

## Dear Families:

This week, we visited the Old Testament and discussed a story in Samuel. Samuel was an important prophet. He was not happy- the Israelites had prayed for a king, so God sent them Saul. Things started out fine, but Saul eventually turned wicked. God wanted Samuel to anoint a new king. Samuel was sent to Bethlehem because God had told him that one of Jesse's sons would be the next king. Samuel had Jesse bring out his seven oldest sons. They all looked strong and worthy to Samuel- but God rejected all of them. God could see into their hearts and knew they would not be the right choice. Exasperated, Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons. Only the young boy David was left; he was out guarding the sheep. David was sent for; and God immediately told Samuel to anoint him. You can imagine the surprise from all his older brothers! From then on, God's spirit was with David.

Today is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent. During first week of Lent, we were challenged to fast. In the second week of Lent, we were challenged to pray. During the third week, we practiced listening to God. This week, we are adding the spiritual discipline of Simplifying. Distractions are EVERYWHERE. We are constantly being pulled away from God by demands from work, family, housekeeping, chores, sports, school, friends- you name it. This week, we are called to cut out all that distracts us from God. Stay off the phone. Don't bring work home. Slow down and spend more time with God than with the world. You will become closer to Him in the process!

Please continue to support the youth in their stewardship missions. There is an ongoing mini-rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. You can continue to bring in bottle slips. And the donation boxes in Fellowship Hall are always there. The bin that supports our church Blessing Box is also in constant need of items. We appreciate any and all support you can give to God! Stay tuned for a new stewardship opportunity in the coming weeks!

Please also note that there will be no Sunday School next week, as my son will be preaching at Hillside Wesleyan Church. We will see you the following week for Palm Sunday!

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director