# Samuel: A life well lived in difficult times

## 4. A life with disappointments 1 Samuel 8 and 15

# Disappointments happen

## It’s not only because you lack integrity or honesty or character or faithfulness or faith

### Samuel remained faithful and served God all his life yet he had big disappointments

## The Bible shows:

### Bad things happen to good people

### God gives opportunities that are wasted

### A person of faith can do all the right things and still see failure

# Samuel was a man of God

## Born under special circumstances

## A Nazirite all his life

## A servant of God: a prophet and a priest

## A judge of Israel

### But he was a man with disappointments

# Samuel’s disappointments

## The disappointment with his own children

### Two sons, both priests, but neither with a heart for God

## The disappointment with Israel

### They wanted a human king

## The disappointment with Saul

### Why did God choose him?

# God gives opportunities to everyone

## How we respond is our responsibility

### How others respond is theirs

## God cannot be accused of only offering opportunities to good people or successful people

## Do not let disappointments ruin your faith

### Things will go sour

#### Your job is to faithfully serve and listen to God

# God is a God of grace

## He offers freedom and forgiveness to all

### All we can do is accept it and live with it

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# The blessings you have

## Think of some of the blessings you have in your life – share if appropriate

# The disappointments you still feel

## Think of those things which have not gone well or according to plan – share if appropriate

### Why do you think it still hurts?

# Samuel

## What do you think were the secrets of Samuel’s success in not letting his disappointments overcome him?

### What evidence do you use for this?

# Saul and leadership

## God rejected Saul as king, does this mean he was rejected as one of God’s people?

### Explain your answer

## If a leader (deacon/elder/pastor) is called in the church but then behaves inappropriately and does not grow into the role, did the church meeting that called the person ‘get it wrong’?

### Discuss

### How can it be ‘put right’?

## Are the rules for ‘leaders’ different to those for others in the church?

### Must re-instatement of a leader always follow reconciliation? (as in Matthew 18)

### Try 1 Tim 5:19-21 and Lev 4 (3,13,27)

#### Explain your answer

### Should we ‘forgive and forget’ past sins?

## Please pray for church leaders