

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a summer beach scene. In the foreground, a large yellow and brown striped beach umbrella stands on a sandy beach. To the right, a yellow tent is pitched. The background features a blue ocean with white waves and a blue sky with white clouds. Silhouettes of palm trees and other tropical plants are scattered throughout the scene.

JUNIOR BIBLE TEACHER

For Teachers of Children
Ages 9 Through 11

SUMMER

June, July, August 2022



Union
Gospel
Press

Junior Bible Teacher

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2022

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Dear Junior Teacher:

We live in a world where many people seek to make a name for themselves and to gain fame and fortune. But as Christians, we are to live by a different standard. This quarter's lessons focus on faithful servanthood for the Lord. Our goal in this life is not to leave behind *our* legacy; everything must be done for His glory.

The lessons in the first unit focus on the faithfulness of four who were called to serve God. Young Samuel received an audible call from the Lord. His faithful response was "Speak; for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:10). Isaiah received a spectacular vision of God on His throne. The Lord sought a messenger to send to His people. Isaiah's humble response of faith was "Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8). Asaph, a chief minister of music to the Lord, faithfully recognized that God was his strength and portion forever. Ezra, who was both a scribe and priest, was faithful to restore worship and spiritual leadership to the exiles returning to Jerusalem. All four faithfully served the Lord to bring glory to Him only.

In the second unit, the next four lessons focus on the faithfulness of four prophets who took God's messages to the people of Israel. When God called on Haggai, he faithfully responded immediately. He challenged Israel after the Exile to remain faithful to God and rebuild His temple. Micah was faithful to bring God's indictment of Israel for their injustice toward the lowly, their unjust business dealings, and their mistreatment of women and children. Despite the troubling times in Israel, Habakkuk was faithful to praise the Lord for His goodness. Even though he knew Israel deserved judgment, Ezekiel faithfully took to God's people His message of hope for the future.

The third unit focuses on healings God performed through His servants. The Great Physician is God's greatest servant, of course. The miracles of healing He performed proved to the world He is the Messiah. Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith in Him, and He healed the man's servant. Jesus' healing of the Gadarene demoniac was an amazing display of His sovereign power even over Satan and his minions.

After Jesus had ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit worked through chosen followers of Christ to bring healing in Jesus' name. Peter and John healed a crippled man, who then walked for the first time in his life. A servant of God named Ananias received instruction through a vision from the Lord to heal a newly converted servant named Saul, who had been struck blind by the glory of God. Later called Paul, that new convert would go on to serve the Lord in amazing ways. Once, after being shipwrecked on an island called Malta, Paul was used by the Lord to heal the sick father of a government official and then to cure many other people.

As you teach this quarter, keep in mind that you are God's servant for teaching juniors. Faithfully prepare each lesson with prayer and thorough study. Maintain focus on the main goal—bringing glory to God, not yourself. He will faithfully reward your efforts.

For His glory,

Don Ruff

The Sunday School Teacher— A Servant of the Lord

Teaching Sunday school is not a calling one can take on with complacency. It is a work of service. Teachers are God's servants. The work has many aspects to it. For instance, preparation and practice are required. Teachers cannot just show up on Sunday and "wing it." Sunday school teachers are called to be servants for a very important job—training others in the truths of God's Word.

No one should fear taking on the role of Sunday school teacher; however, it should be taken seriously. Teaching is a service for the Lord. With that in mind, you need to have a flourishing relationship with Him. A Sunday school teacher needs to be a believer who shows evidence of a faithful relationship with the Lord. A surrendered Christ-controlled life will make a tremendous impact on others for the sake of God's glory.

Children come to Sunday school to learn, and Sunday school teachers themselves should never stop learning. A quote has been attributed to Albert Einstein on this topic: "Once you stop learning, you start dying." Likewise, your spiritual growth depends on a constant desire to learn more about the Lord and following His Word. A servant of the Lord is a faithful student of Bible study. You will benefit spiritually, intellectually, and morally from studying and applying the truths you learn from it. The wisdom you gain can be imparted to your students, who will be watching you to see whether you are also applying that wisdom.

Children are precious to Jesus. A Sunday school teacher's attitude toward them should be the same. Children need to know about salvation in Jesus Christ. You, the teacher, can be used of the Lord as a soul-winner. It is a privilege to be a part of this great enterprise. Nothing beats the excitement of seeing lives and hearts turned toward God.

This closely ties in with how important it is to have a faithful prayer life. Jesus prayed for His followers and still intercedes on our behalf. A good Sunday school teacher will persistently pray for the children in his or her class. This involves knowing your students well. Interact with your students and their families so that you can learn how best to pray for them.

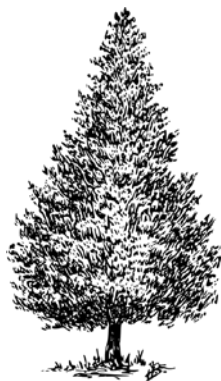
Start early to prepare each week's lesson. Prepare your heart by praying and studying the lesson's Scripture text. Meditate on how the story relates to your own life and to your students. Your students will be motivated to learn when you are enthusiastic about teaching. Practice each lesson a number of times so that you are not reading directly from the lesson. This will allow you to be more animated and conversational with your students. Use different teaching techniques for different learning styles.

What a reward will be yours for years to come as the students increase in love and application of God's Word! It is a unique calling to serve the Lord in teaching His Word! It is a thrill to see children grow in their love for the Lord.

—Don Ruff.

FOR COMFORT AND CHALLENGE

MEGAN HICKMAN



FAITHFULNESS

FAITHFULNESS—WHAT IS IT?

PROMISES WE KEEP?

DAILY RHYTHMS WE REPEAT?

FAITHFUL TO WHOM? TO WHAT?

TO BELIEVE, TO SURRENDER, TO TRUST.

FAITHFULNESS IS GOD'S ALONE.

HE WHO SITS UPON THE THRONE

IS FAITHFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO ROAM.

HIS FAITHFULNESS HELPS US ASPIRE

TO FAITHFULLY LIFT HIS NAME HIGHER,

TO SERVE OUR LORD WITH HUMBLE THANKS

UNTIL WE COME TO HEAVEN'S BANKS.

OUR FAITHFULNESS IS JUST A MIRROR.

SO LET US GLORY IN HIS GRACE

UNTIL WE MEET HIM FACE-TO-FACE.





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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

1 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.

APPROACHING THE LESSON

AIM: to show Samuel's dedication, obedience, and leadership.

The people of Israel needed a strong leader. During the period of the judges, God used many different individuals to come to the aid of His people. This period covered many years. When God's people were obedient, they prospered. When they were disobedient, they paid for their sin.

Eli, Israel's high priest, had served God for many years. His sons were undisciplined, willful, evil men. Whether from ignorance or willful disobedience, Eli's sons were not following God's commands for the priestly allocations in the sacrifices.

They were making up their own regulations and stealing from God and the one giving the offering (I Sam. 2:12-17).

The people of Israel halfheartedly served God. There was no clear break from idolatry.

Samuel was born into this depressing period and was given to God's work. He grew up in the tabernacle. Samuel probably performed tasks for Eli the priest, who was aged and almost blind. Samuel had been given to the Lord for life. We will study Samuel's call (3:1-9), Samuel's commitment (vss. 19-20), Samuel's challenge (7:3-5), and Samuel's consecration (vss. 10, 12).

TEACHING THE LESSON

SAMUEL'S CALL—I Samuel 3:1-9

The child Samuel worked in the tabernacle, but the Scriptures do not tell us what he did. We assume he may have helped with the clean-up after the sacrifices. He was faithful in doing whatever the priest required.

Every year, Hannah, Samuel's mother, brought him a new robe. How happy she must have been to have a son in the service of God! Hannah had no idea, though, that God would use her sacrificial gift to help all Israel.

In those days, God did not often communicate with His people. That was not an oversight on God's part. His people were living double lives,

serving God and idols. God will not share His glory. People still brought their sacrifices to the tabernacle. Worship was carried on as usual, but there was no real communication with God.

Samuel had never heard from the Lord. We cannot help wondering what Samuel thought about the sacrifices that went on at the tabernacle. He must have known about God, but he did not know God personally. Perhaps Eli should have taught by example as well as by his words.

We often hear or read of people who have been brought up in the church all their lives and yet do not know the Lord. They may know