

Beginner Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Children Ages 4 & 5

SUMMER

June, July, August 2022



Union
Gospel
Press

Beginner Bible Teacher

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2022

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Dear Beginner Teacher,

This quarter, we will be discussing servants and healers in the Bible. But in all cases, the point is not how great the servant is. The point is how great God is. He is worthy of our service!

The first unit, “Faithful to Serve,” covers several servants of God. Samuel and Isaiah both responded to calls to serve. Asaph discovered that the true reward of God’s servants is life forever with God Himself—a reward that will ultimately be fulfilled in the next life. And Levites and priests served God by leading His people to worship Him according to His law. True, these people were faithful to serve God; but God, who called them, used them to accomplish His will despite their weaknesses and sin.

The second unit, “Faithful to Prophecy,” tells us about Haggai, Micah, Habakkuk, and Ezekiel. These men spoke God’s words to Israel and Judah even when those words were hard to say. They found joy and hope in the Lord during hard times. While these men were faithful to prophecy, the messages God spoke through them highlight His care and faithfulness toward His people. Fulfilled prophecies assure us that God will be faithful to keep His promises.

The third unit, “Faithful to Heal,” covers some of Jesus’ miraculous healings, Peter and John healing in Jesus’ name, Paul’s healing from blindness, and God protecting Paul from a snakebite on Malta. God’s power was displayed through Ananias’s prayer for healing of Paul and through Paul’s survival on Malta. But God’s power and faithfulness to heal is most fully realized through the Person of Jesus. Jesus—God Himself—came as a servant. He served us when we did not deserve it. He healed us of our sicknesses and fear. Most importantly, He healed us from our sin. Now we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Thank you for choosing to serve God by teaching these little ones about Him. Kids are more than just the future of the church—they *are* the church!

Maybe teaching is old hat to you. Maybe you feel wildly underqualified to teach. Either way, I invite you to ask God to use you this quarter. He is the God who took five loaves of bread and two fish and fed a crowd of thousands. He can take what little we bring to the table and multiply it. We need only to humble ourselves, offer up our service to Him, and trust that He will use us for His good plans.

In Christ,

Kathlyn Longtine

Plans and Spontaneity

Teaching is a joy and a privilege. Dealing with all the distractions, temper tantrums, and squirminess is worth it when one little one has even the tiniest light bulb moment. And you may never know when one of your students will learn something that changes his life. You may never know how God uses the truths taught in your class to direct your students' lives. So despite any discouragement or frustration, persevere and rejoice in the Lord (cf. Phil. 4:4)!

In the end, we cannot control how our students behave (although we certainly can try). We can, however, make sure that we are well prepared for class so that we are not surprised when our plans derail. And sometimes those little surprises give way to important and teachable moments. Here are some practical ideas to help you both plan and be open to surprises this quarter.

First, do your research ahead of time. Read the lesson text and explore related Scriptures. Get the context for the lesson text. Read a few trusted commentaries. You will not need to share all this extra information with the class, but if you understand the lesson text well, you will explain it well to your students in a way they understand.

Review the lesson and note its aim. This is a helpful main idea for the lesson. Identify which parts of the lesson embody the aim well, and make a note to repeat the aim to your students at those spots. Repeating a big idea for your students will help them remember the main point of the lesson even if they do not remember all the details.

As you review the lesson, decide what activities you are going use. Kids *love* to be engaged in fun activities. If

the activities here are not a great fit for your class, look around online. There are plenty of wonderful resources for activities, coloring pages, and object lessons out there! Sometimes something as simple as having your students act out the story can help them to pay more attention to the lesson. (I once had students start acting out the lesson over again every time a latecomer came in. They had a blast, and I do not think those kids will ever forget the story that week!)

Next, be present with your students. Yes, you are there to get stuff done. But do not let your prepared docket for the class take away from the spontaneity of the moment. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will lead the class in an unexpected direction. For example, if a student asks a tough question, perhaps it is better to tackle that together than have an extra game time at the end.

Plan some time to play or be more low-key. Use this time to talk to your students about their lives and their needs. Your students will feel God's love and care through you. Some may even remember your loving-kindness for them the rest of their lives. Your students are also more likely to listen to you if they know you care for them.

Above all, pray for your class time. Ask God to use you and to prepare the hearts of your students to receive what message He has for them each week. Pray that your students grow in God's grace and knowledge throughout the week (II Pet. 3:18). Prepare well. But do not fear a little Spirit-led spontaneous digression. God's plans are bigger and better than ours.

—*Kathlyn Longtine.*

Living for Jesus

Muriel Larson

Muriel Larson

Liv - ing for Je - sus is good and right.

The first system of music features a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2.

I'll live for Je - sus and shine my light.

The second system of music continues with the same treble and bass clefs. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2.

When I do wrong, then my light grows dim.

The third system of music continues with the same treble and bass clefs. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2.

But with God's help I will o - bey Him.

The fourth system of music continues with the same treble and bass clefs. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2, G2-B2. The system ends with a double bar line.



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Eli helped Samuel realize that he had heard from God.

God Has a Job for Samuel

Lesson Text: I Samuel 3:1-9, 19-20; 7:3-5, 10, 12

GOLDEN TEXT—“And the Lord . . . called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth” (I Samuel 3:10).

Scripture Lesson Text

I SAMUEL 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was no open vision.*

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that he could not see;*

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep;*

4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, *Here am I.*

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, *Here am I; for thou calledst me.* And he said, *I called not; lie down again.* And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, *Here am I; for thou didst call me.* And he answered, *I called not, my son; lie down again.*

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, *Here am I; for thou didst call me.* And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, *Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.* So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

7:3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, *If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.*

4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

5 And Samuel said, *Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.*

10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, *Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.*

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS

AIM: to help us understand what a wise judge Samuel was.

Have you ever noticed how some of the best and wisest men in the Bible were born to mothers who had been childless a long time? For that reason alone they would have been special to their mothers, but in Samuel's case especially it must have been sweet. For years, Hannah had longed for a child. One year when she was at the tabernacle, the burdens of her heart broke free before the Lord and He granted her heart's desire.

Hannah must have loved Samuel fiercely. At the same time, she never gave any indication that she was not ready to give him back to God to serve Him in the tabernacle.

Hannah kept her vow and took Samuel to the high priest to serve in the tabernacle. It must have been hard for her to leave Samuel behind, but she had no doubts that God Himself would watch over him. How many of us could do the same thing? Could your faith be put to such a test? From then on, Hannah saw Samuel only once a year when they came to worship, and she brought him a new coat. God rewarded her faithfulness with other children, but you can be sure none was so special as Samuel.

Further evidence of God's guiding hand on Samuel is how sensitive he was to God Himself. Although Eli had his own sons, they turned out to be self-serving for the most part, caring little for God and His statutes. Samuel, on the other hand, was quick to hear the Lord's voice and tried to answer. It must have been bitter for Eli to realize that his own sons would never have the closeness to God that this little boy had.

Eli's sons became a stumbling block to the people by twisting God's law to

suit themselves. Perhaps they thought that because they were the sons of the high priest, they could do whatever they wanted. They were wrong.

How many times have you, as a child of God, thought you could do anything you wanted and just ask for forgiveness later? As Paul wrote in Romans, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (6:1-2). We must not treat our salvation or our relationship with God lightly. Our salvation was dearly bought, and we need to remember the price that was paid. Our personal relationships are the same. You would not offend your best friend and then expect to be friends just as if nothing had changed. Saying you are sorry matters only when there is a change to prove it.

After Samuel recognized God's voice, there is a period of time in which he is not mentioned at all. Instead, we are given a picture of how Eli's sons were immoral.

In a battle, the ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines. It was a terrible blow to the Israelite army. It would be an even worse blow to the Philistines, but they did not know it at that point. God cursed the people with tumors wherever the ark went. After seven months, they returned it to Israel. The people had forgotten how to treat the ark with respect, and thousands died as a result. For twenty years, the ark rested at the house of Abinadab.

Samuel stood up and told the people where their troubles lay. They finally understood with their hearts and wanted the living God back among them again. They put away their idols and worshipped God. The Philistines were not happy to see this and came up against them. The people recognized Samuel's godly heart and begged him to intercede for them. He did, and God heard him.