

Discipleship Notes 2: May 2020

“Samuel is Born”

I Samuel 1: 1-28

Opening Thought:

When did you have to wait for something that you thought you might never receive?
How did you react when it finally arrived?

Welcome:

We’re going to be looking at the book of Samuel. Although named after Samuel, this is really an account of the first 2 kings of Israel – Saul and David. It’s interesting to note that we are not told about the birth of either Saul or David. However, we’re given quite a bit of detail about Samuel’s birth.

What might this tell us about the role of Samuel?

Samuel was to be God’s servant. A prophetic spokesperson who would anoint God’s chosen leaders. Samuel himself would never be king nor a political leader. The power Samuel exercised was based on his relationship with God.

Background:

Moses led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Moses died and was succeeded by Joshua. Joshua led the people into the land God had promised them. The death of Joshua led to a series of rulers or judges.

What was it like during this period?

Look up:

Judges 3: 7-14

Judges 4: 1-5

Judges 13: 1-5

Judges 19:1a

Judges 21: 24-25

Read: 1 Samuel 1: 1-20

- How might you describe the state of our nation today?
- The books of Judges hints at a nation that has turned away from God. The people thought they knew better. What are the signs of hope offered in these opening verses?
- Describe Elkanah.
- What is different about Elkanah compared to the behaviour of many others in Israel?
- Describe Hannah
- What are some of the issues Hannah faced?
- Can you list a few challenges that we might be facing at this time?
- What does Hannah do?
- What accusation does Eli make towards Hannah?
- What does Eli's reaction suggest about the spiritual state of Israel at this time?
- What happens to Hannah as a result of her prayer? How might this encourage us?

Reading 2: 1 Samuel 1: 21-28

- Hannah had waited a long, pain filled time for a child. How do you react when you read about Hannah's actions?
- Can you think of other occasions in the Bible when someone has been asked to give up their only son?
- Look at verses 27 and 28. What reasons does Hannah give for her actions?

Closing Worship:

Think of something that is very precious to you.

What might it look like to offer it over to God?

How would you feel if you had to give it over to God?

Prayer Pointers:

- We pray for children and young people being educated at home.
- We ask that God will strengthen families and grant them peace.
- We remember those who are self-isolating at home.
- We pray for the staff and residents at our local care home, Austen House.