

GOD CALLED LITTLE SAMUEL

In the midst of Israel's great sin, God raised up a prophet.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 2:27-34

MONDAY

The word of the Lord was rare in the midst of sin

The word of the Lord was rare in the midst of sin – Samuel was born when Israel was, for the most part, a disobedient people. In contrast to the godly Samuel, the priests of Shiloh (Hophni and Phinehas) were vile and corrupt (see 1 Samuel 2:12). The Lord sent a man of God (1 Samuel 2:27) to warn Eli that his sons would be destroyed because they were corrupt. The prophet also warned that God would abandon the priesthood, but would raise a faithful priest (1 Samuel 2:35). In the midst of this evil time, the word of the Lord and visions were rare (1 Samuel 3:1). Yet God spoke to the boy Samuel.

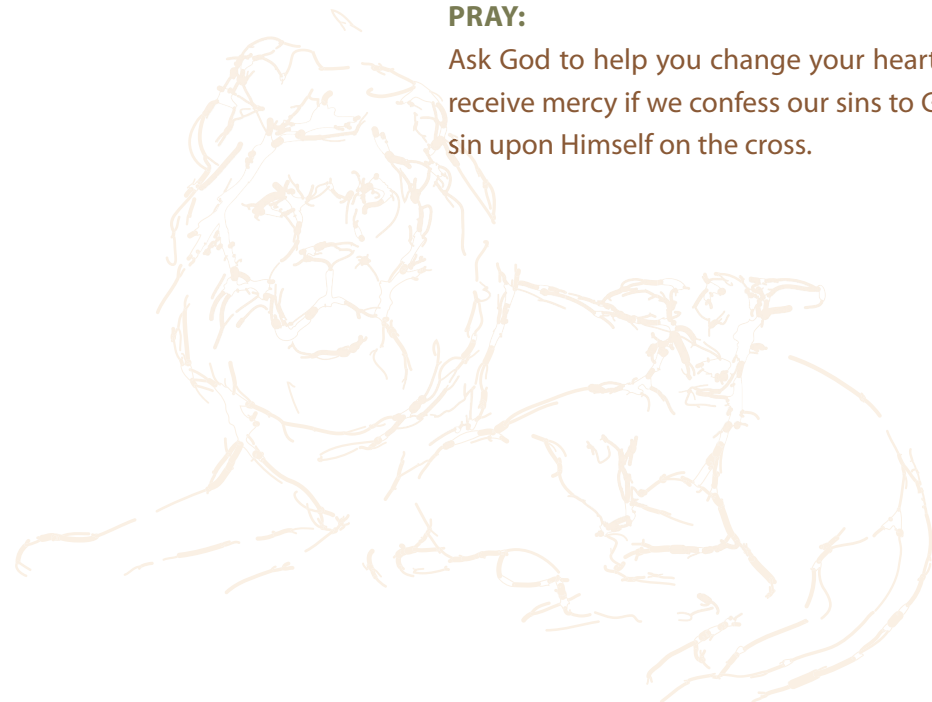
TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Eli do that was so bad? *(Eli honored his sons above God. Even though it is a good thing for a man to honor his sons, he should never honor them above God. Instead of rebuking and punishing his sons for their evil practices, Eli allowed them to continue.)*

Did Eli ask God to forgive him and repent? *(There is no evidence here that Eli repented at all. There are other stories in the Bible where God brought a word of judgment through His prophet, and repentance followed. When that happened, God often had mercy on them and withheld judgment.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you change your heart, or repent, when you sin against Him. We receive mercy if we confess our sins to God because Christ took the penalty for our sin upon Himself on the cross.





The word of the Lord came to Samuel

The word of the Lord came to Samuel – Samuel worshipped with his mother (1 Samuel 1:28) and performed the “duties of the tent of meeting” under Eli’s supervision (1 Samuel 2:11). But Samuel did not personally know the Lord or His voice (1 Samuel 3:7) because the word of the Lord had not been revealed to him.

While Samuel slept, the Lord spoke to the boy three times. The third time, Eli instructed Samuel to respond. The Lord came and stood before Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10). In a time when the word of the Lord and visions were rare, God gave both to Samuel.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How old was Samuel when the Lord spoke to him? (*Samuel was still just a young boy when the Lord called him.*)

Does God still call children today, or does God just speak through adults? (*Yes. God speaks to children, too. In the book of Acts, when explaining the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Peter refers to one of Joel’s prophecies. In that prophecy God said that in the last days he would use young men and young women. See Acts 2:17.*)

PRAY:

Lay hands on your children and ask God to draw them into His kingdom, call them, and use them to advance the gospel and build the church.



Where is Jesus?

In the midst of corruption within Eli’s household, God sent a man to prophecy about the coming of a faithful priest. This priest would be obedient to the heart and mind of God. The final fulfillment of this promise came in the life of Christ (see John 14:31). Jesus only did what His Father commanded Him to do. 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 (Luke 2:52 and 1 Samuel 2:26).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is Jesus called a faithful priest in the Bible? *(A faithful priest would be a priest that always does what God asks him to do. Jesus is a faithful high priest who is always interceding on our behalf before His Father in heaven.)*

What is the “sure house” that God will build? *(We are God’s temple. Jesus now dwells in our hearts and He dwells in the midst of His people.)*

PRAY:

Thank God that Jesus, our faithful high priest, dwells by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all believers.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 3:11-21

THURSDAY

The word of the Lord came to Eli through Samuel

The word of the Lord came to Eli through Samuel – The word that God gave to Samuel was a word of judgment over Eli’s household. The most horrible part of the prophecy was that no sacrifice or offering could ever atone for the sins of Eli’s household. Eli and his sons rejected God and His plan of salvation. By rejecting God’s plan in their day, they were also rejecting Jesus. (Eli is never mentioned in the New Testament.) As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him, and all of Israel realized that he was a prophet of God. The Lord appeared to Samuel again at Shiloh (1 Samuel 3:21).

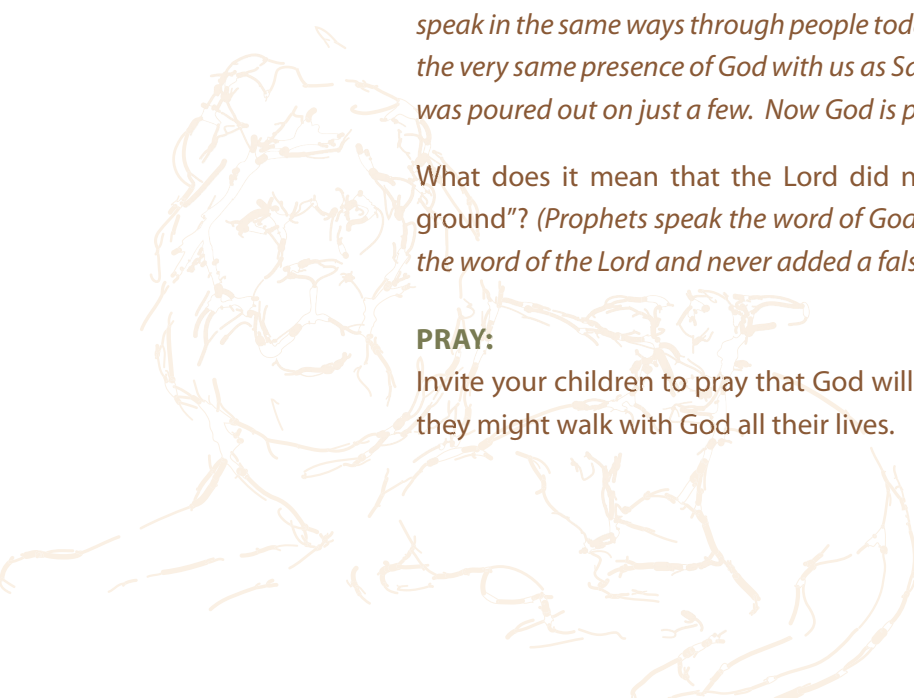
TALK ABOUT IT:

Can we ask God to be with us like He was with Samuel? *(Yes. Although God does not speak in the same ways through people today as He did the prophets of old, we can have the very same presence of God with us as Samuel did. In the days of Samuel, God’s Spirit was poured out on just a few. Now God is pouring out His Spirit upon all His people.)*

What does it mean that the Lord did not let any of Samuel’s words “fall to the ground”? *(Prophets speak the word of God. God made sure that Samuel always spoke the word of the Lord and never added a false word.)*

PRAY:

Invite your children to pray that God will save them and fill them with His Spirit so they might walk with God all their lives.





On the road to Emmaus.

In Acts 17:31 Luke describes a day when God will appoint a man to begin His judgment. Jesus is that judge who will separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-34).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is the judge described in this Psalm? (*Jesus is the judge. Whenever we read about a judge who will judge the earth in the Bible, that passage is, at least indirectly, pointing to Jesus.*)

Read Matthew 25:31-34. Who are the sheep and the goats? (*The sheep are God's chosen people - all those who believe in God and place their trust in Him. The goats are the unbelievers.*)

PRAY:

Pray that God would pour out His grace upon your family so that all of you might be sheep who "know His voice" (See John 10:1-3).

