ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT II THEME
SAMUEL: PROPHET, PRIEST, JUDGE, AND KING-MAKER

LESSON TOPIC
AN EXEMPLARY DISCERNMENT

UNIFYING TOPIC
The Lord Calls Samuel

LESSON PASSAGE
1 Samuel 3:8-20

BACKGROUND PASSAGE
1 Samuel 3:1—4:1

LESSON TEXT
I. Recognizing God's Voice (1 Samuel 3:8-10)
II. Speaking God's Message Faithfully (1 Samuel 3:11-18)
III. Growing in Favor and Influence (1 Samuel 3:19-20)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. (1 Samuel 3:9a, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
Eli helped Samuel learn that God was calling him to serve Israel as a priest and a prophet.

LESSON AIM
Today's lesson highlights God's call of Samuel, reminding us of the importance of listening for God's voice, responding with faithful obedience, and courageously declaring truth even when doing so invites resistance or carries the risk of difficult consequences.

LIFE AIM
Being called by God is both a privilege and a sacred responsibility. Those who accept His invitation to serve must embrace obedience, discipline, and faithfulness, recognizing that listening to the Lord and remaining steadfast are essential to fulfilling the assignment He entrusts to them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT
To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

LEADERSHIP RUN AMOK

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Glory Departs

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Samuel 4:12-22

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

1 Samuel 4:2—7:2

LESSON TEXT

I. News of Defeat and Death (1 Samuel 4:12-17)
II. The Collapse of Leadership (1 Samuel 4:18)
III. Icabod: The Weight of God's Absence (1 Samuel 4:19-22)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

[The wife of Phinehas] said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." (1 Samuel 4:22, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Israel's enemies captured the Ark of God due to the poor leadership of Eli and his sons, a sign to the people that the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson warns against taking God's presence and blessings for granted and reveals the devastating consequences of unrepentant sin. Israel's experience vividly demonstrates how neglect and disobedience invite God's judgment and disrupt the fellowship He desires with His people.

LIFE AIM

One of the greatest forms of disrespect is taking people or God for granted. Such disregard lowers the standard of the relationship and invites consequences. Whether directed toward God or others, this attitude eventually reveals itself in painful ways, reminding us that honor and reverence must never be neglected.

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LESSON TOPIC

A VIRTUOUS LEADER

UNIFYING TOPIC

Samuel: God's Prophet and Judge

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

1 Samuel 7:3-17

LESSON TEXT

I. Call to Return to the Lord (1 Samuel 7:3-6)
II. Intercession and God's Deliverance (1 Samuel 7:7-11)
III. Faithful Leadership and Lasting Influence (1 Samuel 7:15-17)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. (1 Samuel 7:15, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

God provided Israel with Samuel's wise and faithful leadership as prophet and judge, calling Israel to spiritual renewal and military readiness.

LESSON AIM

Samuel's life and ministry are an excellent example of virtuous leadership. Today, we will look at the actions of this powerful leader and glean valuable insight into leadership that honors and pleases God.

LIFE AIM

Leadership is more than an impressive title or recognition. God's leaders often experience unseen battles that shape their character and prepare them to guide responsibly those He entrusts to their care. The Bible contains accounts of numerous leaders who were not perfect but served God faithfully and left such an impact on history that they were named in the sacred scriptures. Today's focus is on the leadership of the prophet-judge Samuel.

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LESSON TOPIC

THE MAKING OF A KING

UNIFYING TOPIC

Samuel: A King Maker

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Samuel 16:4-13

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

1 Samuel 15:10-16:13

LESSON TEXT

I. Obedience in Uncertainty (1 Samuel 16:4-5)
II. Seeing as God Sees (1 Samuel 16:6-10)
III. Anointing for God's Purposes (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

[Jesse] sent and brought [David] in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." (1 Samuel 16:12, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Samuel obediently and carefully followed God's instructions in selecting from among Jesse's many sons the one whom God had chosen to anoint as king to replace Saul.

LESSON AIM

God's plan is not always obvious to the naked eye. What appears to be suitable can, in fact, be far from what God desires. Today's lesson reminds us that God's plan and choices consider more than outward appearances.

LIFE AIM

Made in His image, humans were designed to use their intelligence to evaluate and make decisions based on their observations. However, what may appear to be a "no-brainer" to us often reveals that God's ways and thinking do not operate on the "no-brainer" concept. Today, we will look at how important it is to see things through God's eyes rather than the eyes of the obvious.

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LESSON TOPIC

ENVISIONING ALL-AROUND STABILITY

UNIFYING TOPIC

David's Coronation and Capture of Jerusalem

LESSON PASSAGE

2 Samuel 5:1-12

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

2 Samuel 5:1-6:23; 24:18-25;
Joshua 15:63; Judges 1:21; 1 Kings 15:5

LESSON TEXT

I. David Anointed King Over Israel (2 Samuel 5:1-5)
II. Jerusalem Secured for Israel (2 Samuel 5:6-9)
III. David's Success Rooted in God's Presence (2 Samuel 5:10-12)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake. (2 Samuel 5:12, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

David's coronation as king and his capture of Jerusalem established his position as a visionary leader for Israel's political and spiritual stability.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson continues the examination of David's rise as king of Israel. After Samuel initially anointed him, today's lesson focuses on national unity and the fulfillment of God's vision for David's leadership.

LIFE AIM

Refusing to dismiss God's word can be challenging when the Lord's promise has not been realized. However, a wise believer will know that delay is not denial. David waited for years to see the fulfillment of God's call for him to lead Israel. During that time, he remained faithful and did not lose sight of God's plan. David's consistency in holding onto God's word and the eventual fulfillment of the promise will be the focus of today's lesson.