

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 11: 1 SAMUEL, DANIEL, LUKE

1 Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2 Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4 Ask God to help you understand what you read



3 Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5 Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6 Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read 1 Samuel 1 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Genesis begins on. Turn to that page.

"1 Samuel 1 v 1" means you need to go to chapter 1 of 1 Samuel, and then find verse 1 of chapter 1 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Grippyfrit

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.



Think!

This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.



Action!

Challenges you to put what you've read into action.



Wow!

This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.



Pray!

Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 11...

1 Samuel: Search for a king

What do you think makes a good leader — what would you look for in a new teacher or team captain?

In the book of 1 Samuel, God's people, the Israelites, are looking for a leader. But they don't always look for the right thing...

We'll read 1 Samuel in three chunks, which each focus on one of three men.

First, there's Samuel, who started serving God when he was younger than you! Next, there's Saul, who goes out looking for his dad's donkeys and ends up being made king of Israel! He's a tall guy, but he falls short of expectations. Third, there's giant-slayer David. He's got loads to teach us about trusting God.

This book is full of strange and exciting moments. But most importantly, it points us to God's perfect King, Jesus!

Daniel: Walk God's way

Living for God is really tough sometimes — especially when the people around you don't.

Daniel was a man who knew how that felt. He and his friends got taken from their home in Israel to serve the Babylonian king (who didn't worship God). Reading about Daniel will show us how to stand out from the crowd by standing up for God!

You've probably already heard of Daniel and the lion's den, but there's loads more to his story than that. For example, have you heard of Daniel and the ten-horned beast? *No?!* Then get ready to find out!

Luke: Jesus the perfect teacher

We dive into Luke's Gospel to listen in on some awesome teaching from Jesus.

It looks like it's almost the end of the road for Jesus — less than a week before He dies — but He's still got loads to say. There are these religious guys who keep trying to trip Him up with tricky questions. But Jesus ALWAYS out-smarts them with His answers. Plus we'll hear Him tell some amazing stories (a.k.a. parables), and even get a heads-up on what the end of the world will be like! It's gripping stuff!

**Ready?
Steady?
Let's read!**

Samuel: Given to God

1 Samuel

1 v 1-8



Let's dive into the book of 1 Samuel and meet a family even weirder than yours...

WEIRD WORDS

Zuphite

Descended from a man called Zuph

Worship

Praise God

Sacrifice

Offer gifts to God

House of the LORD

Place where God was worshipped

THE STORY SO FAR...

God had been great to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt, gave them their own country (Canaan) and defeated their enemies loads of times.

In return, the Israelites kept turning away from God and disobeying Him! In the last issue of *Discover* we read how God gave the people judges to rescue them and lead them.

But read Judges 21 v 25

Despite all that God had done for them, they rejected Him and lived their own way.

Now let's meet a woman who **did** still obey God...

Read 1 Samuel 1 v 1-8

Now fill in the missing names.

E _____

was married to

P _____.

They had several children.

E _____ was also

married to H _____,

who couldn't have children.

P _____ teased

H _____ until she

burst into tears.



Think!

How do you react when things at home seem to be going really badly?

- Try to understand how the others might be feeling?
- Just look after yourself?
- Take it out on a parent (or brother or sister)?
- Pour out everything to God, and ask Him to help you?

Tomorrow we'll find out what Hannah does.

The weird thing is that it was God who stopped Hannah from having children (v6). That seems so unfair, but tomorrow we'll see God's great plan kicking into action!

Pray!



Ask God to help you serve Him in your family situation. Thank God that He's got a perfect plan for you, even when life seems tough.

1 Samuel 1 v 9-18



Hannah was really upset because she was unable to have children.

But she knew where to take her troubles...

Pray your heart out

Read 1 Samuel 1 v 9-11

Hannah told God exactly what was on her mind. And if God gave her a son, she promised to give the boy to God, so that he'd serve God in a special way (v11).

Tick the boxes that describe Hannah's prayer.

self-important

real

same old words

honest

holding back

meaningless words

from the heart

in tears



Think!

Which of those phrases describe your prayers?

Wow!

We can be totally honest with God. We can tell Him what's on our minds, what's upsetting us. God wants us to pour our hearts out to Him. He cares. He listens.



Read verses 12-16

Eli the priest accused Hannah of being drunk! How embarrassing. He wasn't used to seeing people pray in such an honest and tearful way.

Read verses 17-18

Telling God about her problems had a real effect on Hannah.

Draw Hannah's face **before** and **after** praying.



BEFORE



AFTER

Hannah didn't look so miserable any more! She had told God what was getting her down. She knew she could **trust Him** and wait to see what His answer would be.

God won't always answer our prayers in the way we expect. But we can trust that He'll always do what's best for us.



Action!

When you pray, pour your heart out to God. Leave your troubles with Him — He wants to sort them out.

Why not start right now, by talking honestly to God about how you're feeling?

WEIRD WORDS

Priest

He was God's special servant in the temple

Vow

Promise

Anguish and grief

Worry and great sadness

Downcast

Really sad

Bye bye baby

1 Samuel
1 v 19-28



Hannah has tearfully asked God to give her a son.

Let's see how God answered her prayer.

Read 1 Samuel 1 v 19-20

What did Hannah call her son? Go back one letter to find out (B=A, C=B, D=C etc).

T B N V F M

What does that mean?

I F B S E

C Z H P E

God heard Hannah's prayers and gave her a son!



WEIRD WORDS

Sacrifice

Gifts to God (usually animals and crops)

Ephah

About 22 litres

Skin of wine

Wine bottles made from the skin of animals

It's easy to make promises to God when life is hard, and then forget them when life gets better!

Hannah must have been over the moon with baby Sam, but would she keep her promise?

Find the promise back in verse 11.

J X J M M

H J W F I J N

U P U I F

M P S E

Did Hannah keep her promise?

Read verses 21-28

Weaned

When a baby stops being fed by its mother's milk (in those days at about 3 years old).

We reckon Samuel was about 3 years old when Hannah left him at the temple. It must have been hard for Hannah to leave the son she had wanted for so long. But she'd promised to give him to God, and knew that God must come first.

Pray!



Do you know anyone with a small baby? Pray that their child will be "given to God" — that he/she will grow up to live for God.

1 Samuel 2 v 1-11



God has given Hannah the son she asked for. So she's going to thank and praise God loads!

WEIRD WORDS

Rejoices

Is really happy

My horn is lifted high

God has given me strength

Deliverance

Rescue

Barren

Unable to have children

Humbles and exalts

Makes less important and more important

Prevails

Succeeds

His anointed

God's chosen king

Raise the praise

Her prayer is in three parts. Use the verses and the word pool to fill in the gaps.

children death food
guards heart holy
knows life Lord
poverty oppose Rock
shattered strength
wealth world

1. Thanking God

Read 1 Samuel 2 v 1-3

My h_____ rejoices in the L_____. No one is h_____ like the Lord. No one is a R_____ like our God. The Lord is a God who k_____.

Hannah thanks God for giving her a son and making her sooooo happy!

2. What God is like

Read verses 4-8

God gives s_____ to the weak and f_____ to the hungry. He gives c_____ to the childless. He gives people both d_____ and l_____.

He gives both

p_____ and w_____. God is in control of the whole w_____!

Hannah praises the Lord because He is in control of EVERYTHING!

3. What God will do

Read verses 9-11

The Lord g_____
His people. But those who o_____
Him will be s_____. God will give strength to His King.

Hannah praises God for caring for people who obey Him. But He will also punish people who reject Him. Later on in 1 Samuel, we'll read about how God was with King David. But the perfect King, who would come to save God's people, was JESUS.

Pray!

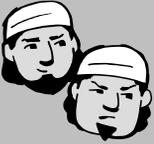


1. Thank God for specific things He has done for you
2. Praise Him for what He's like
3. Praise God for what He will do

Pilfering priests!

1 Samuel

2 v 12-17



Little Samuel has begun serving God in Shiloh.

But some of the priests weren't serving God at all...

Priest Puzzler!

Tick (✓) the statements you would expect to be true for God's priests.

- Obeyed God's laws
- Set a good example
- Honest
- Put God first
- Gentle

God had given the Israelites instructions (they're in Leviticus) about how sacrifices should be offered to God. The priests were allowed to eat some of the meat. God's instructions made it really clear which parts of the meat they were!

Read about one of these rules in 1 Samuel 2 v 12-14

That was the way things should have been done. But Eli's sons were greedily stealing whatever they wanted! They didn't care about God (v12).



Read verses 15-16

Now put **Xs** in the statements that **don't** describe Eli's sons.

- Obeyed God's laws
- Set a good example
- Honest
- Put God first
- Gentle

The fat should have been given to God (it was the best part).

But these priests **put themselves before God**. And if anyone stood up to them, they were threatened with violence!

Read verse 17

Eli's sons upset and angered God by disobeying Him.

WEIRD WORDS

Sacrifice

Meat offered to God

Shiloh

Where God was worshipped

Sin

Disobeying God

Offering

Gift given to God

Contempt

Lack of respect, hatred

Pray!



What do you keep doing that offends God?

Will you say sorry to God?
Ask Him to help you stop doing these things.

1 Samuel**2 v 18-26**

Spot the difference between young Samuel and Eli's evil sons...

WEIRD WORDS**Ministering**

Serving

Linen ephod

Priest's clothes

Gracious

Gave her far more than she asked for

**Mediate/
intercede**

Settle a problem

Rebuke

Telling off

Stature

Size

Spot the difference

Read 1 Samuel 2 v 18-21

Notice that little Samuel is serving God (v18). Hannah had asked God for just one son.

And she'd given him to serve God in the temple. But God gave her five more children!

**Wow!**

God often gives us far more than we ask for. Make sure you notice everything God gives you. And thank Him!

Read verses 22-26

Spot the difference. Stick an S in the boxes that describe Samuel, and an E in the ones that describe Eli's sons.

Didn't serve the Lord (v12)

Refused to listen to their dad (v25)

Served the Lord (v18)

Bad report from the people (v24)

God was pleased (v26)

God was angry (v17)

Do any of those phrases describe you? (If you say no, you're lying!) Put your own initials in the boxes that describe you.

Are you ever like Eli's sons? You know that you should be pleasing God, but you keep sinning against Him?

Do you try to please God and live for Him, as Samuel did?

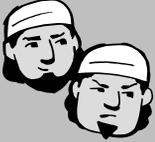
PRAY!

Don't hang around! Today would be a great day to say SORRY, and ask God to help you please Him from now on.

Ask God to help you to grow into someone who serves Him with your whole life.

Sons shunned

1 Samuel
2 v 27-36



Eli's sons have disobeyed God and angered Him.

Eli told them off, but they ignored him and refused to change. They continued to insult God with their sinful ways.

Read 1 Samuel 2 v 27-29

Fill in the missing vowels (aeiou).

God sent a messenger to Eli. He spoke God's words. He said:

Why d__ y__

sc__rn my s__cr__f__c__

__nd __ff__r__ng?

Why d__ y__ h__n__r

y__r s__ns m__r__

th__n m__? (v29)

God had been so kind to Eli's family. He had given them the fantastic privilege of serving God in a special way, as priests. But Eli had let his sons disobey and dishonour God. He had put his sinful sons before God.

Think & pray!

Do you sometimes disobey God, rather than risk offending your friends or family? (For example going along with rude jokes.) Ask God to help you stand up for Him more.



Read verses 30-34

God punished Eli's whole family. Both of Eli's sons would die, and none of the family would live a long life. Eli's family had sinned against God, so God rightly punished them. But it wasn't all bad news...

Read verses 35-36

I w__ll r__s__

__p a f__thf__l

pr__st

Despite the sin of Eli's family, God would find a priest who would serve Him faithfully, and lead God's people in worshipping Him.



Wow!

Never forget how seriously God treats sin. And remember, whatever people do, God's plans can't be stopped!

WEIRD WORDS

Altar

Where sacrifices to God were put

Incense

Powder burnt to make a sweet smell

Scorn

Hate

Prescribed

Commanded

Minister

Serve

Disdained

Despised

Sap

Weaken

Anointed one

God's chosen king

Wake up call

1 Samuel 3 v 1-10



Feeling sleepy?

Well, God has a wake-up call for all of us...

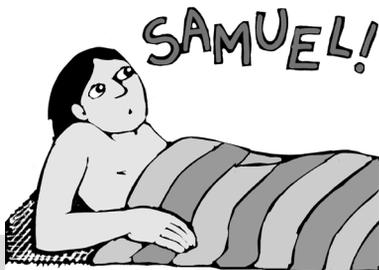
Read 1 Samuel 3 v 1

In Old Testament times, God spoke to His people through prophets. These prophets sometimes had visions, telling them what God wanted to say to His people.

The Israelites had stopped listening to God, so He didn't speak to them much any more. But God was so good to His people that He was going to start speaking to them again through SAMUEL.

Read verses 2-7

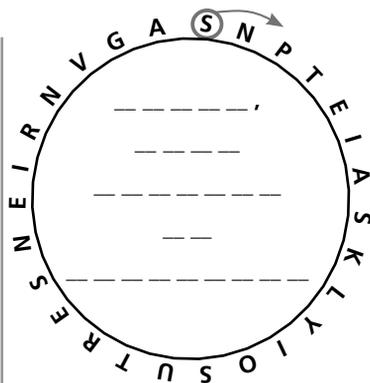
God was calling out to Samuel, but Samuel hadn't worked out that something amazing was happening!



Read verses 8-10

God was so patient with young Samuel!

*What did Samuel finally say to God (v10)? To find out, write down **every second letter** on the wheel at the top of the page, starting with the **top S**.*



Wow!

These days, God doesn't usually speak to us through prophets, visions or late-night awakenings! We now have God's Word in the Bible. The Bible is God's message to us!

Action!

Every time you read the Bible, make sure you pray first. Ask God to "speak, for your servant is listening".



WEIRD WORDS

Ministered

Served

Word of the Lord

God speaking to His people

Ark of God

Really special wooden box. The 10 Commandments were kept in there.

Pray!



Thank God that He speaks to you through His words in the Bible. Ask Him to teach you loads from the Bible and help you put it into practice.

Get the message?

1 Samuel

3 v 11-18



God has chosen young Samuel to be His prophet — the one who'd speak God's message to the Israelites.

What an amazing honour for a young lad!

God's first message to Samuel is a hard one to swallow.

Read 1 Samuel 3 v 11-14

Today's missing words can be found in the wordsearch.



The Lord told

S _____ that

He would p _____

Eli's f _____

because Eli didn't stop

his s _____ from

d _____ God.



Read verses 15-17

Samuel was a _____

to tell E _____ about his

v _____ . But Eli

threatened to c _____

Samuel if he didn't tell

Eli everything.



Wow!

God's Word (the Bible) contains stuff that's hard to tell people. Just think how many people ignore the 10 Commandments. But we should have the courage to tell people the truth from God's Word.

Samuel told Eli the truth.
And look at Eli's answer...

Read verse 18

Eli totally accepted God's Word, even though it was really tough on him.



Pray!

Ask God to help you to accept what He says, like Eli did. And ask Him for the courage to tell people what the Bible says.

WEIRD WORDS

Uttered blasphemies

Said insulting things about God

Restrain

Stop

Swore

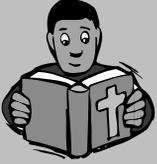
Promised

Atoned

Paid for, forgiven

Word perfect

**1 Samuel
3 v 19-21**



*So Samuel is
God's chosen
prophet.*

*God will speak to
all of the Israelites
through him!*

Read 1 Samuel 3 v 19

*Now rearrange the backwards
words so they make sense.*

EHT HTIW PU DROL
LEUMAS SA EH SAW
WERG

THE LORD []
[] []
[] []
[] []

God was with Samuel, helping him to live for God and serve the people. Everything Samuel said was true.



Pray!

Spend time asking God to be with you, helping you to grow into someone who serves God with your whole life.

Read verses 20-21

EHT HGUORHT
SIH DROL DROW
OT DELAEVER
FLESMIH LEUMAS

THE LORD []
[] [] []
[] [] []



Wow!

Today God still reveals Himself to us through His Word. We can only get to know God by reading the Bible.

Read the first sentence of 1 Samuel 4 v 1

S'LEUMAS LLA EMAC
LEARSI OT DROW
[] []
[] [] []
[]

The Israelites had constantly rejected God and sinned against Him. Yet God gave them another chance by speaking to them through Samuel.



Pray!

Thank God that He is so kind and loving to His people. Thank Him that He speaks to us through the Bible.

WEIRD WORDS

Fall to the ground

Be ignored

Dan to Beersheba

Areas at the north and south of Israel. All of Israel!

Attested

Proved to be the real thing