

== IN SEARCH OF A KING ==

Understanding 1 Samuel

Small group questions

1 Samuel 1-3 A saviour is born

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact the bishop!

1. RECAP -- Why read the Old Testament?

Because the New Testament tells us that the Old Testament is all about Jesus! See for example: John 1:45; Luke 24:44 and Acts 28:23.

2. The story so far: review the story line of the Old Testament and where 1 Samuel fits.

3. 1 Samuel 1-3 – have a skim read! Remember the main points?

- a. Infertile Hannah pleads to the Lord
- b. Hannah is granted a son whom she gives back to God and sings a song of praise to God.
- c. We meet the priest Eli and his rebellious sons
- d. Samuel will have a special role in Israel's history

- a. What are your initial reactions to this passage?
- b. Is anything unclear to you in this text?

4. We'll follow the same outline each week. What's the passage about, what does it teach us about God and how does it point us to Jesus. Explore and discuss the following points ensuring everyone knows what Bishop Mark was on about!!

1) WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

- a. Reverser of fortunes
- b. A God of justice
- c. A God who saves by sending saviours

2) HOW DOES IT POINT US TO JESUS?

- a. Hannah's song/Mary's song – many parallels (1 Sam 2, Luke 1)
- b. Samuel and Jesus – growing in favour with God and men.
- c. The GREAT Saviour has come

5. Mark made three minor points of application along the way. Discuss how you might put these into practice:

- a. Hannah's example of heartfelt prayer – taking her needs right to God who can act
- b. Eli's encouragement to Samuel to wait on God to speak to him saying: 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening'. Do we ask the same thing when we open God's word or come to church?
- c. Eli's example after Samuel shared the vision of his demise of saying: 'he is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes!' Do we have that sort of trust in God's character??

6. We saw in the sermon a tremendous running theme in Scripture – made clear in both Hannah's and Mary's song – namely – that God humbles the exalted, but exalts the humble. How might this help you to talk about Jesus and his love to others?