

1 Samuel 3,7,15

Readings this week:

- S 1 Samuel 3
- M 1 Samuel 4
- T 1 Samuel 7
- W 1 Samuel 8
- Th 1 Samuel 12
- F 1 Samuel 13
- S 1 Samuel 15

Be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24

Samuel dedicated his whole life in service to God. It wasn't always easy! Living today, the challenges we face in serving God are very different from Samuel's challenges – or are they?

Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.

In what way do you grow up in the presence of the Lord?

What can we learn from Samuel?

When Samuel was young

Read 1 Samuel 3

What was the task that God gave Samuel?

Why was it hard?

How would you feel if given that task?

What were the challenges Samuel faced up to?

Have you ever had to face anything similar?

When Samuel was an adult

Read 1 Samuel 7:15-17.

What work did God give him to do?

Why was it hard?

How would you like the job?

Can you think of any ways in which you have similar responsibilities?

When Samuel was old

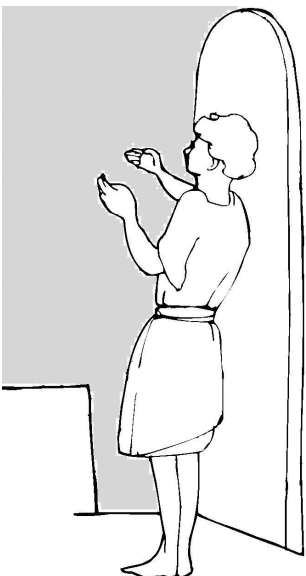
Look at 1 Samuel 15:12-35.

What task does God give to Samuel?

Why was it so hard?

What thoughts and feelings do you think Samuel would have had?

Have you ever had those feelings about any situation?





Why do you think Samuel did all these jobs, if they were so hard?



Whose God is he?

In 1 Samuel 15:30, Saul refers to God as "the Lord your God" when he talks to Samuel.

What does this tell you about the similarities or differences between Saul and Samuel's relationship with God?

Is God your God?

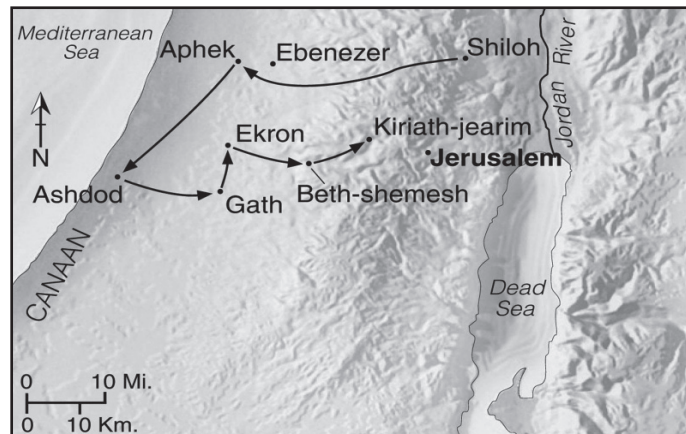
What happened to the ark?

1 Samuel 4 describes a battle between Israel and the Philistines. Who won the battle? What happened to Eli's sons? What happened to Eli?

When the ark of God was captured it was taken to the Philistines' towns.

Read 1 Samuel 5 to find out what happened in each town.

In the end the Philistines decided to send the ark back to the Israelites with an offering for each of the Philistines towns.



Can you think of any other Bible examples of people who did things they didn't want to for God?

Why did they do them?

Was their motivation the same as Samuel's?

Read 1 Samuel 6:10-18 to find out what happened and what the names of the 5 towns were.

How far did the ark travel altogether?

Digging deeper

Israel's Enemies

In 'digging deeper' in lesson 25 you will have noticed that Israel's enemies included the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Amalekites, the Canaanites, the Midianites and in the time of Samson, the Philistines. Get a Bible atlas to see where these enemies came from.

In the books of Samuel the main enemy was the Philistines.

Pray that you will be a faithful servant of God through all your life.