What kind of job would you like to have when you grow up?
2. How do you plan to do that? Organize your thoughts into practical steps and various categories. (For example, if you hope to become an engineer, you need to do well in your studies, especially in Math and Science. Then, you need to go to college and choose the appropriate major.)
3. Do you have any aspirations for serving God?
4. How can you prepare yourself to be a good worker of God in the future?

It is natural for us to have our own desires and plans. We form them based on our environment or current situation. That is part of being a self-aware human being. When Samuel came to the house of Jesse, each of Jesse's sons was presented to him. Each son seemed more kingly than the previous. As each son presented himself, Samuel thought that this son had to be Israel's next king. But God said, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16:7).

In mapping our futures, we often forget God's plans for us, or we elevate our plans to a primary status and demote God's plans to a secondary status. While we have our own plans, we must be aware that God has His own plans, too. His ideas and plans are higher than ours (Isa 55:8-9). In addition, He plans to bring us to peace (Jer 29:11). Therefore, we must trust in God's plan and fulfill it.

[Have the students answer the following questions on the worksheet.]

Questions

5. What do you believe is God's plan for you? Why?
6. If your plans conflict with God's plan, what will you do? Why?

After God rejected all of Jesse's sons that had been presented, Samuel knew that there must have been another son that was not present. Samuel knew this because God's plan had not been completed. Samuel trusted completely in God's plan and demanded the missing son to present himself. When David presented himself, God immediately told Samuel to anoint him because he was to be the next king of Israel.

As servants of God, we must trust Him. Our responsibility, as servants, is to execute His will in the manner He desires. Thus, we must trust that His methods are correct. We trust that His methods are correct because He is much greater than us, He is wiser and more knowledgeable, and His thoughts are greater than ours.

[Have the students answer the following questions on the worksheet.]

Question

7. Do you trust God? Why? Give an example.

**Activity****Treasure Hunt**

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To demonstrate how we should trust God.

Preparation

1. Hide various "treasures" in the room. The treasure can be candy, small toys, etc.
2. Draw a treasure map based on the classroom for each treasure.

Instructions

1. Divide the students into pairs. One student will be "blind" and "mute," but able to use their hands. The other student can see and speak, but cannot use their hands.
2. The students must work together to find the treasure and bring it to the teacher. The teacher should not aid the students. Let the students decide how to best work together.

After the activity, ask the students how they worked together to find the treasure. The students should respond that the "blind" student followed the instructions and guidance of the seeing student. When asked why, they should answer that the seeing student could see the treasure map and the classroom. Therefore, he could lead the "blind" student to the treasure.

Similarly, God sees and knows much more than we do. Therefore, when God guides us, He has a much greater understanding of our situation and environment. He also knows of our future and situations we will face. When He guides us, He uses all His knowledge and wisdom. Thus, His plans are much better than our own.

SERVING THE LORD WITH TRUST

Samuel: Dedicated for God's Use

1. Samuel's mother, _____, was unable to bear children. So, she _____ to God for a child that she promised to offer for His service.
2. God granted her a child, whom she named Samuel, and in return, she dedicated him to serve in the _____ of the Lord.

Samuel Mourns for Saul

3. How did Samuel feel after God rejected Saul? _____

Samuel Trusted God to Choose a New King

4. What did Samuel say after he saw Eliab?
"Surely the LORD's _____ is before Him!" (1 Sam 16:6b).
5. What did God say to Samuel?
"Do not look at his _____ or at his _____, because I have _____ him. For the LORD does not _____ as man _____; for man looks at the _____, but the LORD _____ at the _____" (1 Sam 16:7).
6. How many of Jesse's sons presented themselves to Samuel?
7. How many sons did God reject?
8. What did God say when David presented himself to Samuel?
"Arise, _____ him; for this is the one!" (1 Sam 16:12b).
9. What did Samuel do?
He "took the _____ and _____ him in the midst of his brothers; and the _____ of the LORD came upon _____ from that day _____" (1 Sam 16:13).

TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN

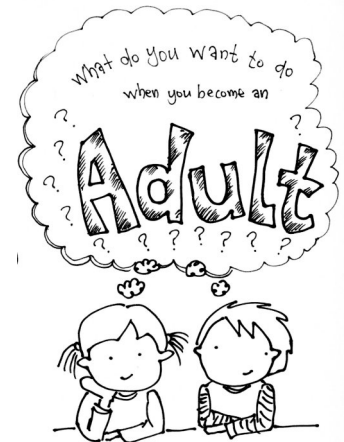
What is a

Faithful Servant?

A faithful servant is one who trusts God. He trusts God to guide his life and to navigate through difficulties. But we, being human beings, have our own desires and plans. We have mapped out our lives based on our goals and desires. We picture ourselves successful in our desired profession, with our desired families.

1. What kind of job would you like to have when you grow up?
2. How do you plan to do that? Organize your thoughts into practical steps and various categories.
3. Do you have any aspirations for serving God?
4. How can you prepare yourself to be a good worker of God in the future?

It is natural for us to have our own desires and plans. We form them based on our environment or current situation. In mapping our futures, we often forget God's plans for us, or we elevate our plans to a primary status and demote God's plans to a secondary status. While we have our own plans, we must be aware that God has His own plans, too. His ideas and plans are higher than ours (Isa 55:8-9). In addition, He plans to bring us to peace (Jer 29:11). Therefore, we must trust in God's plan and fulfill it.



5. What do you believe is God's plan for you? Why?
6. If your plans conflict with God's plan, what will you do? Why?

As servants of God, we must trust Him. Our responsibility, as servants, is to execute His will in the manner He desires. Thus, we must trust that His methods are correct. We trust that His methods are correct because He is much greater than us, He is wiser and more knowledgeable, and His thoughts are greater than ours.

7. Do you trust God? Why? Give an example.

E2 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 6—Samuel Serves the Lord with Trust

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

Fill In the Blank

1. "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his _____ or at his _____ stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not _____ as man sees; for man looks at the _____ appearance but the LORD looks at the _____.'" (1 Sam 16:7)

2. "For My _____ are not your _____, nor are your _____ My _____," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are _____ than the earth, so are My _____ higher than your _____, and My _____ than your _____." (Isa 55:8-9)

3. "For I know the _____ that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of _____ and not of _____, to give you a _____ and a _____." (Jer 29:11)