

## Confirmation Instruction – October 17, 2021 – God Calls Samuel

### Welcome

- Prayer
- Questions from last week’s class or readings?

### Review

The book of \_\_\_\_\_, meaning “the road out,” tells the story of God leading God’s people out of slavery in \_\_\_\_\_. Moses and \_\_\_\_\_ told \_\_\_\_\_ that God said, “Let my people go.” When he did not let them go, God sent (*how many?*) \_\_\_\_\_ plagues. After safely crossing the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea, the Israelites complained that they didn’t have anything to \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness. God provided \_\_\_\_\_ called “manna” in the mornings, and \_\_\_\_\_ in the form of quails in the evenings. Whether they gathered much or little, everyone had \_\_\_\_\_ to eat. We can give thanks to God at mealtime, because \_\_\_\_\_

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### Brief Overview of Events between Exodus and 1 Samuel

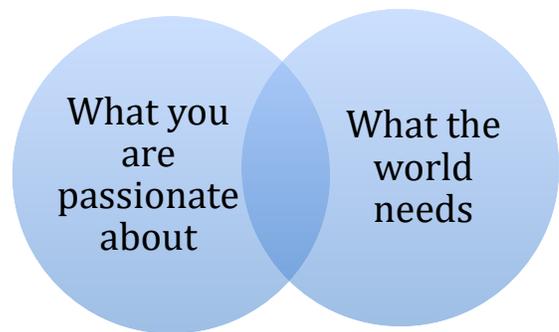
- God gives the law to God’s people. (The Ten Commandments and more.)
- The Israelites spend 40 years wandering in the wilderness because they need to learn how to follow God’s law and be God’s people.
- Joshua succeeds Moses as the leader who speaks with God on behalf of the people.
- God gives the Promised Land to the people, giving them victory over the peoples already settled in the land.
- God raises up a series of judges to lead the Israelites.
- The people continually fall into worshipping other gods: “the Baals and the Astartes, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines.”
  - God allows the other peoples to oppress the Israelites.
  - They repent, and God delivers them from their enemies.
  - They forget about God again, and the cycle repeats.

### Law and Gospel in Today’s Reading

	Law (What is the problem? What are people supposed to be doing?)	Gospel (What is God doing for us?)
1 Samuel 3:1-21		

## Vocation

- Martin Luther changed the meaning of *vocation* from “calling to be a monk, nun, or priest” to “calling to anything that God calls you to do in this world,” or “calling to serve the neighbor where you are.” All Christians have a vocation, not just church professionals.
- “...the Holy Spirit has *called* me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith, just as he *calls*, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth...” – Luther’s explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed, p. 205 in *The Lutheran Handbook*
- Vocation of all baptized people: Daily dying to sin (repentance) and rising to new life in Christ. (See p. 216 in *The Lutheran Handbook*, on the significance of baptism.)
- “The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet” – Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABCs*
- Vocation is not just about occupation, but relationships: The calling to be a family member, a neighbor, a classmate, a friend, a teammate, a co-worker, a member of a church family.
- Discernment of vocation: through conversation with other people, through prayer
- “SHAPE” as a guide for understanding where/how God calls us to serve:
  - Spiritual gifts – What has the Holy Spirit gifted us to do? e.g. prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, compassion (Romans 12:6-8).
  - Heart – What do we love to do? What issues are we passionate about?
  - Abilities - What talents and skills do we have?
  - Personality – What energizes us? (tasks or people), How are we organized? (structured or unstructured)
  - Experiences – What life experiences do we have? How have we served before? (Caution: Sometimes God calls us to something in which we have no experience!)
- Spiritual gifts inventory activity: <https://download.elca.org/ELCA Resource Repository/spiritgifts.pdf>



## Discussion Questions

- What vocation(s) did Samuel have? How did he engage in faith practices?
- What vocations do you have through relationships to other people?
- What occupation(s) are part of your vocation or could be in the future?
- Who might you talk to when discerning where/how God is calling you?
- What does your “SHAPE” say about where/how God is calling you?

Spiritual gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

Daily Readings

- *Monday* – 1 Samuel 7:3-17
- *Tuesday* - 1 Samuel 8:1-22
- *Wednesday* - 1 Samuel 10:17-27
- *Thursday* - 1 Samuel 12:1-25
- *Friday* - 1 Samuel 13:1-15
- *Saturday* - 1 Samuel 15:1-35
- *Sunday, October 17* – 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (God Calls David)



*About the Image:* A radiant Samuel brings word from God to Eli, line engraving by A.W. Warren, 1816, after E. Bird.  
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