

# Mentor/Student Discussion Guide

## Samuel

### January 2022

\*Your goals in your time together today are check in with one another and to discuss the story of Samuel the prophet and the beginning of the Kingdom of Israel as recorded in 1 Samuel.

\*Today you will need a pencil and a Connect Bible.

\*It is just as important for youth to get to know mentors as it is for mentors to get to know youth. Both mentor and student should answer the questions for one another.

\*Neither person should be made to feel that they should share more than they are comfortable sharing.

\*You do not need to make sure you have answered every question listed below. They are provided merely as a way to guide your discussion. Neither should you feel limited to these questions.

\*You will not be reporting answers to anyone. If it is helpful to write answers or take notes, feel free to do so knowing that it is not necessary.

\*Please take a moment to pray together at the beginning of your time together. You may pray your own prayer or use the following (spoken by one person or both together).

*Dear God, sometimes we don't know how you speak in the world today. We wonder whether it's your voice we hear or something else – maybe our own greed, or selfishness, or our desire to be in charge. We don't always know whose voice to listen to. Speak to us, Lord God. Help us see that you have spoken through prophets and rulers, old and young, male and female. Speak to us now, Lord God. Amen*

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

#### Check in

\*Check in about any events that have happened since or conversation from the last time you met. If it has been a while since you last met, it is ok to spend a fair amount of time catching up.

\*Each person share a high and a low (something good and something no-so-good that happened) from the previous week.

#### Bible

\*Can either or both of you say (or sing) the books of the Old Testament? Take a moment to practice using the table of contents in the front of your bible.

\*Read 1 Samuel 1:1-2:10.

-Had you heard the story of Hannah and Samuel before? Does it remind you of any other women in the Old and New Testaments?

-Look ahead to Luke 1. Does Mary's song sound similar to Hannah's? Why might that be?

\*Read 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1.

-If you were Samuel, do you think you would have believed that it was God calling you and not Eli? Why or why not?

-A prophet is someone who speaks for God. What do you think would be good about being God's prophet? What parts would be hard or scary?

-Samuel served as God's prophet from the time he was a young boy to the time he was an old man. What do you think it would be like to have such an important role as a child?

\*Read 1 Samuel 8.

-Why do you think Samuel was angry that the Israelites wanted a king? Who did he feel they were rejecting?

-Samuel did not want to give in to the peoples' demands for a king, but God did grant their request. Can you think of other times in the Bible or in our own world and lives that it seems that God is easier on people than other people may be? Why might that be?

-Up until this point, the Judges served as both spiritual and military leaders. Now this role would be divided between kings and prophets. What do you think would be the benefits and the pitfalls of this division? How might it change Israel's relationship with God?

\*Note that in 1 Samuel 9-11, Saul is chosen to be the first king of Israel. Do you know who would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> King of Israel?

\*Read 1 Samuel 12.

-It was common for Israel's spiritual leaders to recite to the people God's history with humanity. (Examples can be found in Exodus, throughout the prophets, and in the preaching of the apostles in Acts.) Why do you think they did this? Do you see examples of this when God's people gather today?

### Deeper Discussion

\*How do we "listen" for God's voice? How do we determine if it's God we are following or something else? Are leaders who say they are acting according to God's will always doing so? How can you know?

\*Samuel's story reminds us that God speaks and acts through young and old alike. How have you experienced God working through kids/youth?