

# Now-Then Mentors

## Moses

Moses was a shepherd. One day, while he was taking care of his sheep, he saw a burning bush. As he tried to figure out what was happening, someone called his name. When God told him to remove his shoes, he knew he was on holy ground. Moses removed his shoes and listened to God's plan for him. God told him to go to the King of Egypt to set free God's people from slavery there. Moses didn't think he was up for the task, but God assured Moses of God's power and presence and he sent his brother Aaron along to help him. He became an advocate and fearless leader for the people of Israel. (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

## Josiah

King Amon did not obey God in any way. When he died, his son, Josiah, became the new King when he was only eight. God spoke to Josiah through God's word and inspired him to be a different kind of king. Josiah wanted to obey God by keeping God's commandments or rules for faithful living. Many of the people in Judah wanted to worship another god named Ba'al, but Josiah set a good example by remaining faithful to God throughout his reign. (2 Kings 23-23:3)

## Mary

Mary was called by God when she was a teenager. She was making plans to be married to a man named Joseph when God sent an angel to visit her. The angel told her that God had a very special job for her to do. God wanted her to be the mother of Jesus, God's Son, our Savior. He told her that the Spirit of God would come upon her and she would be with child. Mary was scared at first, but her faith was stronger than her fears and so she said, "Here am I, Lord, your servant. Let it be according to your word." She even wrote a song of joy and thanksgiving to God for choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. (Luke 2:1-38, 46-56)

## Paul

Saul was a man who had gotten involved with the wrong crowd. They believed that people who followed Jesus were a threat to the Jewish religion and community, and so they tried to hurt or persecute them and put them in jail. One day when Paul was out to get a few more Christians, God stopped him in his tracks with a bright, blinding light. He told Saul that he didn't to hear that we was hurting Christians anymore. In fact, God told him to start loving them and helping God invite more people to become followers of Jesus. God's transformational plan for Paul was so complete that his name was even changed Paul. From that point on, Paul began to surprise people with his amazing ability to preach and teach. He became a missionary and went to different places to share the share the Good News. He started many churches and wrote lots of letters to keep them going. (Acts 9:1-18, 13:13)

## Samuel

Samuel lived in Bible Times. There are two books in the Old Testament that are written about events that took place in his life. He was called by God when he was twelve. He was asleep one night when he heard someone calling his name. He thought it might be his friend Eli, but it wasn't. Three times he thought he heard his name before Eli finally told him that it must be God calling out to him. Eli told him to lie down one more time and if he heard his name again, he should say, "Speak Lord, I'm listening." Well, that's just what happened and that's just what Samuel did. God asked him to be a messenger or prophet that would bring God's word to God's people for many years. (1 Samuel 3)