# Samuel A life well lived in difficult times

## 3. A life of service 1 Samuel 7

# 1 Samuel

## Chapters 1-3

### The birth of Samuel

## Chapters 4-6

### The ark narratives

#### The folly of relying on religious symbols to guarantee victory

## Chapter 7

### Samuel as Judge

# Background

## The Promised Land

### Had people in it beforehand but God wanted to replace them because of their wickedness (Dt 9:4)

## It was a battle to take the land completely

### Joshua, Judges and Samuel record these battles

#### In chapter 7 we see how Samuel handled it

##### With prayer and faithful service to God

# Samuel served by being the ‘judge’

## The deliverer of God’s wisdom

## A leader of people

## The anointed person who kept the relationship between God and his people right

### He helped them engage with God

### He prayed for them

### He demonstrated what faith could do

### He reminded people of God’s actions

# Samuel served through routine

## It was a local ministry which had some influence

## The decline of his ministry had national and historical significance

# How do we serve God?

## By praying

## By setting up reminders of God’s blessing

## By leading people towards God

## By speaking into their lives

### But not by being judgemental

## God wants your wholehearted commitment

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# The Promised Land

## Read Deut 9:4-6

### How should these verses modify the attitude and the behaviour of God’s people?

#### What does this tell us about how God deals with people?

## If God wanted them to possess the land why do you think it was such a hard thing for them to do?

### Why didn’t God make it easy for them?

#### How does this impact on us trying to live a ‘Christian life’?

# Samuel’s jurisdiction

## Samuel was a ‘judge’ but who did he have power over?

### How can we act like Samuel in today’s world?

#### As deliverers of God’s wisdom?

#### As leaders?

#### As anointed servants keeping God before the people?

# ‘Ebenezers’

## Ebenzer stones do not say ‘We have conquered’ but ‘So far, so good’

### In what way is it helpful to mark events in your history with ‘so far, so good’ rather than ‘I won’?

### In what way is it helpful to mark events in our church’s history with ‘so far, so good’ rather than ‘We won’?

### In what way is it helpful to mark events in the country with ‘so far, so good’ rather than ‘We won’?

# Serving through routine

## How is it encouraging to people to hear that Samuel served through routine?

### Explain your answer

#### Does routine mean boring?