

1 Sam. 7:1,2,13, 16, 17 And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. ²From the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, the time was long, for it was twenty years; and **all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD**..... ¹³So the Philistines were subdued and they did not come anymore within the border of Israel. **And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.** ¹⁴The cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even to Gath; and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. So there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.¹⁵ Now Samuel **judged Israel all the days of his life.**

¹⁶ He used to go **annually** on circuit to **Bethel** and **Gilgal** and **Mizpah**, and he judged Israel in all these places. ¹⁷ Then his return was to **Ramah**, for his house was there, and there he judged Israel; and he built there an altar to the LORD.

I Sam. 8 When Samuel grew old, he **APPOINTED his sons as Israel's leaders.** ²The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at **Beersheba.** ³ But his sons did not follow his ways. They **turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.** ⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, "You are **old**, and your **sons do not follow your ways**; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

I Sam. 12:2-4 TLB I have **selected him ahead of my own sons** and now I stand here, an **old, gray-haired** man who has been in public service from the time he was a **lad.** ³ Now tell me as I stand before the Lord and before his anointed king—**whose ox or donkey have I stolen?** Have I **ever defrauded** you? Have I ever oppressed you? Have I **ever taken a bribe?** Tell me and I will make right whatever I have done wrong." ⁴ "No," they replied, "you have never defrauded or oppressed us in any way and you have never taken even one single bribe."

- I Sam. 9:25 Samuel took **Saul up to the porch on the ROOF** and **TALKED with him there.**
- I Sam. 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and **KISSED** him, saying, "**Has not the LORD anointed you ruler** over his inheritance?"
- I Sam. 15:35 Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, **though Samuel MOURNED** for him.
- I Sam. 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How **long will you MOURN for Saul**, since I have rejected him as king over Israel?"

I Sam. 19:20 so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a **group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader**, the Spirit of God came on Saul's men, and they also prophesied.

Questions

1. How does your **CHILDHOOD** affect your tendency to **CLING** to your **Extended Family** – like **Samuel** did?
2. **Why** does **Family Ministry** often **Fail**?
3. If we **Don't Have** Natural children or when our natural children **LET us DOWN** – how do we move **Forward**?