

October 25/26, 2025

"Samuel"

Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1 Samuel 3](#) | Faithful in Listening

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

Young Samuel hears his name called in the darkness. His mother, Hannah, had prayed earnestly for a child, vowing to offer that child back to the Lord. She later takes young Samuel to the tabernacle, where he grows up serving the Lord. God first speaks to Samuel as a child and reveals himself through his words. God begins a special relationship with Samuel that continues throughout his life. Samuel's lifelong posture becomes listening to God as his servant. Samuel becomes a bridge from the dark era of the judges into Israel's monarchy, anointing the nation's first two kings.

We are also responsible for listening to God, even when we find it difficult. Samuel had a unique relationship with the Lord, hearing his voice directly. We have God's Word and the Holy Spirit dwelling in all who believe in Jesus. Samuel's prayer is a helpful model as we approach the Bible each day, enter a weekend service or face uncertain and challenging situations. We can be sure that God will give us what we need from his Word and through his Spirit. We may not get an answer right away, but time spent in God's Word today may serve us tomorrow or down the road. God brings Scripture to mind when we need it.

TODAY: Let Samuel's prayer become a part of your rhythm this week. As you open God's Word, as you walk into church this weekend and as you enter challenging or uncertain moments, pause and pray: "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Day 2 [1 Samuel 7:2-4](#) | Faithful in Spiritual Direction

So Samuel said to all the Israelites, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." 1 Samuel 7:3

The Israelites are surrounded by foreign nations. The Philistines press in from the west with an advanced culture and superior weapons, while the Amorites crowd them in the east. So, the Israelites repeatedly turn away from God and toward idols. They seek help and rescue from sources other than the Lord. Samuel calls the people to repent and return to God, leaving the idols behind. He reminds them that God will deliver them from their enemies as they are faithful to follow the Lord.

Repentance includes turning away *from* sin and *toward* Jesus. A rhythm of repentance is normal for Jesus followers. We turn away from complaint and toward God in gratitude. We turn to Jesus for rescue and away from the belief that we're capable of saving ourselves. We turn to him for forgiveness and away from the need to hold onto hurts. We turn to him with generosity and away from the fear of needing more. Repentance is like a compass that directs us back to God. Through repentance, God provides freedom from sin and grows his character in us throughout our lives.

TODAY: Identify one area where you need to turn away *from* something and turn *to* Jesus. Pray, "Father, I need to turn to you and away from _____. Help me live a faithful life. Amen." If you would like help living a faithful life, consider joining one of our new four-week Courageous Faith Groups. More information is available [HERE](#).

Day 3 [1 Samuel 7:15-17](#) | Faithful in Routine

Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life. From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places. 1 Samuel 7:15-16

Samuel's life is marked by a faithful routine. He travels a regular circuit year after year, leading Israel throughout his life. He travels to the same towns, sharing God's words, over and over and over. He models faithfulness in the ordinary, everyday moments. Non-heroic routines laced with steady faithfulness fill his days. Near the end of his life, no one can accuse him of any wrongdoing. He has been wholly faithful to God ([1 Samuel 12:3-4](#)).

We may be tempted to assume that our greatest impact comes from big, flashy moments. But often the greatest impact we can make is by bringing our best selves again and again in the mundane moments. Each day, we have many opportunities to grow through slow, steady faithfulness with sometimes nauseating repetition. Teachers have another thoughtful one-on-one conversation with a student. Adult children exercise love and patience while caring for aging parents. Parents with young children maintain consistent bedtime routines of praying and reading a Bible story. Employees show up on time and give their best efforts even when the job is less than ideal. Faithfulness is like strength training—muscle grows through consistent repetition, not a single heroic lift.

TODAY: Write two to three things in your journal you are grateful for in your ordinary routine, no matter how small they may seem. Thank God for the opportunity to grow in faithfulness, with his help, through those circumstances. Explore Samuel's story of faithfulness further on the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast*—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

Day 4 [1 Samuel 8:1-7](#) | Faithful in Disappointment

And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king." 1 Samuel 8:7

Disappointment crashes over Samuel in waves. His sons have not followed in his faithful ways. The people ask for a king, and Samuel feels deeply rejected. Samuel anoints Israel's first king, Saul, who soon disobeys the Lord, resulting in the loss of the kingdom ([1 Samuel 13:14](#)). Yet, in these deep disappointments, Samuel still listens to God. He still follows his directions. God calls Samuel out of his disappointment to look toward the future and anoint a new king ([1 Samuel 16:1-4](#)). Even though the people have been unfaithful, Samuel is faithful to pray for them and teach them God's ways ([1 Samuel 12:23](#)).

Disappointment is inevitable in our fallen world. Our natural tendency may be to numb out, check out or shut people out. The question is: Where do we go with our disappointment? Whether it's disappointment over a lost friendship, the way life has turned out, parents who let us down, the decisions someone makes or someone who walked out on us, we can keep our hearts alive to God and others, through his help. Like a garden needs water in drought, our hearts need God's presence in disappointment. He invites us to cry out to him in our deepest disappointments. We can trust that while the situation may not change, he will be present with us.

TODAY: Keep your heart alive to God by praising him for who he is and what he has done through Jesus. Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Praise the Lord](#)." Let the lyrics guide your worship. "Through the shadow, through the storm...The greater the fight then let the praise roar."



Day 5 [John 13:31-35](#) | Question 42: Loving One Another

Question: How are we called to love one another as the church?

Answer: We are called to love sacrificially, serving one another and laying down our lives for each other as Christ did for us.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

Jesus kneels before his disciples with a basin and towel on the night before his crucifixion. He demonstrates humble, sacrificial service by washing their feet ([John 13:1-5](#)). He teaches them to follow his example and love as he loved them. Washing another's feet means more than just being nice or helping someone out. Jesus teaches that love is the distinctive mark of his followers, making them recognizable to the world. The disciples needed to understand that this love involves the often hard, painful step of giving their lives away to others, just as Jesus was about to do for them on the cross.

Love is both the mark and mission of all Jesus followers. Loving sacrificially isn't easy in a broken world where relationships can bring pain. Reflecting on Jesus's sacrifice, John taught, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters" ([1 John 3:16](#)). We can only love this way because God first loved us and his Spirit empowers us to love one another. Love is often heart-wrenching and sacrificial—offering one's life for the good of another. We are called to be devoted to one another, serve humbly ([Galatians 5:13](#)), and carry each other's burdens ([Galatians 6:2](#)) in love. In these ways, we show the world what Jesus is like and invite them to know his love too.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal someone who needs sacrificial love today. Consider how you can "lay down your life" for them through service, forgiveness or by carrying their burdens. Learn more about the church in our We Believe document [HERE](#).