

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

Day 1 – Chapter 11 of The Story

Day 2 – 1 Samuel 16-18

Day 3 – 1 Samuel 24 & 31

Day 4 – 2 Samuel 6 & 22

Day 5 – 1 Chronicles 17 & Psalm 59

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



The Story: Standing Tall, Falling Hard

November 24-25

“The Story” Chapter 10; 1 Samuel 8:4-9, 19-22a

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



The LORD answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.” 1 Samuel 8:22

Scan to go to
the message blog or go to
www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com.

Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. Share about a time when you had to admit you were wrong. Was this easy or hard?
2. What can we learn about prayer from Hannah and Samuel? What strikes you about Hannah's character and faith?
3. Compare the three fathers in the story: Elkanah, Eli and Samuel. What were their best and worst traits? Which of these traits do you wish you had more of?
4. Samuel was probably about 12 years old when God called him to be a prophet to Eli and all of Israel. He was required to speak the truth in love to his mentor and friend. Have you ever been in this position?
5. What does Eli teach Samuel about listening to God (1 Samuel 3:1-10; "The Story," pp. 131.132)? What can we learn about communicating with God as we see Samuel's story unfold?
6. The Israelites and the Philistines both treated the Ark of the Covenant more like a good-luck charm than the sacred presence of the Lord. How might people today try to manipulate God for similar gain?
7. Samuel is hurt when he sees that the Israelites want a king like other nations, instead of recognizing God as their king. Do you ever struggle with a desire to be like the culture around you, instead of letting God rule your life?
8. God's upper story plan is for him alone to rule as King over his people. In the lower story, the people insist on having an earthly king as their ruler. God gives in to their request. Do you believe God still allows us to have our way (on occasion) even if it is not his perfect will for us? If so, give an example of what this can look like.
9. You are on the search committee for the first king of Israel. What would you look for in your applicants? What were Saul's actual qualifications?
10. How do you think Samuel would have described the "state of the union" at the end of his time as judge? Where do you see God's grace in his statement after the battle with the Ammonites?

11. Imagine you have a friend like Saul, who keeps taking matters into his own hands and ignoring what God's word teaches him. What advice would you give him?

Close in prayer.



Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse: The Lord has filled my heart with joy. He has made me strong.

1 Samuel 2:1

1. Have you ever wanted something so badly that you became upset when you didn't get it? What was it you wanted? How did you resolve your problem?
2. Hannah made a very big promise to God by telling him that she would give her first son to serve him. When Samuel was born, do you think it was hard for Hannah to hand over her son to Eli at the temple?

Family Activity: God calling Samuel in the middle of the night is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. When Eli finally figures out that it's the Lord speaking to Samuel, he tells Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). What great advice! The Lord wants us to be ready and eager to hear him anytime—day or night.

Construct an old-school "telephone" by using plastic or paper cups, string, and tape. Once you gather the needed materials, poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup with a pencil. Thread the string through each hole, tie a large knot and then tape the knot on the bottom of the inside of the cups. When you pull the string tight, you'll be able to hear each other when one person speaks softly into the cup and the other person listens with the other cup to his ear. See if you can say special messages to each other around the corner of a wall or down the stairs. Put the string under furniture or through the banister and see if it works. How long can you make the string and still communicate with each other?

When you're done experimenting, ask:

1. What was the hardest part of communicating using the old-fashioned telephone?
2. God doesn't speak to us through cups (although he could). What ways does God speak to us today?
3. Because of the way that God communicates with us today, does it make reading the Bible and going to church more important? How can you make these two activities more of a priority in your life?
4. What do you think you'd do if you heard a voice in the night calling your name?
5. What do you think God wants you to do for him?

Pray together: Dear God, thank you for the many ways that you speak to us today. Thank you for your Bible, as well as parents, pastors, and teachers who help us to hear you. Help us to listen to you and follow your ways, O Lord. Amen.

