Beulah Baptist Church ***Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor***

Sunday School Lesson, November 15, 2026
Rev. Mark A. Seals, Instructor/Teacher
Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—A Virtuous Leader[1]
Text: 1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will…

1. Recognize that a good leader responds to the people's cries for help.
2. Understand that good leaders guide people (back) to God.
3. Assist in the restoration of the relationship between God and his people.

Why This Lesson Matters: A good leader responds to the people's cries for help by guiding the people back to the Lord so that the relationship between God and his people can be restored.

Key Verse: *"And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life(1 Samuel 7:15, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Calling God's People Back to Faithfulness (*1 Samuel 7:3-6*)
3. Leadership Rooted in Prayer and Trust in God (*vv. 7-11*)
4. Renewal That Restores the Community (*vv.15-17*)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Lord: The God of the Israelites was in a covenant relationship with the people of Israel. In this and other martial passages, God would fight in favor of the Israelites, but God cannot be controlled.

People of Israel: The descendants of the 12 sons of Jacob. They were in a covenant relationship with the Lord, but these stories reveal their ongoing struggle to maintain proper devotion to God.

Philistines: A people living in the land of Canaan with Israel, although more toward the coastal area in the South. They were constant rivals with the Israelites in the Old Testament.

[1] *Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com*

Samuel: A central figure in 1 Samuel. Up to this point, we have read of the miraculous birth to Hannah, Hannah's dedicating him to work for the priesthood at Shiloh, his special devotion to God, and his prophetic calling.

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Fasted *Pray* *Return* *Served* *Were Afraid*

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

First Samuel 7 portrays leadership that brings renewal rather than fear. Samuel calls the people to put away foreign gods, gather for worship, and return to the Lord with their whole hearts. His leadership is marked by humility, intercession, and trust in God's power.

The central concern of 1 Samuel 7 was the restoration of the Lord's presence among the people, which would require repentance and faithfulness. The main context leading up to this restoration comprises the three chapters preceding our lesson. Initially, the Philistines captured the ark, and the Israelites underwent a crisis of distress, believing that hope was lost.

Thus, we see that God was working things out the whole time, but god's people did not properly relate to God or understand how the Lord works. The transition from the previous chapters to our lesson is intended to help people learn the proper way to relate to God. This was a transition through which Samuel guided the people.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Humility is not a sign of weakness, but one of the more significant indicators of strength and godliness. The lesson invites us to reflect on how prayer and repentance shape leadership. Prayer and repentance will always lead to better relationships with people and back to a covenant-binding relationship with God.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;*
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*