

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**January 10-11, 2024**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19**

**John 1: 35-42**

**1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20**

**1. 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19**

- The historical books of Samuel tell the story of Israel as it transitions from the Judges to the monarchy. Samuel is the prophet who is called upon to be kingmaker. He anoints Saul as king and then delivers the message to Saul that God has rejected him. He then anoints David as king. Samuel was born of Elkanah and Hannah in her old age, much like the birth of John the Baptist in Elizabeth's old age. He succeeds Eli as prophet for Israel.
- V. 3b: Samuel has gone to live in the temple with Eli who is training him for his future ministry.
- V. 4: Samuel mistakes the voice of the Lord for Eli's. Samuel is still unfamiliar with the ways of the Lord.
- V. 5-8: He mistakes the Lord's voice for Eli's three times. Then, Eli realizes that it is the Lord who is calling him.
- V. 9: Eli instructs Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
- V. 10: The Lord calls Samuel again and Samuel responds. The Lord gives a message to Samuel that he has rejected Eli and his sons for their blasphemous behavior.
- V. 19: The Lord approves of Samuel and makes all his words fruitful.

**2. John 1: 35-42**

- John relates to us the call of the first disciples. What appears as a casual encounter is laden with profound meaning.
- V. 35-37: John points out Jesus as the Lamb of God to two of his disciples. The disciples follow Jesus. The old is giving way to the new. John represents the prophets of old who now give way to Jesus, who brings us into a new relationship with God.
- V. 38: Jesus asks a simple question, "What are you looking for?" However, it is a question laden with great meaning. Not only is he asking them why they are following him, he is asking them what the desire of their hearts is. What do they really want in life? What will give meaning to their lives? They answer with a question, "Where are you staying?" the verb "stay" in John's Gospel is a key word. It is translated "abide," "remain," "dwell." It refers to the union of the Father and Christ, the Son. The Father and the Son dwell together. They will come and dwell, abide, remain, with whomever does the Father's will and believes in Jesus as God's Son. They are asking Jesus where he came from (the Father's side) and where he is going and looking forward to where they shall be.

- V.39: Jesus answers with an invitation. “Come and see.” Our relationship with Jesus as disciples is a response to an invitation. One must come and see who Jesus is. You must spend time with him. It is not only what he teaches, but who he is. We know him by abiding, remaining, and dwelling with him. They go and spend the day with him. Since John notes that it is 4 PM, the start of the Sabbath day, it may mean that they spent the Sabbath with him. The Sabbath was a day to forego all work and study the Torah. What better way to spend the Sabbath than to be with Jesus.
- V. 40-41: Andrew gets his brother Simon and tells him that they have found the Messiah. Those two disciples learned a lot in that first day with Jesus!
- V. 42: Andrew brings Simon to Jesus. The message is transmitted from one person to another. Who brought us to Jesus? Who do we bring to Jesus?  
Jesus changes Simon’s name to Cephas, meaning rock, translated Peter. There is a tradition in the Bible that God changes a person’s name when he has a special mission for them. He changed Abram and Sarai’s names to Abraham and Sarah. He changed Jacob’s name to Israel. The change of name and the name itself foretells the mission of Peter as the head of the Apostles and the rock on which the church will be built.

### **3. 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20**

- Paul warns the church at Corinth about immorality. There was a group at Corinth who believed that since they were justified by the spirit that what they did with their bodies did not matter, since it was only the spirit that mattered. In this way they justified their actions of sexual promiscuity.
- Paul argues that the body belongs to the Lord and our bodies are members of the body of Christ. Therefore, what we do with our bodies has great meaning. Our bodies are temples in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Our bodies do not belong to us but to the Lord. Therefore, we must use our bodies only for good and not for immorality.