

Intermediate Bible Teacher

SUMMER QUARTER
June, July, August 2022

For Teachers of Teens
Ages 12 Through 14



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Servants and Healers

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WRITER'S FORECAST

God has always desired that His people be faithful servants. The theme of this quarter's study is "Servants and Healers."

The first unit is titled "Faithful to Serve," and it focuses on four faithful servants: Samuel, Isaiah, Asaph, and Ezra. Before he was born, Samuel was dedicated for service to God. He would grow up to be judge, priest, and prophet during very pivotal times in Israel's history (lesson 1).

Lesson 2 highlights the prophet Isaiah's call to service. God gave him an amazing vision of Him on His throne in heaven.

A cry to God from the musician Asaph is the topic of lesson 3. He proclaimed the message of God's sufficiency for this life and eternity.

Lesson 4 focuses on the faithful, godly leaders who served in the temple's rebuilding after God's people returned from captivity. Ezra faithfully served God by restoring worship in Jerusalem.

In the Old Testament, we read that God spoke to His people through prophets, and the second unit highlights four of those who were "Faithful to Prophecy."

In lesson 5, we will learn how God spoke through His prophet Haggai. He called on His people to put Him first.

Lesson 6 focuses on the prophet Micah being faithful to carry God's message of judgment to the people. Those who are upright will be rewarded.

Amid all the trouble God's people made for themselves, the prophet Ha-

bakkuk praised God for His faithfulness to them. The message of lesson 7 is that the just will live by faith and rejoice in their salvation.

The prophet Ezekiel was given an incredible vision from God with the message of restoration for the people of Israel. Lesson 8 deals with that miraculous vision.

Lesson 9 begins the third unit, which is titled "Faithful to Heal." Jesus healed the servant of a military leader whose faith was astounding to Him. Lesson 10 focuses on Jesus' sovereign power over the natural and supernatural worlds. He faithfully served the Father to reveal His love, power, and salvation.

The focus of lesson 11 is on the power of Jesus' name to heal. The apostles Peter and John faithfully witnessed for Christ by making sure that He alone received the glory for a miraculous healing.

God's servant named Ananias was chosen to heal the newly converted Saul of Tarsus. Lesson 12 highlights how that servant showed faithfulness to the Lord by being used to prepare for service the greatest missionary of the gospel.

The final lesson of the quarter's study highlights a series of miracles God performed for and through Paul. Each miracle was done to bring glory to the Lord.

Being a servant of God is a great honor. Serving Him brings joy to this life, and it requires a Spirit-led life and a desire to be more like Jesus every day.

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Essentials for Teaching Young Teens

Young teens have a lot going on. They face the challenges of being too old for some things and too young for others. They have to deal with pressures concerning school, social life, church, body image, extracurricular activities, future plans, hormones, and the list goes on. Each day, the chattering masses of society and culture compete for their attention. It can be overwhelming.

As a Sunday school teacher of young teens, you have the challenge of impacting their lives for God while they are dealing with all that is going on. You might have them only for a short time each week, but they can use your help and input for determining the paths they take in life. This might seem daunting, and truthfully, teaching this age group is not for the squeamish. They need confident and relevant yet humble instruction from God's Word.

Keep in mind that not everyone learns the same way. Some learn best from lectures, some from participation and discussion, some with audiovisuals, some with group work, and some with object lessons. Try to incorporate more than one of these in your class times, but do not feel like you have to incorporate them all at once. Sometimes vary the order in which you do things. This keeps class time from getting mundane.

For example, a lecture can be followed by activities such as review games or role-playing. Music can be incorporated before, during, or after. Make sure the song relates to the lesson theme. All the activities during the class should revolve around the subject in focus.

It is true that your students' lives are filled with electronic devices, but feel free to use technology. Of course,



do not overdo technology use because it too will become mundane, and you will lose their attention. ("Another movie—yay!" *Not!*)

Some other class time activities that you can use when it seems relevant are writing activities, student-led discussions, and art. Do not worry; there will be overlap. You will have groups of teens who learn in similar ways. The ridiculousness of trying to suit a lesson to each individual is obvious. You will pull your hair out trying.

Make sure each lesson is relevant to teens in general. Point out where the Bible talks about the same things young teens are experiencing, such as peer pressure, bullying, determining life goals, sexual activity, alcoholism, depression, and body image. Show how the ultimate answers to the issues in life come from the Bible.

When making a lesson relevant, try to avoid moralism. Steer clear of clichés that your students have heard

all their lives. For instance, when David faced Goliath, there was more going on than just his bravery (“You can be brave like David”). God’s sovereign control was on display. It all was for God’s glory, not David’s.

Having a sense of humor helps when working with teens. Being funny can engage the students in the lesson, but make sure your humor is relevant to the lesson. Do not use humor for the sake of appearing laid back and funny. Teens will see that as superficial and, well, lame.

You will be able to connect with young teens when you show an interest in their lives. Make sure that you are sincere about it. They will see through fake interest. As they open up to you, pray for them and with them. Never lose their trust by talking to others about what they have shared with you, unless they say it is acceptable to do so or there is something that must be shared for their own safety.

Be real with them. Your spiritual walk with the Lord needs to be on the right track before you can spiritually guide your teens. Do not be one person at church and another person in the general public.

Of course, you are only human, so let them see that side of you to a degree. It could help to share with your class some personal (not too personal) stories of your struggles. All of us are sinners, and make sure they understand that. Young teens often get the wrong impression that adults do not have problems. They sometimes think adults are the holy ones (or they think adults think they are). However, even as you show them your fallenness, make sure you are pursuing holiness (1 Pet. 1:15-16).

Try to make each lesson relate to the issues that teens are facing. Some of those are:

- depression and suicide
- reason for existence (Why am I here?)
- bullying (online and in-person)
- independence and confidence in who they are
- knowing God’s will for their lives
- living out their faith
- self-image and identity in Christ
- fighting temptations (sex, drugs, alcohol)
- how to face adversity
- belonging and friendships
- having answers to life’s big questions

There are so many issues that you can cover in your lessons. The Bible is the source of answers to all life’s questions, so you should be able to tie each lesson in with some important issue that teens face.

Some young teens can develop attitudes of caring for others and about what is going on the world. It can be time-consuming, but incorporating service projects with your young teens can help them grow in their relationships with God and others. Include service activities in homes, church, or community.

For some young teens, taking part in service activities will help them get out of their comfort zones. For all your young teens, service activities will help learn to have hearts of servants just like our Saviour.

All this might seem overwhelming, but do not lose heart. There are many days to do any and all the ideas offered here. Start early each week to prepare for your next lesson so that you do not feel overwhelmed trying to prepare a few days before class time. Pray a lot. Enjoy the ministry God has given you to prepare young teens for their adult lives. Do your part and leave the rest to Jesus.

Scripture Lesson Text

I SAM. 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.*

Samuel's Call and Ministry

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

Related Scriptures: I Samuel 1:1-28; Judges 2:16-23

TIMES: about 1093 B.C.; 1047 B.C.

PLACES: Shiloh; Ramah; Mizpeh;
between Mizpeh and Shen

GOLDEN TEXT—"The Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth" (I Samuel 3:10).

Lesson and Its Truth

Samuel was a prominent figure in the history of Israel. He is often listed as the last of the judges of Israel. The judge before him was the well-known and mighty Samson. The lives of Samson and Samuel are a most interesting study in contrasts. Samuel probably began his judgeship during Samson's twenty-year rule as a judge. Both men were born to devout parents and were dedicated to the Lord even before they were born to be lifelong Nazarites. Both were called by God to particular service for Him, yet one ended his life in disgrace among his enemies, while the other was highly esteemed and beloved by his whole nation.

These two men were similar, and both had the opportunity to accomplish great things in the Lord's service; so what made the difference?

SAMUEL OBEYED ELI— I Sam. 3:1-9

The child Samuel (I Sam. 3:1-3). Probably when the child Samuel was somewhere between the ages of three and five, his mother took him to the tabernacle to be brought up by the high priest, Eli. This was in fulfillment of the vow she had made before his birth to "give him unto the Lord" (1:11).

Such a separation at so young an age must have been traumatic for both mother and child, but Hannah had evidently prepared Samuel well for it. This brief sketch of his childhood leads one to picture him as cheerfully obedient and faithful to his simple duties.

The call by God (I Sam. 3:4-9). Samuel was still only a boy when the Lord first spoke to him. In later years, God and Samuel were to have many conversations, but on this first occasion, he did not recognize that God was speaking to him. Assuming that Eli had called, he went immediately to the old priest, only to be sent back to bed.

Three times this occurred. By the third time, Eli realized what was happening and instructed Samuel how to respond. Obediently Samuel followed the instructions and received God's order to deliver a message to Eli.

As the rest of the chapter shows, it was a heavy message. The child cringed from delivering it. It was a severe test of his readiness to hear God's word and his willingness to respond obediently. Samuel passed the test, thereby demonstrating that he was fit for the important ministry of leadership that the Lord purposed for him.

This account is also a beautiful illus-