

SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 1-3

GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand the importance of listening to God, and doing whatever He asks of us.
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CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Samuel:** He was the first son of Hannah, and she gave him as a sacrifice and gift to be a servant in the temple.

Eli: He was the priest who helped to care for Samuel in his service of the temple.

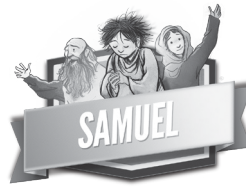
Hannah: She was Samuel's mother. She prayed faithfully for a long time that she would have a son.

MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **1 Samuel 3:10:** Speak, for your servant hears.
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OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read 1 Samuel 1-3:** Hannah wanted a child, and prayed that God would give her one. God answered her prayer and gave her Samuel. In thankfulness, she offered Samuel to serve the Lord in the temple. There, Samuel learned the lesson of listening and obeying God's voice.



SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ Samuel serves as an excellent example by which we can learn the importance of responding to God's voice in our lives. Hannah serves as an example of faithful prayer.

The hero of the story, however, is God. He is the one who answered prayer. He is the one who is important enough to give our lives in sacrifice and service.

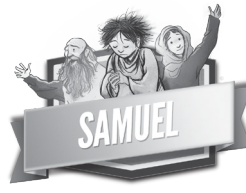
PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Keep Up the Prayers!**

To teach children the importance of praying constantly, blow up as many balloons as there are students in the class. Put the balloons in large trash bags, and throw them into the air all at once. Tell the students to keep all the balloons in the air as long as they can. This game may be used as a competitive team activity as well.

MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **1 Samuel 3:10:** Samuel had heard the Lord's voice twice before, but he did not recognize that it was God speaking to him. It is important for us to know when God is speaking to us so we can listen to what He says. The messages we receive from the Lord are the most important, so it is vital that we hear and do as He says.



POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

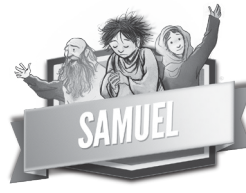
▷ **Whose Line Is It?** | *Supplies:* slips of paper and a bowl or basket

On slips of paper, write a number of verses in which God has said something. Then write a number of made up messages on slips of paper. Make some of the messages silly. Have the students sit in a circle on the floor, and explain that some of the slips contain Bible verses in which God said something and others are not. Ask one student to pull a slip of paper out of the bowl or basket. The student will whisper the message written on the paper to the student to his or her right. The students continue to whisper the message until it reaches the student who read the message. See how close they came to the original message. Ask students whether or not they think the message was something God said. Continue the game until all students have had a chance to start the game by reading a message or for a specified amount of time.

TAKE HOME

▷ The God who answered Hannah's prayer and spoke to Samuel is the same God we pray to and serve today. We can experience the same kinds of blessings they received.

- 1. Never stop praying.** God hears our prayers and, when the time is right, He will answer them.
- 2. Serve God.** We can do this by using our talents to help others and to glorify God.
- 3. Listen for God's voice.** God speaks to us, and we can learn to recognize His voice by having regular conversations with Him through prayer.
- 4. Obey God.** We should do what God asks of us because He has our best interests at heart. Following God will bless us and bring glory to God.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What did Hannah want?

A1: Hannah wanted to have a baby.

Q1b: Do we have to offer God a trade in order for Him to answer our prayers?

TN: Yes and no. If we ask God to help us study for a test, we do not have to give him our bike in exchange. However, there is something God requires of us: to love Him above all things and to obey Him to the best of our abilities. That is a good deal!

SLIDE 2

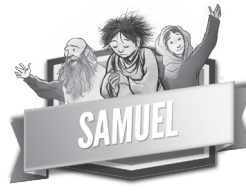


Q2a: Why did Eli get angry with Hannah?

A2: He thought she was drunk.

Q2b: Have you ever thought a person was talking to himself only to find out he was talking on the phone through a hands-free device?

TN: Sometimes we see things and make assumptions about people. Eli made an assumption about Hannah and got angry with her. He interrupted her heart-felt prayer to God because he thought she was drunk. Until we know some of the facts of the situation, we shouldn't make up our minds about people.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What did Hannah name her son?

A3: Hannah named her son Samuel.

Q3b: Is it okay to break a promise?

TN: When we promise people things, we are giving them our word that we will do what we say. When we break promises, people have a hard time believing what we say, and we become untrustworthy in their eyes. As Christians, we are called to follow Jesus' example, and Jesus never made a promise that He didn't or won't keep.

SLIDE 4

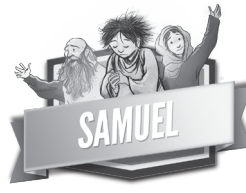


Q4a: What tasks were assigned to Samuel when he came to live at the temple?

A4: Samuel was responsible for cleaning and keeping things orderly in the temple.

Q4b: How would you feel if you had to live at your school?

TN: Some of us might be happy about that, and others might not think living at school would be fun. When Samuel came to live and work at the temple, he was given a great opportunity. While he did have chores to do, he grew up in a place where he could learn about the Lord.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: Who did Samuel think was calling him?

A5: Samuel thought Eli was calling him.

Q5b: What do you think God's voice sounds like?

TN: Let students answer. In the Bible, there are stories of people hearing God's audible voice. Many times it is described as a loud, booming voice. In other instances, it is described as a still, small voice. When God speaks to us, it often sounds much like the voice we hear in our minds as part of our inner dialogue, which can make it difficult to figure out whether it is our own thoughts or a message from God. The Holy Spirit will help us discern whether we've heard from God.

SLIDE 6

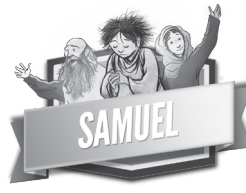


Q6a: What did Eli tell Samuel to say if he heard the voice again.

A6: Eli told Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

Q6b: Do you think you've ever heard God speak to you?

TN: Let students answer. Some students will know for sure that they have heard from the Lord, while others may not know. Most of us have heard from the Lord. The voice we hear in our head telling us to do certain things and not do others is the Holy Spirit guiding us through our everyday lives. As we develop our relationships with God, we will be able to recognize His voice. He is listening to us, and if we train our ears, we will hear Him respond.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



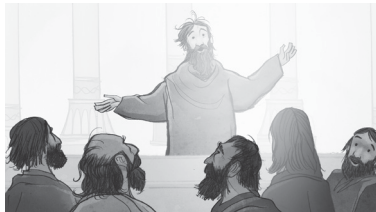
Q7a: What did God tell Samuel?

A7: God told Samuel that he was going to punish Eli's disobedient sons.

Q7b: Have you ever had to give someone bad news?

TN: This is a tough thing to have to do. No one likes to tell people things that will make them sad. Samuel had some very bad news to pass on to Eli, and although he didn't want to tell him, Samuel knew that keeping this information to himself would be disobeying God.

SLIDE 8

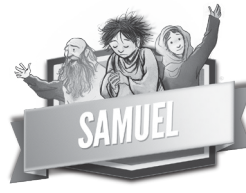


Q8a: What did Samuel become when he grew up?

A8: Samuel became a courageous and godly leader of Israel.

Q8b: Do you think you can be used to serve God?

TN: Of course we can serve God! Let the students answer, and ask them to be creative. We don't need to live at the church or become pastors or priests in order to serve the Lord. We all have been given talents and abilities that can be used to glorify God. Helping people in need is a way to serve God. Telling our friends and family about the Lord and the sacrifice Jesus made to atone for our sins is a way to serve God. There are so many ways we can serve God.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

▶ **1 Samuel 3:10:** Speak, for your servant hears.

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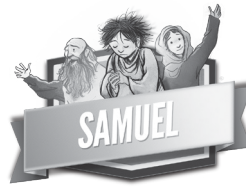
BIG IDEA

▶ God hears our prayers, and when He answers, we should obey Him.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▶ Dear God, thank You for hearing our prayers and speaking to us. Help us listen to You and obey. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



In the time of the prophet Eli, there lived a woman by the name of Hannah. She desperately wanted a baby. She had been married for many years but still had no children. When Hannah visited the temple, she prayed for God to bless her with children. She told God, "If you give me a son, I will give him back to you!"

SLIDE 2



During one visit to the temple, Hannah prayed very hard. Her mouth was moving with the words of her prayer, but she made no sound with her voice. Eli thought she was drunk and got very mad at her. With tears in her eyes, Hannah responded, "I'm not drunk. I am praying for a son. I desperately want one!" Eli responded, "Go. God will give you a son." Hannah was overjoyed, and she returned home.

SLIDE 3

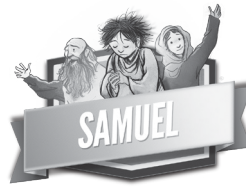


Then it happened, just like Eli had said and God had promised. Hannah gave birth to a baby boy and called him Samuel. She was so excited. She remembered her promise to God. She explained to her husband that, once Samuel was a little older, she would give him to the Lord to work in the temple.

SLIDE 4



The day came when Samuel was old enough and ready to start work in the temple. Hannah was sad to see Samuel go, but she was excited that the Lord had big plans for him. Eli and his disobedient sons lived in the temple, too. Samuel was given the important task of cleaning and keeping things orderly in the temple.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



One night, after Samuel had gone to bed, he heard a voice, "Samuel!" It was God's voice, but Samuel did not know that. He thought that Eli was calling him. He ran to Eli's room and said, "Here I am! You called me." Eli sat up and looked at Samuel, "No, I didn't call you! Go back to bed." Samuel went back to bed. A minute later, he heard it again, "Samuel!" He was sure he heard it. Back he ran to Eli. "I heard you call me again," he told him. "No, Samuel. Go back to bed. I did not call you."

SLIDE 6



But then it happened a third time. The voice was calling Samuel. Samuel rushed back to Eli's bed and said, "I heard you call me again." Now Eli knew that God that was calling Samuel. God had a special message for him. Eli then told Samuel to listen for the voice, and if God called again, to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel went back to his own bed and did exactly what Eli said.

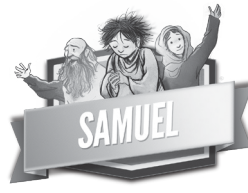


SLIDE 7



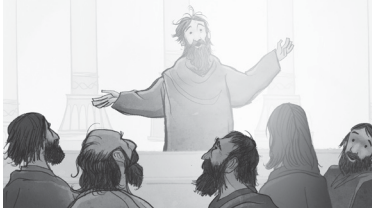
Then the voice spoke again. "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel looked around in the dark, and responded timidly, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Then God started to speak with Samuel. God told Samuel that he was going to punish Eli's disobedient sons. Samuel was very sad about the message, but he knew that it was important. The next morning, Eli wanted to know everything. Samuel told Eli that God was going to punish his sons because Eli was not teaching them to obey God. A long time later, it happened, and Eli's disobedient sons died.





LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 8



Samuel grew up and served God with all of his heart. He became a courageous and godly leader of Israel. As a prophet, he received many messages from God to share with the people of Israel.