

LESSON 52

God Calls Little Samuel

1 SAMUEL 2:12 – 3:21



BIBLE TRUTH

IN THE MIDST OF ISRAEL'S GREAT SIN, GOD RAISES UP A PROPHET

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 52)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 52

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Quiet Calling

The Dripping Cup

SUPPLIES: large foam cup; small pitcher of water; bucket/basin; towel

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God called a young boy into service as a prophet of God.

Ask the children if any of them know how old you have to be to be in first grade. (Accept any correct answer.)

Then ask them if they know how old you have to be to drive a car. How old do you have to be to be married? How old do you have to be to be elected President of the Unites States? (thirty-five)

Now ask them how old you have to be to be used by God. (Of course, the answer is that God can use you at any age.) Ask them if God ever uses very, very old people. (yes) Ask them if God ever uses very, very young people. (yes) Does God use even preschoolers? (yes)

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 52, “God Calls Little Samuel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What happened in this story?

(Hannah took Samuel to live at the temple and be taught by Eli. While Samuel was still a young boy, God called out to him.)

Did Samuel know that it was God calling?

(At first Samuel thought it was Eli calling his name.)

What did God tell Samuel?

(God told him about the wickedness of Eli’s sons and that they were not going to be able to be priests for God anymore.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Does God still speak to people today?

(Yes, God speaks to us through his Word, the Bible. Like Samuel, God still calls people to serve him as pastors. Many pastors can point to a special moment when they felt that God called them to work for him.)

What did Eli tell Samuel to say to the Lord?

(Eli told Samuel to say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening” [1 Samuel 3:9 NIV]. These are good words for everyone to remember today.)

What does the Bible call the messages Samuel was given by the Lord?

(The messages are called prophecy. Samuel became a prophet to speak the words of God to men.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Samuel 2:26; Luke 2:52

In the midst of corruption within Eli’s household, God sent a man to prophesy the coming of a faithful priest who would be obedient to the heart and mind of God. The final fulfillment of this promise came in the life of Christ. Jesus did only what his Father commanded him to do (John 14:31). Jesus is a faithful high priest forever (Hebrews 7:21–24).

Samuel was also a foreshadowing of Christ. Very similar language is used to describe both Samuel and Jesus (compare 1 Samuel 2:26 and Luke 2:52).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 52—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Why is this a good story for children?

(This is a good story for children because it teaches us that God wants to use even little children to work out his plan on the earth.)

What do you think you would have done if you were Samuel?

(Accept any answer.)

Do you think you would have been afraid?

(God's might and power are to be feared, but we should not forget that he is kind and he is working for our good. Remembering that will help us to fear disobeying him but not fear being with him.)

Why do you think God wanted Samuel to tell Eli about his sins?

(God often warns a person when they are being disobedient to give them a chance to change and repent.)

The Quiet Calling

Have the children find a place on the carpet to lie down. Instruct them to return to their original seat quietly when they hear their name. The goal of this game is to see who can hear you call their name with the faintest voice. If they don't hear their name, come back to them later but a bit louder.

Tell the children that God called Samuel with a quiet voice. That is sometimes how he speaks to us as well, so our hearts must always be prepared to listen.

The Dripping Cup

SUPPLIES:

- large foam cup
- small pitcher of water
- bucket or basin
- towel

Instructions prior to class: Poke a small hole in the foam cup so that it will drip water slowly out the bottom. Place a basin or a bucket under the table that will hold your cup. (The towel is to clean up any mess.)

During class, fill the cup with water as though you are thirsty, but place the cup on a desk or table with the part containing the hole hanging slightly over the edge of the table. Let it drip on the floor.

Continue to talk to the class.

Hopefully one of the children will recognize that you have a problem with water going all over the floor. If one of the children comments on your leaking cup, tell them that you don't think it is a problem. Ask the class if they think you should do something about it. They should say yes. Then ask them why you should do something about it. Here are a few suggestions you could give them to comment on:

- Someone could slip and fall on the wet floor.
- Someone could sit in the water and get uncomfortably wet.
- The water over time could stain the floor.
- Mold could start growing and ruin the floor.

Tell the class that the cup is like Eli's sons. They were disobeying God like the hole and the dripping, but Eli did nothing to stop them. Eli just let them go. Then explain that just like we wouldn't want to allow a cup to keep on dripping on the floor, we would not want two sons to keep on sinning. When Eli refused to listen to the first prophet (1 Samuel 2:27), God raised up Samuel to bring a very sad message to the man who trained him (1 Samuel 3:12).

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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