

### 4.23 Samuel: Appreciating Differences

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Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Differences

3G: Enlightened Discernment

4A: Appreciating Differences

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know that each person has something special about him or her. **Attitude:** Students will appreciate differences in themselves and others.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: : I Samuel 3:20-21; 7:5-6; 7:9 and I Corinthians 12: 27-31

Memory Verse: Romans 12:6a

#### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** *Peace Education* Lesson 5 or a variation of that activity. Point out that everyone is similar in some ways but each person is also unique and different.

**Bible Story:** Write *judge, priest* and *prophet* on the board. Explain how they are different. Point out that Samuel filled all three roles. Ask students which role fits each scripture passage.

I Samuel 3: 20-4:1- Prophet

I Samuel 7:5-6- Judge

I Samuel 7:9 - Priest

**Application:**

Read I Corinthians 12:27-31.

Have students write in their exercise book.

**Evaluation:** Do students understand that they each have a unique gift to use for God's purposes? Look for opportunities to point out to each child what they do well or a positive character trait that they demonstrate.

#### Student Activities

**Introduction:** Students will play a game to recognize that every one is similar in several ways.

**Bible Story:** Recognize the differences between judge, priest and prophet. Discuss three scripture passages and identify which role each passage describes.

**Application:** Discuss I Corinthians 12:27-31. Students each write two things they do well and tell how they can use those abilities to serve God and help others.

**Evaluation:** Were students able to identify two things they well? Do students appreciate differences in each other and understand that God made us different for a reason?

**Extension Activities:** *Appreciating Differences.* Identify groups of four. The students can sit in a line or a circle. Students write their name at the top of a piece of paper. They pass the paper to the person on their right. At the bottom of the paper each person writes one thing they appreciate about the person whose name is at the top of the page. Then they fold the paper up so no one can see their comment but they can still see the name. Pass it to the right again and the next person writes one thing they appreciate or one thing the person is good at and then folds the paper again so the two comments are hidden. The fourth person adds another comment and gives the paper back to the owner of the paper. The person reads the comments the other students wrote. Remind them that God is the one that gives us our abilities. We should thank Him for His gifts.

*Review I-statements.* Tell students to think of a word to describe how they feel today and then make an I-feel statement. Let students take turns sharing. For example, “I feel wonderful today because my uncle is coming to visit. I want him to visit often.”

*Review Leadership.* Have students name and explain the five types of leaders from Lesson 4.18 (Coercive, Reward, Expert, Informational, and Servant). Ask what type of leader Samuel was (Servant Leader).

### Notes for Teacher

Often we are impatient and dislike people who are different from us. Learning to understand and appreciate differences helps us get along. This lesson points out the importance of each person’s gifts and teaches that God is the one who gives us our abilities.

**Key Points:** Students will understand that God gives each person different gifts so that we can work together to serve God and help each other.

**Introduction:** You may want to modify Lesson 5 of *Peace Education* so students may stay at their desks instead of getting in a circle. Have one student stand and tell one characteristic they have or one thing they like. Don’t use physical attributes. For example, the student might say, “I like soccer.” Other students who share that characteristic stand up. Take turn. Point out that we share many similarities but we also have ways we are different.

**Bible Story:** *Explain the difference between judges, priests and prophets.* Gideon and Deborah were judges. Judges were political leaders like a president or king. They guided the nation of Israel. There were also priests. Aaron and Eli were priests. Priests would pray for the people and intercede before God for them. They were the only ones allowed to offer sacrifices to God. Then there were, also, prophets who heard from God and told the people what to do. God used prophets to warn people if their sins were going to lead to judgment and he used prophets to comfort people during difficult times. Usually the prophet, priest and judge were three separate people but with Samuel, he had a special anointing (gift) from God to be all three at once— prophet, priest and judge.

Last week we heard the story about the first time that Samuel heard a prophecy from God. He was still a young boy. Now we will see what happened after that first prophecy. Read in I Samuel 3: 20-21. Everyone came to hear what God would tell them through Samuel and the word of God came to Samuel for all of Israel. Samuel prophesied that Eli’s house would be judged. Here Samuel was acting as a prophet. A prophet hears what God says He is doing and then proclaims it to the people.

Read I Samuel 7:5-6. In these verses Samuel is calling the people to repentance. Samuel settled disputes. Samuel is acting as a judge in this passage because he is leading the nation of Israel. Judges were the political (government) leaders.

Read verse 9. Here Samuel is acting as a priest. Only priests were allowed to offer sacrifices to God. Samuel was unusual. Samuel is one of the few people in the Bible that acts as prophet, priest AND judge. Usually the priest stayed at the temple and offered sacrifices and made intercession for the people while the judge was the government leader. The prophet would tell the leaders of the nation what God was saying. Samuel did all three.

Application: Everyone has special gifts from God but no one can do everything. That is why we need each other. Read and discuss I Corinthians 12:27-31. These are some of the important points in this passage.

- God doesn't give everyone the same gift because no one person can do everything.
- We need each other. God compares the church to a body. One person is the hand, another the foot, another the heart, and so on. The body needs all the parts.
- It takes all kinds of people to do everything that needs to be done. Some people serve God in the church like the priests. Some serve in government like the judges did. We need teachers who care about children. We need business people who have a gift for business to make jobs for others. We need people who are talented in music, art or television to make good news and entertainment. God needs gifted craftsmen to create art. He gives different gifts to different people so they can serve in different ways.
- Scripture says that Jesus is the head of the body. Last week students learned to be led by the Holy Spirit. We need to listen to God to know how to use our gifts and work with others. If we obey God our gifts can be a blessing to other people.
- You don't have to wait until you are old to use your gifts. Samuel started listening to God and serving as a prophet while he was still a child. Ask God to show you what special abilities you have that you can use for Him.

*Writing.* Have students write in their exercise book. They should think of two things they do well. This could be something they are good at like math, making things from wood, or helping out at home; or it could be a character trait they do well like being honest, being responsible or caring about others. Students then write a short paragraph telling how they can use these abilities to serve God and help others. If there is time students can illustrate their writing or share with the class.