

LESSON 52

God Calls Little Samuel

1 SAMUEL 2–3



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read 1 Samuel 3:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 52, “God Calls Little Samuel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Explain Forever
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ hula hoop or large ring
 - ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN**
What Would You Do If You Were Eli?
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 52—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN**
God’s Call
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ a copy of Deuteronomy 6:5 for everyone in the class (“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”)

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The word of the Lord is ignored by Eli's house—During Samuel's childhood, most of Israel is disobedient to God. God's priests Hophni and Phinehas, sons of Eli, are corrupt. When the people bring sacrifices to God, Hophni and Phinehas keep some of the best meat for themselves. They do other terribly sinful things as well.

Because of this, the Lord sends a prophet to warn Eli that his sons will be destroyed because they are corrupt. He also says that the priesthood will be taken away from Eli's family because Eli has not honored God. Even in the face of this prophecy, Eli does not remove his sons from serving at the temple.

The word of the Lord comes to Samuel—In this passage we see young Samuel meet the Lord personally for the first time. At first, Samuel does not recognize the voice of God. But Eli discerns that it is God and instructs Samuel to answer. God gives Samuel a prophetic message of judgment over Eli's house. In a time when the word of the Lord and visions are rare among the Israelites because of sin, God speaks clearly to Samuel about the future. Still Eli allows his sons to remain as priests and does not repent.

Samuel delivers the word of the Lord to Eli—Samuel is reluctant but upon the urging of Eli, shares God's judgment over Eli's house and confirms the word of the earlier prophet that the house of Eli will be judged. In their corrupt service as priests of God, Eli's sons were basically rejecting God and his ways. They were using the priesthood for their own advantage, and not honoring God. People who refuse to believe in God and live only for themselves can never be forgiven because they will never repent. This is why God said that no sacrifice or offering could ever atone for the sins of Eli's household.

As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him, and all of Israel recognized him as a prophet of God.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Samuel 3:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 52, "God Calls Little Samuel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Explain Forever

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ hula hoop or large ring
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

This exercise is to help the children understand the incredible concept of forever.

Ask for two volunteers. Explain to the class that you are going to have a competition between mind and matter. Place one student at the whiteboard and tell him or her to start with any number and when you say Go to start writing higher numbers on the board one after another.

Tell the second volunteer to trace his finger around the hula hoop and count the number of times he goes around. Both should start when you say, "Go."

Give the signal, and let them continue for a while. After a bit make this announcement: "You can stop on the board when you have run out of numbers or when you come to the end of the hula hoop circle. Until that time, keep on writing numbers and tracing round and round the hoop."

You are likely to get objections, but keep them going and encourage them not to give up so easily. Make the point that they could keep doing this forever and never come to the end. Then excuse them to sit down.

Then ask the class the following questions:

How long would it take to run out of numbers?

(There is always a higher number, and you would never get to the end. They go on forever.)

What happens if I count backward with negative numbers?

(They go on forever in the opposite direction.)

How long would I need to trace a circle until I found out where the line begins?

(Circles have no beginning, and they have no end.)

Read 1 Samuel 2:35. Who is the one who is anointed forever?

(Jesus)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

What Would You Do If You Were Eli?

After the prophecies against him in both 1 Samuel 2:31–33 and 3:12–14, Eli did not repent. He seemed indifferent to God’s message, see 1 Samuel 3:18.

Ask for four volunteers. Tell them that they are all transported back in time and are now the high priest Eli. Tell them you are going to read to them two prophecies that were spoken to Eli. Read the prophecies and then have the children consider how they would like to respond. Tell them you want them to act out their response before the class.

Then ask the class the following questions:

When God pronounces judgment, does he ever change based on the repentance or appeal of the person he is judging?

(Yes, for example, after Israel made the golden calf. Read Exodus 32:8–14 to the class.)

How can God not punish someone when they have sinned against him?

(There is only one way for a person to be released from the punishment they deserve for their sin. That can only happen if Jesus takes the penalty for their sin. That is why we must place our hope in Jesus.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

God's Call

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a copy of Deuteronomy 6:5 for everyone in the class ("You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.")

Have all the children lie down as though they were little Samuel. One by one, whisper their names. Tell the children that when you whisper their name they should stand up and say, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." Then give them one of the cards and tell them to go to a corner of the room (point to a corner) and read God's Word to them (the verse on the card). (A helper can assist any children who have difficulty reading.)

After you have called everyone's name and given everyone a card you can ask them these questions:

How did you feel when your name was called?

(Accept any answer.)

Did you think you were going to get a message from God?

(Accept any answer.)

How is your message like Samuel's message?

(Like Samuel, you were given God's Word to tell you what to do.)

Point out to the children that when we read this story about Samuel hearing from God, we should remember that God wants to speak to us too. When we read the Bible, we should remember that it is God speaking to us.

LESSON 52 - GOD CALLS LITTLE SAMUEL

