



Knowledge
Series 2—Lesson 1

StoryTime



Samuel, Samuel, Wake Up!

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:

1 Samuel 2:18,19,26;
3:1–21

Lesson Aim:

To teach children how
to listen and meditate
about Scripture so that
God may talk to them
through His Word.

Memory Verse:

“I will meditate on Your
precepts, and
contemplate Your ways”
(Psalm 119:15).

Words to Learn:

- Listen
- Meditate

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

Samuel was a prophet, a priest, and the last judge of Israel. Samuel was, for the majority of his life, the spiritual leader of the Israelites. When Samuel was old, the Israelites told him that they wanted a king to rule over them. By the direction of God, Samuel anointed the first king of Israel, Saul.

Samuel was born to Elkanah of the tribe of Ephraim and a woman named Hannah. They were devout people. Elkanah had two wives; Peninnah had children, but his beloved Hannah was barren. Peninnah was arrogant and spiteful toward Hannah and made her life miserable. Being childless was considered a disgrace. Elkanah loved Hannah and was very good to her—“better than ten sons”—but she continued to grieve because she was childless.

However she continued faithful in her petitions to God. Samuel’s mother promised that if God would give her a son, she would dedicate him in service to God (1 Samuel 1:9–20). Her petition was heard and a baby boy was born. She named him Samuel, which meant “heard of God.” He was to be under a vow all his life (his hair was never to be cut). When Samuel was weaned, Hannah kept her promise. She took young Samuel up to the Tabernacle to live under the care of Eli (1 Samuel 1:21–28; 3:31–21). The boy served the Lord under the priest Eli.

Now Eli’s own sons were wicked men. They had no respect for God or the office of the priesthood. They used their father’s office for their own appetites. Eli knew of their acts and rebuked them, but he never restrained them. He put his sons before God and they all would pay a price for it.

Samuel continued to grow, learn, and be faithful in service to God.

God called out to Samuel one night. Thinking it was Eli calling, Samuel ran to see what the old priest wanted. This happened three times. It finally dawned on Eli that it was God calling Samuel, and he told him to say, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” He sent him back to wait. Samuel listened, and heard God speak to Him.

As servants of God, we too have to listen and hear what God says to us.

God SPEAKS TO US through His Word. There is nothing in life that cannot be dealt with by using God's Word.

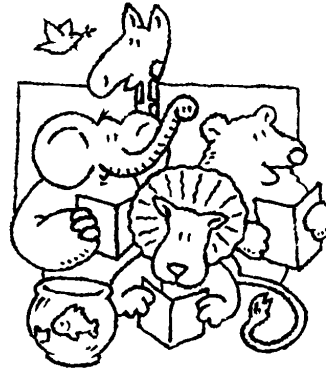
The foremost proof that God's Word is precisely what it claims to be is that it WORKS! The result of obedience to God's instructions is the Bible's best stamp of divine authorship. Adhering to its principles, laws, and concepts brings about success and happiness in one's own life. Only those who sincerely seek to apply its counsel to their own lives will learn that the practical instructions, timeless wisdom, spiritual depth, and living laws come from a supreme Being, and not merely from fallible, mortal men.

Depending on the ages of your students, you may begin to teach them how to meditate. If you want to "hear" what God is saying, you must meditate. Meditate means to think quietly about a verse you read in the Bible. After you read the verse, ask yourself: (1) What does the verse say? (2) What does the verse mean? (3) What is God saying to me? Can I apply it to MY life?

EACH TIME you pick up the Bible to read and study it, you find comfort, counsel, understanding, and encouragement. It's a vehicle of profound communication.

When we are very young God can make Himself known to us. As parents and teachers it is our duty to teach our children how to be listening. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



Additional Reading for Teacher Study

1 Timothy 4:15

John 10:2-5

Psalms 119:15,23,48,78, 97,148; 143:5

Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to God—**TRUE**
2. *True or false:* Samuel was a small boy when he left his mother and father—**TRUE**
3. *True or false:* Eli was the priest who taught Samuel how to serve in the Temple—**TRUE**
4. Did Eli's own sons respect God?—**NO**
5. *True or false:* Samuel ran to Eli three times when he heard his name called in the night—**TRUE**
6. *True or false:* Eli told Samuel to listen and say "Speak, your servant is LISTENING"—**TRUE**
7. *True or false:* Samuel became a priest, a prophet, and a judge of Israel—**TRUE**

Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

- **Listen**—To give attention to with the ears
- **Meditate**—To quietly think about something

SKY StoryTime

Samuel, Samuel Wake Up!

There once was a devout woman named Hannah. Hannah was very sad, because although she had a husband who was very good to her, she had no children, and she wanted a little baby to love. She promised that if He would give her a little boy she would dedicate him to God for His service. She continued to pray earnestly and God heard her prayer. She was given a baby and she named the baby Samuel. His name meant “HEARD of God.” Hannah was deeply grateful to God for hearing her.

Hannah kept her promise, and as soon as Samuel was weaned he was taken to the tabernacle to be given into God’s service. The little boy was given to Eli the high priest of Israel to teach. God blessed Hannah and her husband Elkanah with other children for keeping this vow. God does not force us to make promises, but He does expect us to keep them if we make them.

The little boy saw his parents each year when they came to offer the annual sacrifice. His mother always brought him a new robe—each one a little larger than the last. Samuel was growing up. They were so proud of him.

Eli’s Shameful Sons

Now Eli had two very foolish and wicked sons. They did not respect anyone. They took advantage of their father’s position and did very bad and shameful things. They were always in trouble and being big bullies.

Eli knew this but did not try to stop them. He told them what shame they were bringing on the family, but they just laughed. Their father did nothing, even though he knew how serious this was.

Eli was warned that God knew he was putting his sons before God. But, Eli did not do his duty to God or his own sons. Eli did not listen and neither did his sons.

Who’s Calling?

One night when Samuel was getting ready to go to sleep, he heard a voice calling his name, “*Samuel!*” Samuel answered, “Here I am!” Thinking it was the old priest needing him, he quickly ran to see about Eli. Samuel spoke softly in the darkness, “Eli, here I am...” Eli sleepily answered, “I did not call; go lay down.”

Samuel went back and lay down. Again he heard his name called, “*Samuel!*” The young

boy again went running into Eli. “Here I am, for you did call me.”

Eli said again, “My son, I did not call you; go lay down!”

Samuel padded back to his bed and lay down. For the third time the voice called, “SAM-UEL!” Samuel determinedly got back out of bed and went back into Eli and said, “Here I am, for you did call me!”

Suddenly the old priest realized that it was God who was calling Samuel, and with his old heart beating rapidly, Eli told Samuel what to say. “If He calls again you must say, ‘Speak, LORD for Your servant hears.’”

Just like the other times, the Lord came and called to him. Samuel obediently said, “Speak LORD, for your servant hears.”

God then told Samuel that He would judge Eli for his sons’ wickedness. God was going to take the priesthood away from the descendants of Eli. Eli’s wicked sons Phinehas and Hophni were going to die.

The next morning Samuel was dreading to give the Eli the message. Eli assured him it was all right so Samuel told Eli ALL of God’s message. Eli quietly replied, “He is the LORD; let Him do what is good in His eyes.” Eli finally heard what God said.

Let’s Talk About It

Samuel helped Eli willingly in the tabernacle. Even though

Eli’s own sons set terrible examples, their bad behavior did not influence Samuel.

From a young child Samuel had been taught about service to God, and he did it gladly and willingly. He listened and learned, and the Lord was with Samuel as he grew up.

The night that the Lord called Samuel for the very first time gives us an indication of his willing nature.

How can you be willing helpers at home? You could help set the table, feed your animals, pick up your toys, or just play quietly when Mommy or Daddy are tired. These are things that show your willingness to be helpful.

Does God speak to us today? Yes, He does! The Bible says that God revealed Himself to Samuel through His Word (1 Samuel 3:21). Isn’t it a wonderful thing for God to do?

We too can listen and learn, and let God’s Word speak to us just as it did to Samuel!

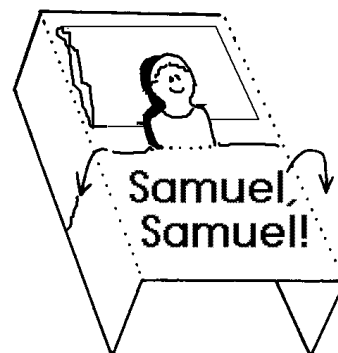
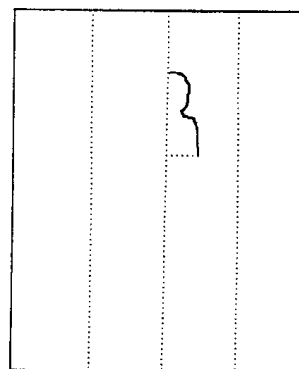
The End

Crafty Ideas

Fold the paper in half vertically. Cut the half figure of Samuel along the dotted line. Lay the paper flat and draw Samuel’s face on the figure, and color him a pillow and a blanket. Write the words God spoke, “Samuel, Samuel.” Fold the outside edges down—it will make the legs for a bed. Gently push Samuel into an upright position. □

Crafty Ideas

Wake Up Samuel



Materials To Use:

- Sheets of 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
- Crayons or markers to decorate his pillow and blanket.
- Scissors