

You're Never Too Young to be Used by God – June 3 & 4, 2017
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: 1 Samuel 3

- Set the scene of this text (1-3). Explain the boy Samuel's misunderstanding (4-8). How did Eli help clear up the matter (9)? What happened next (10)? Despite the temptation to look down on him for being young, Eli helped Samuel discern the voice of the Lord. If you were Eli, how would you feel? Annoyed by being woken up? Or willing to help Samuel? This week, what are some specific ways you can aid and esteem those younger than you?
- What did the Lord tell Samuel (11-14)? Describe the next morning (15). Summarize Samuel's conversation with Eli (16-18). As he grew up, how did Samuel's future unfold (19-21)?
- Re-read verse 1 and verses 19-21. When the "word of the Lord was rare," God used a young person to speak to his people. What is your response, and what might it mean for the church today?

Day Two: Acts 4:1-22

- What is the setting of this passage (1)? What upset those in power (2)? What did they do about it (3)? Despite all of this, describe the increase in believers (4). How do you think Peter, who formerly denied Jesus as he was being crucified, felt at this point?
- What happened the next day (5-7)? Summarize Peter's response to their question (8-12). He was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and spoke boldly. If you trace Peter's discipleship journey from the Gospels up to this point, how does he embody Paul's words in 1 Timothy 4:15? Ponder with the Lord whether you are committed to such a trajectory. What do you sense him speaking?
- How did the leaders respond to Peter and John's courage (13)? Reflect on how they "took note that these men had been with Jesus." Do you think anyone observes that about you? Why or why not? Describe the leaders' meager attempt to suppress the good news (14-18, 21-22). How did Peter and John resist (19-20)?

Day Three: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- Describe what connects the many different parts of the body of Christ (12-14). Summarize Paul's argument that each person in the body is essential (15-20). If you are young, perhaps you resist leadership because you feel your gifts aren't helpful or important. What encouragement do these verses offer you today?
- How does Paul want us to treat the different parts of Christ's body (21-24)? Why (24-25)? How does this lead to greater unity (25-26)? Meditate on verse 26. When we "look down on someone because they are young," how does the entire body suffer? Ask the Lord how he wants to use you to right this wrong.
- Physical body imagery aside, describe how "unity and diversity in the body" actually plays out among God's people (27-31). This week, pray the Lord would pour out gifts of prophecy, teaching, miracles, healing, helping, tongues, etc. on the young people in your church. What impact do you think this could have?

Day Four: 2 Timothy 1:6-12

- As in 1 Timothy 4:14, what is Paul telling Timothy to do (6)? Imagine this scene in your mind's eye. Picture each man's stance, the words they exchanged, etc. What do you think it means to "fan into flame the gift of God"? What spiritual habits help you to be open to the Holy Spirit and to walk in your gifting like this? Give thanks to God for these wonderful tools now and ask for an increase in self-discipline to make use of them.

- What does Paul mean by “gift of God” (7)? What does a posture of power, love and self-discipline look like in everyday life? Pray for an increase of these attributes in your own life.
- How does Paul want Timothy to feel about the gospel (8)? How has God saved us (9-10)? What does Paul see as his role in spreading the good news (11)? How does he feel about his suffering (12)? What impact do you think Paul’s words made on young Timothy? How can you use your own voice to positively impact those younger than you?

Day Five: James 3:1-12

- Why does James caution against becoming a teacher (1)? Who is perfect (2)? Why do you think he makes this claim, and how does it relate to the gift of teaching? Summarize James’ explanation of the power and consequence of speech (3-6). What do you think of his dramatic and negative claims?
- What can people tame (7)? What can’t they tame (8)? Why (8)? Do you agree? Explain. In what two ways can speech be used (9-10)? Why is it egregious to curse people (9)? What does James think of this dual nature of the tongue (10)? Read Jeremiah 32:27. While “no human being can tame the tongue,” God can! Start to regularly ask the Lord to do this for both you and for leaders.
- What additional imagery supports James’ view (11-12)? If he were writing this to young leaders today, what specific advice would he give? Think about whether you are open to heeding such advice. To quote 1 Timothy 4:12, what are some specific ways you can “set an example for the believers in speech”?