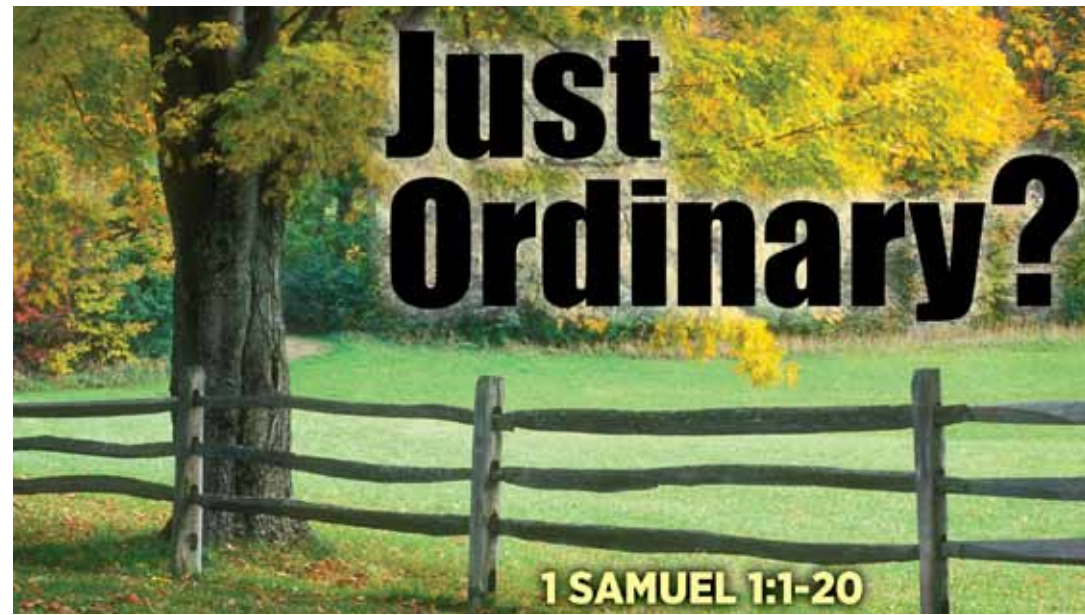


“Just Ordinary?”

1 Samuel 1:1-20

INTRODUCTION: *How do you respond to the word – “ordinary”?*

- I. **ORDINARY COMES FROM LATIN MEANING REGULAR, ACCORDING TO ORDER**
 - A. *Ordinary* is the section of the liturgy that is unchanging each Sunday
 - B. The adjective *ordinary* means “customary, normal, unexceptional”
 - C. One half of the Church Year (where we are now) is called *ordinary time*
 - D. Are you excited about “*ordinary*” yet?
- II. **BUT WHAT IS GOD UP TO IN *ORDINARY TIME*?**
 - A. There’s a wonderful Old Testament story about *ordinary time* (1 Samuel 1)
 - B. “**Year after year Elkanah went up to worship at Shiloh...**” (1 Samuel 1:3)
 - C. “**Year after year his wife Hannah wept because her womb was closed**” (1 Samuel 1:4-7)
 - D. It was all *ordinary time* for Hannah... how about you??
 - E. Hannah wept, prayed and vowed at the Tabernacle in Shiloh (1 Samuel 1:8-11)
 - F. *Ordinary time* was over for Hannah when her son Samuel was born (1 Samuel 1:19-20)



- III. **GOD IS AT WORK IN OUR *ORDINARY TIME* WHETHER WE SEE IT OR NOT**
 - A. Even in the *ordinary times* of our lives, God is at work
 - B. God spoke to Hannah’s son Samuel as he listened in *ordinary times* (1 Samuel 3:1)
 - C. God spoke to Elijah as he listened in *ordinary times* (1 Kings 19)
- IV. **GOD STILL SPEAKS TO US TODAY IN OUR *ORDINARY TIMES***
 - A. Dear LORD, give us ears to listen when things are *ordinary*
 - B. Dear LORD, help us know... You act at just the right time (Galatians 4:4)
 - C. Following Jesus **is not** a non-stop, *extraordinary* rollercoaster ride of excitement
 - D. Dear LORD, give us Hannah’s patient hope & Samuel’s faithful listening

CONCLUSION: God is at work in *ordinary times*: A scene from the movie – *The African Queen*.