Sunday School Notes: 21 August 2016:

JUNIORS: The Fruit of the spirit : Patience

Hannah waited patiently for God to give her a baby. (1 SAMUEL Chapter 1)

Hannah Prays for a Son



And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." 1 Samuel 1:11 (NIV)

Words are taken from 1 Samuel 1:4-20 (NIV).

S C H P R I E S T T N S M Q W
S H C M E H M Q K Z L A U W I
A Y V H A S O R R O W M D C N
D T X N I I M I O J T U Q R E
N H N W U L V E S X U E Q Y N
B A S Z N O D G O N L L U I M
H S O N K H R R D F L Y F N U
M P E A C E Z E E X C K R G P
O K C B W Y K I O N L V L I R
R T F S C C H F M J K H H E H
N C N A I D W L F U N S Y C E
I A Z W M U H B Y E R A D W D
N S G S Q I V S V O R A W R Z
G T Q F S W L I W P T T O U R
L B I R T H G Y R B T L Q X F

answer	family	Lord	priest	sorrow
birth	fun	morning	sad	wicked
children	give	peace	Samuel	wine
crying	Hannah	prayer	son	worship

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SENIORS: Learning to care (Luke 13:10-17)

Have you ever had a really strict teacher? A teacher like that usually has lots of rules: rules about how to write the date, where to put your cases, where you may sit, etc. Rules are important, but if there are too many of them, we keep breaking them.

God gave us basic rules to keep life running smoothly: The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). One of these rules was that the Sabbath day (God's day) must be kept holy and God warned that on that day "you must not do any work." When they tried to keep that law, the people decided that they weren't sure what God meant by 'work'. And so, over the years, the people who studied God's law came up with a long list of things which the Jews were not to do on the Sabbath day. Their decisions controlled what they could carry, how far they could walk and what they could do. The problem was that they were so busy with the details that they forgot to think about why God had given that law. God wanted everyone to stop and think about him on his day, remembering everything he had done for them. Instead his people go too busy trying to obey rules and regulations.

But when Jesus came, he understood what God wanted and he lived according God's way, not the rules which the teachers of the law laid down.

On one particular Sabbath day, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. Probably he had read the passage from the scroll and was explaining it to the people gathered there. As he was speaking, there was a disturbance and a woman came in late.

Her movement was slow and painful to watch for she was bent over and quite unable to stand up straight. No wonder she was late! Imagine how difficult it must be to get up and get dressed and to organise breakfast. And yet, she had made her way to the synagogue. Jesus immediately saw her pain and called her over. When she stood obediently before him, she was probably unaware that her world was to change, although perhaps there was a sudden flicker of hope. Then came words which electrified her: "Woman, you are set free from your illness!" Imagine the tingling as he reached out and touched her on her back – and the sudden realisation that for the first time in eighteen years she could move her back, stretch it and look people in the eye – and that the pain was gone. Imagine the joyful praising that engulfs her. It seemed as though everyone was celebrating with her.

No – not everyone! The leader of the synagogue was angry, not because the woman was healed, but because Jesus was healing on the Sabbath day! He tried to stop others coming for healing, telling the crowd that they must not even consider coming for healing on the Sabbath. Such an action would mean they were breaking the law.

God's love had fallen right out of the picture. They couldn't see that the God who created the world, loves his creation and longs to see it healthy and well and rejoicing.

Jesus turned angrily towards him when he heard what the leader was saying. He reminded him that he looked after his animals on the Sabbath, loosening the ropes and leading them to get a drink of water so that they would not die of thirst. This women was worth more than an animal – she also deserved to be loosed from her problem.

I hope the leaders blushed! Showing compassion is far more God-like than obeying laws which humans have made, no matter how good the laws are.

This incident was recorded for us in the Bible so that we would know that Christ-followers must always show pity and concern for others. It is easy to get side-tracked and think we are good Christians if we obey certain rules. But the first commandment is that we must love God and the second is that we must love our neighbour – even though it causes problems for us.