# 1Sa1ab Samuel: A life well lived in difficult times

# Samuel

## Part of the former prophets

### These books teach us that God is sovereign and engaged with history

### God’s character and nature shown in how He reacts to those who don’t fully trust Him

## Samuel takes us from the time of the Judges to the establishment of a king under God (David)

## The theology of God’s sovereignty and provision are summarised in Hannah’s song in Chapter 2

# God in the everyday struggle

## An ordinary family

## Hannah is loved but not fulfilled

### And it was God’s doing!

## In desperation, she turns to God

# God expects us to keep our promises

## This is to do with your integrity, your honesty, your character – not your circumstances

### You keep your word

#### A promise is a promise

### If you keep your promises you’ll become a person who worships and is blessed by God

# God anticipates the future

## Samuel was the right man in the right place at the right time

### He was a special child who grew up to transition the people of God and felt a failure and rejection for doing so

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# People who get under our skin

## Hannah allowed Peninnah to ‘get under her skin’ and provoke her

### Why do you think she allowed it to happen?

### Why do you think Peninnah did it?

### In what way was the time at which this was done significant?

### It what way was Elkanah helpful and unhelpful?

# The vow

## How did Hannah bargain with God?

## What two things did she promise?

### What is the significance of ‘no razor’? (try Numbers 6:1-21)

#### What are the 3 nazirite vows?

#### Who else was a nazirite around the same time in the Bible?

##### Which vows did he break?

## What does Eli’s response in v14 tell us about the culture of the day?

# The problem in the text

## The temple had not yet been built but it is mentioned in v9.

### How do you explain that?

#### Who got it wrong? Does it matter?

# Samuel

## Why was he named Samuel and what does it mean?

### Why were you named and what does your name mean?

## Who was the worshipper in v28?

# Keeping promises

## How far do you agree that God expects us to keep out promises?

## How far do you agree that God blesses us according to how well we keep our promises?

## ‘A promise is a promise’

### ‘When parents break promises they give their children the right to break their promises’

#### How far do you agree with this?

### ‘Keeping a promise is about your integrity and character rather than your circumstances’

#### How far do you agree with this?

### How can we put right our broken promises of the past?