



SENIOR HIGH Bible Teacher

**For Teachers of Teens
15 Through 17**

**June, July, August 2022
SUMMER QUARTER**



**Union
Gospel
Press**

Senior High Bible Teacher

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June, July, August 2022

The Weeks Ahead.....	2
Editorial	3

Servants and Healers

UNIT I: Faithful to Serve

June 5—Samuel’s Call and Ministry—I Sam. 3:1-9, 19-20; 7:3-5, 10, 12.....	5
June 12—Isaiah’s Commission—Isa. 6:1-8.....	11
June 19—Asaph’s Lament—Ps. 73:1-3, 12-13, 16-18, 21-26	17
June 26—The Service of Godly Leaders—Ezra 6:13-22.....	23

UNIT II: Faithful to Prophecy

July 3—Haggai Calls for Faithful Service—Hag. 1:1-11.....	29
July 10—Micah Stands Firm for God—Mic. 2:4-11	35
July 17—Habakkuk Praises God’s Faithfulness—Hab. 2:1-5; 3:17-19	41
July 24—Ezekiel Brings Hope to Israel—Ezek. 37:1-14.....	47

UNIT III: Faithful to Heal

July 31—Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant—Luke 7:1-10.....	53
Aug. 7—Jesus Heals Two Demoniacs—Matt. 8:23-34.....	59
Aug. 14—A Lame Man Healed—Acts 3:1-16	65
Aug. 21—Ananias Heals Saul—Acts 9:10-20.....	70
Aug. 28—Miracles on Malta—Acts 28:1-10	75
Paragraphs on Places and People.....	80

Editor in Chief: Kenneth Sponsler



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The Weeks Ahead

This quarter's lessons are a survey of the Lord's faithful servants, prophets, and healers. Our lessons range from I Samuel chapter 3 in the Old Testament to the last chapter of the book of Acts in the New Testament. The subjects of our lessons range through judges, prophets, psalmists, scribes, apostles, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Our first unit of study covers the stories of key servants of God in the Old Testament. The first lesson deals with Samuel's call to the ministries of judge, priest, and prophet. Lesson 2 recounts Isaiah's dramatic vision of God in the temple, in which the Lord commissioned him to be a prophet to the kingdom of Judah. Lesson 3 deals with Asaph's lament in Psalm 73 over his temptation to envy wicked people. Lesson 4 concludes our first unit of study with a look at the leaders of Israel's post-exilic period from Ezra chapter 6.

Our second unit of study this quarter features four Old Testament prophets. Lesson 5 is taken from the first chapter of Haggai and deals with his rebuke and exhortation from God for the returned exiles to resume rebuilding God's temple. Lesson 6 takes us back to the prophecy of Micah 2 and his rebuke from the Lord against Judah's wicked practices. Lesson 7 deals with chapters 2 and 3 of Habakkuk, where he praises the Lord's great faithfulness to His people. Lesson 8 concludes our second unit and takes us to Ezekiel 37 and his vision of the resurrection of dry bones.

Our third unit of study for this quarter deals with five healing stories from the New Testament. Lesson 9 is

taken from Luke 7 and recounts Jesus' healing of a Roman centurion's beloved servant. Lesson 10 takes us to Matthew 8 and Jesus' calming of a storm on the Sea of Galilee and His exorcism of demonic spirits from two possessed men in the region of Gadara, just southeast of the Sea of Galilee. Lesson 11 is from Acts 3; it deals with Peter and John's famous healing of a man who had been lame from his birth. Lesson 12 takes us forward to Acts 9, where the newly converted Saul is healed of his blindness by Ananias, who faithfully obeyed God's instructions despite his initial fear of Saul's reputation for persecuting Christians. Lesson 13 wraps up our lessons for this quarter by fast-forwarding us to Acts 28. Paul (who had been Saul in the previous lesson) has been shipwrecked on the island of Malta, where God used him to advance the gospel among the people there with signs and wonders.

It is my sincere hope that you will find great encouragement from this quarter's studies in God's Word. Remember the words of the apostle Paul: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17). Remember also the words of the prophet Isaiah: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (55:11).

—John Lody.

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).

God's Faithful Servants

Although our studies this quarter include the stories of many of God's servants, omitted from our lessons are some of the most important of God's servants from the Old Testament. So, in this article, I will briefly supplement our lessons by highlighting the stories of some of the key faithful servants of God from Israel's history.

Among the Lord's earliest faithful servants was Noah. Think of what it must have taken for Noah to persevere in obeying God amidst the opposition and ridicule of his neighbors and to keep his own family unified in their work and commitment to God's commission to build the ark. Remember that the reason for the impending flood was that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

Noah alone had "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (vs. 8) out of his whole generation; pervasive wickedness characterized the attitudes and actions of those who lived in the entire region surrounding Noah and his family as they labored to finish the ark. To add to his neighbors' reasons for ridiculing him, it is likely that the very idea of rain from the sky was an unheard-of concept in Noah's day!

After the Flood, God's next prominent servant was the great father of our faith, Abraham. Imagine being Abraham in Ur. He is an idol-worshipping herdsman who suddenly hears the voice of Yahweh telling him to drop everything he is doing, take everything he has, and travel to a destination to be revealed later! Yet he was strengthened in his resolve by the grace that

the Lord had given him. And, without any mention of questioning or hesitation, he packed up and went!

But that was by no means the end of Abraham's obedient service to God; it was just the beginning. Next, he faithfully settled among powerful foreigners in Canaan. Then he humbly allowed his nephew Lot to graze his livestock in the more fertile lands adjacent to Sodom (but we know how that turned out!). Most importantly, he believed Yahweh when He promised that one day his own offspring would become a mighty nation from which the Messiah would arise to bless the whole world (cf. John 8:56; Heb. 11:8-10).

Our next servant of the Lord is the grasping, usurping, conniving Jacob—to many a most unlikely candidate for the role of patriarch. He was a grandson of Abraham and the twin brother of Esau. The twins were born to Abraham's son, Isaac, and Rebekah (who was Isaac's first cousin, once removed).

Jacob was cunning and deceptive, but he kept his priorities straight. He highly valued the prospect of being the heir to God's promises (unlike his brother, who sold his birthright for a bowl of stew!). Despite becoming a refugee from the wrath of his brother, whom he had deceitfully swindled, God favored him and went with him into his exile (cf. Gen. 28:10-15). Jacob faithfully served his uncle Laban in Haran, even when Laban had tricked him into working an extra seven years for him.

The Lord blessed Jacob with twelve sons, who became the fathers of the tribes of Israel. On his return to Canaan, Jacob was specially blessed by God after wrestling with Him. God

renamed him Israel, meaning “he who strives with God” (cf. Gen. 32:24-30; esp. vs. 28).

Our next faithful servant of God is Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob. He became Jacob’s favorite son, and his brothers envied him to the point of outright hatred. They conspired to do away with him, but they wound up selling him to some Midianites who were traveling to Egypt.

Joseph remained devoted to Yahweh even while he was a slave in Egypt. He served his master faithfully, but, through no fault of his own, he landed in prison. From there, by the ability that God gave him to interpret dreams, he rose to become the most powerful ruler in Egypt, just under Pharaoh himself.

When a famine drove Joseph’s brothers to seek food in Egypt, Joseph forgave them, even allowing them to have the Egyptian territory of Goshen as their new home. He told his brothers, “Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good” (Gen. 50:20).

Four hundred years later, Moses is our next faithful servant of the Lord. You are probably already very familiar with Moses’ story, so for our present purposes, a few highlights from his life will suffice.

Although Moses was raised as Egyptian royalty, he chose to identify with the enslaved Israelites. Forced to flee Egypt, he learned profound humility as a shepherd in the wilderness. The Bible records that “Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Num. 12:3). Even so, God raised him up to be the deliverer of His people from Egyptian slavery. Through humble Moses, God glorified Himself by displaying His most awesome power before the whole world through an unprecedented array of spectacular miracles. Yahweh’s relationship with Moses was unique. “The Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man

speaketh unto his friend” (Ex. 33:11).

For our next faithful servant of God, we jump ahead another four hundred years to King David. He was known as a man after God’s own heart (cf. I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). Yet for all his devotion to the Lord, David grossly abused his royal power by attempting to cover up his adultery with Bathsheba by having her husband murdered (cf. II Sam. 11:1—12:15). David paid dearly for his sin, but he turned back to the Lord in heartfelt repentance. The Lord established His covenant with him that one day one of David’s descendants would rule over an everlasting kingdom (cf. 7:1-17).

About a century and a half later, Elijah the Tishbite arose, seemingly from nowhere, to become the leader of a band of prophets (cf. I Kgs. 17:1). His ministry involved rebuking King Ahab of Israel and his notorious wife, Jezebel, a princess from Sidon (cf. 16:31).

Elijah’s shining moment was his confrontation with 450 prophets of the idol Baal on Mount Carmel (cf. I Kgs. 18:20-40). The challenge was to see who was the true God, Baal or Yahweh. Baal’s prophets wailed and pleaded many hours for him to send down fire to consume their sacrifice, but they received no response. Then Elijah prayed a brief prayer to Yahweh, and immediately an intense, engulfing blaze poured down from the heavens and consumed everything!

Elijah was one of only two people recorded in the Old Testament who were taken up to heaven alive (cf. II Kgs. 2:11). The other was Enoch (cf. Gen. 5:24).

There are many other faithful servants of Yahweh that I could mention, but this survey shows you the scope of God’s grace to His people. My sincere hope is that this study of God’s servants will be a great blessing to you and your students.

—John Lody.

Scripture Lesson Text

1 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).

Studying the Text

For approximately 350 years God used judges to lead His people. After that, a monarchy was formed, with a king reigning over the nation. It was upon the request of the people that God granted this change (I Sam. 8:4-5). Samuel was the major transitional figure between these two eras, for he served as Israel's last judge and was the one who anointed her first two kings, Saul and David.

Samuel was born to Elkanah and Hannah after Hannah's pleas to God to rid her of her barrenness. She promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to the Lord for the rest of his life. After Samuel's birth, Hannah reared him until he was weaned. She then took him to Eli to be used in the service of God's tabernacle (I Sam. 1). Eli the priest was assisted in ministry by two corrupt sons who did not know the Lord they professed to serve (2:12).

SAMUEL'S CONFUSION—

I Sam. 3:1-6

His ministry (I Sam. 3:1). The Jewish historian Josephus believed Samuel was twelve years old when the events of this chapter took place. He might have been older than that, how-

ever, for the Hebrew word translated "child" is the same word translated "youth" in describing David when he faced Goliath (17:33). Samuel was no longer a child but probably a teenager, for his mother was giving birth to other children (2:21) as he grew older (vs. 26). Although he had been in the tabernacle during those years, God had not yet spoken directly to him.

In fact, God was not speaking directly to very many at all in those days. The word "precious" in I Samuel 3:1 refers to something that was valuable because it was so rare. We have noted that the days of the judges were exceedingly sinful. This was even reflected in Eli's own sons (Judg. 2:22-25). The general attitude of the people seems to have been total apathy toward what God said or wanted from them. Revelation from Him was therefore withheld, and even when He did send word to His people, it may not have been faithfully passed on.

His initial call (I Sam. 3:2-4). Since there were no prophets regularly telling the people God's revelation, it is not surprising that Samuel was unacquainted with such activity. The time of Samuel's call was probably early