



Midweek Study Notes

20th March 2022

Prepared by Matt

Giants of Faith - Samuel

On Sunday (and thanks to the power of technology) Bradley spoke to us about Samuel, who is mentioned by name in **Hebrews 11:**

*And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and **Samuel** and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. (Verses 32-34)*



Samuel is a key figure in the Old Testament, being a prophet - who anointed both Saul and David - as well as the final Judge of Israel. Samuel's story starts with his mother Hannah, who promised God that if he would bless her with a child, then she would devote that child to the Lord.

Samuel both listened intently to and faithfully sought after God, reminding us to 'listen, seek and follow'. *This particular giant of faith wasn't all about himself, he was all about God.*

Discussion Suggestions

Encouraged by his mentor Eli, Samuel responded to God with the words "*Speak, for your servant is listening.*" (1 Samuel 3:9-10) We were also told that Samuel was 'willing to learn, willing to do and willing to listen'. How easy do you find it to listen to what God is saying to you? Do you ever find that your words to Him get in the way of His words to you?

Samuel's faith was developed and shaped over a long period of time. How has your faith changed since you came to know Jesus? What are your hopes and expectations for how it will develop over the rest of your life?

Inspired by Samuel's story, Bradley asked us to think about the mentors we have - or *have had* - in our life, and he challenged us with the questions: *Who are your mentors? Who are you listening to? What are the voices you are hearing in your life? Are you listening to God's word and hearing it from other people? Or are you distracted by other voices?*



Further Discussion Suggestions

As part of our time of worship we sang 'all to Jesus I surrender.' *What is it that God is calling you to surrender to Him? How realistic is it to expect us to surrender everything? Has there been a moment in your life where you felt you were able to do this?*

We also sang 'I'm no longer a slave to fear', which Mark encouraged us to sing as 'I'm no longer a slave to *sin*'. *What steps can we take to make both of these statements a reality in our lives?* (Mark reminded us that Jesus releases us from slavery and bondage and from past hurts and past guilts, into a new life with Him).

Suggestions For Prayer

Thank God for the people you have been mentored by in your life. Perhaps you can also ask him to provide an opportunity for you to mentor someone else.

Continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine. Ask God to show us how we can respond, both individually and as a church. Pray that Ukrainian refugees will be made to feel welcome both in the UK and in other countries across Europe.

Pray for those in our church - as well as our friends and family - who have been struck down with Covid, or who are struggling with other illnesses.