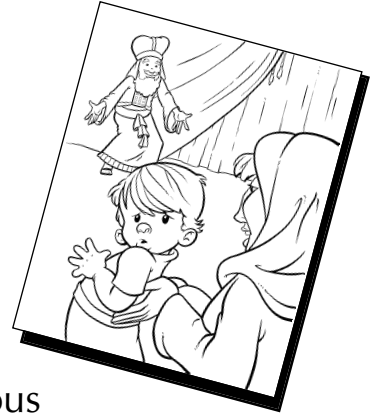




God Gives Israel a Prophet and Judge

1 Samuel 1–7



LESSON GOAL

Students will thank God for His gracious intervention in the lives of men.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- God blessed Hannah with a son.
- God blessed Israel with a prophet and judge.
- Samuel lived during the time of the judges.

KEY VERSE

“He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness” (1 Samuel 2:9).

APPLICATION

- Praise God that He is in control of everything.
- Thank God for caring about man’s problems.
- Respect God’s Word by listening and obeying.

NEXT WEEK

Israel Rejects God as King
Read 1 Samuel 8–12.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The two books of Samuel trace the transition between Israel’s being led by judges and their being ruled by kings. Although Samuel was an old man by the time Saul was chosen to lead Israel (1 Sam. 8:1) and died even before the first book of Samuel ends (1 Sam. 25:1), the story of the prophet Samuel is more than background material for the book. The story of Samuel (1 Sam. 1–7) sets the theological tone for what follows. In 1 Samuel 1–7, the Lord reveals Himself as committed to Israel, both as a nation and as individuals. The same God who heard the cry of a barren woman for a child knew His people’s need to hear His word and be delivered from the Philistines. Even while Israel was involved in idolatry and the Lord’s priests disregarded His commands, the Lord remained faithful to Israel. He graciously revealed His covenant love to Israel in the merciful birth, call, and raising up of Samuel to lead them.

The Lord Gives Hannah a Son (1 Sam. 1)

First Samuel 1 records how the Lord’s grace to Israel began with His grace to one barren woman. Hannah was married to a Levite named Elkanah (described as both an Ephraimite [1 Sam. 1:1] and a Levite [1 Chron. 6:27]). Each year, Elkanah went to worship and sacrifice at Shiloh. Shiloh, located about 20 miles north of Jerusalem, was the permanent resting place for the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant. When Elkanah, Hannah, and Peninnah (Elkanah’s second wife) and her children ate the fellowship offering, it was a particularly painful time for Hannah. Not only was Hannah reminded that “the LORD had closed her womb” when Peninnah’s children received their part in the offering, but Peninnah also “provoked her severely, to make her miserable” (1 Sam. 1:4–6). Each year, Hannah waited through the meal, weeping, not eating, and listening to her husband’s vain but sincere attempts to comfort her (1:8). Finally, when the meal was over, Hannah “in bitterness of soul...prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish” (1:10). Hannah vowed that if the Lord would have compassion on her and give her a child, she would dedicate the child to the Lord all the days of his life. Her promise to not use a razor on his head indicated her setting apart the child under a Nazirite vow (Num. 6:5).

When the priest, Eli, saw Hannah’s lips moving but did not hear anything, he assumed that she was drunk (1 Sam. 1:12–14). Hannah responded, “[I] have poured out my soul before the LORD....Out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now” (1:15–16). After hearing her grief, Eli blessed Hannah, and she went away knowing that the Lord had heard her cry (1:17–18). The same Lord who had closed her womb later “remembered her” (1:19). The Lord graciously gave Hannah a son, whom she named Samuel (1:20). Elkanah encouraged Hannah to fulfill her vow and dedicate Samuel to the Lord (1:21–23). When the child was weaned (perhaps two or three years old), Hannah responded to God’s

grace by being faithful to her promise: “she brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh” (1:24). Hannah gladly glorified God and praised Him for answering her prayer (1:27). As she had vowed, she dedicated Samuel to the Lord for as long as he lived; what God had graciously given, she gave back to Him (1:28). Hannah’s new prayer (1 Sam. 2:1–10) is not one of grief (as it had been a few years before) but one of rejoicing in the marvelous faithfulness and salvation of God.

The Lord Gives Israel a Prophet (1 Sam. 2:18–21; 3:1–4:1)

First Samuel 2:11–36 records an alarming contrast between Samuel and Eli’s sons. Even as a young boy, Samuel “ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest” (2:11). Verses 12–17 contrast young Samuel’s service with that of Eli’s two grown sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Hophni and Phinehas were “corrupt; they did not know the LORD” (2:12). They stole from the Lord’s offering, taking portions that were not lawful; they “abhorred the offering of the LORD” (2:17). After describing the wickedness of Eli’s sons, the text again refers to Samuel serving before the Lord (2:18). The author takes time to update the reader on how Hannah came each year and brought a robe she made for Samuel to wear under his ephod (2:18–19). Hannah’s yearly trips to the tabernacle were not marked with sadness as before, even though she had given her son to the Lord. Eventually, the Lord blessed Hannah with five more children, three boys and two girls! The text says that Samuel grew before the Lord, and then it gives a further description of the priests’ wickedness (2:21–25). Again, the evaluation that Samuel “grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD, and men” (2:26) is followed by God’s pronouncement of judgment on Eli’s house through an unnamed prophet (2:27–36). The wickedness of the priests is important because it further highlights God’s grace in sending Samuel and preserving him from the same wickedness.

A dramatic change begins in Samuel’s life in chapter 3. The chapter begins with an evaluation similar to the previous ones: “Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli.” This positive evaluation is quickly expanded on, not by presenting the wickedness of the priests, but by pointing to the condition of Israel: “The word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.” The period of the judges had been a time of limited prophecy and visions, especially in contrast to the preceding period of Moses and Joshua. But God was about to change the situation and give Israel the greatest prophet since Moses.

Neither Samuel nor Eli understood that the voice Samuel was hearing call his name belonged to the Lord (1 Sam. 3:2–8). After being visited three times by Samuel, Eli finally “perceived that the LORD had called the boy” (3:8). When the Lord called Samuel the fourth time, Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant hears.” The Lord’s first prophetic message for Samuel was a difficult one for Samuel; the message, a message of impending destruction, would cause ears to tingle (3:11). The Lord confirmed the message of the earlier unnamed prophet (v.12) and pronounced judgment on Eli’s house (3:13–14). Not surprisingly, Samuel did not awaken Eli to tell him the message; he was “afraid to tell him the vision.” Eli warned Samuel against hiding the message. He said to Samuel, “God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you” (3:17). Even though it was to his judgment, Eli recognized that Samuel’s message had come from the Lord (3:18).

The prophet Samuel continued to grow; “the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground” (1 Sam. 3:19). Samuel’s prophecies were the authentic word of God. Unlike the prophets from the period of the judges, Samuel had a ministry that was not limited to one section of Israel. All Israel from Beersheba in the south to Dan in the north “knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD” (3:20). Through the word of His prophet Samuel, the Lord revealed

Himself in Shiloh. Israel didn't deserve for God to graciously reveal Himself. But the Lord is merciful to His people, who desperately need rebuke and correction.

The Lord Gives Israel a Judge (1 Sam. 7)

In Samuel, God gave Israel not only a prophet but also a judge. First Samuel 7, a seldom-told part of Samuel's life, reveals much about the character of this man of God and what God had planned for him. Chapters 4–6 record the death of Eli, Hophni, and Phinehas, as well as the capture of the ark of the covenant by the Philistines and its return to Israel. Chapter 7 begins with the ark being brought to Kirjath Jearim, where it would stay until King David brought it to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:1–19). Worship in Israel was in disarray, and Shiloh no longer was the center of worship (perhaps having been destroyed by Philistines). After the ark had been in Kirjath Jearim for 20 years, Israel "lamented after the LORD." Samuel the prophet called Israel to get rid of their idols and turn to the Lord with all their hearts (1 Sam. 7:3). These verses remind the reader that Israel still was involved in the cycle of apostasy, judgment, and deliverance recorded in the book of Judges. Most of the Israelites were more like Eli, Hophni, and Phinehas than like Hannah, Elkanah, and Samuel. To God's glory, the people obeyed. All Israel assembled at Mizpah, where they fasted and Samuel confessed their sin to the Lord (7:5–6). Samuel began to lead the people as judge at Mizpah (7:6).

The Philistines were alarmed at the gathering of the Israelites at Mizpah and advanced to squelch the perceived rebellion (1 Sam. 7:7). Instead of trusting their own strength, Israel begged Samuel to continue to pray that God would save them (7:8). Samuel offered a sacrifice to the Lord and cried out to Him (7:9). While the offering was burning, the Lord answered Samuel's prayer and thundered against the Philistines (7:10). The Philistines were so confused by the thunder that they fled and were pursued by the Israelites (7:10–11). In memorial to the Lord's help, Samuel set up a stone saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us" (7:12).

While Samuel was judge, Israel experienced a remarkable period of success. The Philistines stayed out of Israelite territory, and Israelite cities taken by the Philistines were restored to Israelite control (1 Sam. 7:13–14). Samuel judged the people throughout his life, making a circuit through central Israel but always returning to Ramah, the new center of Israelite worship (7:16–17).

Conclusion

Near the end of the period of the judges, Israel was in shambles. They had bowed before the gods of the nations and had been defeated by the Philistines. Their worship of God was a sham and their priests a disgrace. Out of that darkness, God worked through one woman's suffering to cause her to cry out to Him and vow to give her son to Him. The Lord opened Hannah's womb, and she kept her promise. The Lord had given a gift that she had vowed to return to Him. That gift to Hannah became a gift to all Israel as God spoke through the prophet Samuel. The people were warned of judgment and called to obedience. While Samuel is most remembered for his anointing of kings, God graciously used him to return Israel to the LORD, to lead them in confession and repentance, and to pray for the defeat of the Philistines. The believer cannot help but marvel at God's grace, to a single woman and to the whole nation. How awesome that God, who is infinite in presence, power, and wisdom, is also concerned with man!

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



What Is Honor?

Ask students who the most important person in the country is. Ask them why they think that person is important. To honor someone is to think of that person as important. We think of the president or the mayor as important, but God is the most important person in the universe. Ask the students why God is important. Explain that honor also is placing value or worth on someone. Ask the students what kinds of gifts they would give to a very important person. What kinds of gifts would they give to the president or mayor? God is infinitely more important than any person on earth. What kinds of gifts would show God that you think He is important? What kinds of attitudes and actions could you give God as gifts to show Him you think He is important?



Being Teased

Being teased is not fun. When someone makes fun of another person, it displeases God. In today's lesson, a woman named Hannah is teased by another woman, named Peninnah. Being teased made Hannah very sad. But God blessed Hannah with a son named Samuel, whom God used to glorify Himself.



What Is a Prophet?

Samuel was a prophet in the Old Testament. Ask the students what they think a prophet is. Explain that a prophet was a person who spoke for God. A prophet did three things. He told people to turn to God from their selfish ways. He told them what God would do if they listened or if they disobeyed. He also told them what God was going to do in the future. Get a bullhorn, or make one out of paper, and using it, say today's memory verse with the students. Explain that a prophet is a person who acts like a megaphone. God used His prophets as mouthpieces to speak His words. He used them to catch the people's attention and turn the people back to Him.



Honor: What Does It Mean?

Bring in a dictionary and a thesaurus. Look up the word *honor* and talk about what it means to honor someone or something. Talk about how we can honor each of the commandments that God has given us in Exodus 20:1–17.



Always Doing the Right Thing

Show pictures and lead a discussion about times when doing the right thing is difficult. Examples: choosing to obey mom and dad, being kind to siblings who are being unkind to you, making hard choices in school or with friends. Tell the students that this morning, they will hear about a young man who did the right thing, even though he had to tell someone some very difficult news. He obeyed God even though it was very hard to do.



What Do You Hear?

Bring in an audio recording of various sounds. Play the sounds and ask the students to raise their hands when they know what each sound is. Call on students to identify each sound. You could even have the sounds play from different sides of the room. Ask the students what the sound was and where it came from. In today's lesson, the students will hear about a boy who heard something very special coming from an unexpected place.



Prophet's Chair

Give students various tasks to help decorate one chair that is designated as "the prophet's chair." (Next week, the chair can become the throne for King Saul.) Use crepe-paper streamers, ribbons, a pillow to sit on, balloons, etc. While each student takes his turn sitting in the chair, being Samuel with his "prophet's ears" on and a scroll (rolled-up paper) in his hand, discuss how a prophet listens to God's words, obeys them, and tells them to other people. Place a Bible in the chair and talk about the importance of honoring God by listening to Bible stories and obeying parents.



Babies

Provide dolls, clothes, blankets, bottles, etc., for the students to set up a baby-care center. Help the students think of ways to care for babies. Discuss Samuel with the students. Tell them how much his mother wanted him and how she prayed for him.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

During the time of our lesson today, things were not good in Israel. It was the time of the judges, and very few people were obedient to God. Israel needed help. Those who were supposed to be leading the people to God were doing just the opposite. But God was at work raising up a man who would serve Him and do His will. This man would speak the words that God wanted him to speak and lead His people in spiritual things. The name of this man was Samuel.

In the Bible, the book of 1 Samuel tells us about Samuel's life and family. Samuel's mother was a woman named Hannah. She had wanted to have a child for a very long time, but she was not able to become pregnant, and this made her very sad. Her husband's name was Elkanah, and he had another wife named Peninnah. Peninnah had many children. Every year, the whole family would go together to Shiloh to worship God. Shiloh was where the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant were. Hannah was sad because she would watch Elkanah and Peninnah's

children participate in the fellowship offering, and this time reminded her that God had not allowed her to have her own children. It was also a difficult time for Hannah because Peninnah was mean to her. She provoked Hannah by saying unkind things to her and tried to make Hannah miserable. Every year they would go to Shiloh, and the same thing would happen. But one year after the meal was over, Hannah “prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish” (1:10). Hannah told the Lord that if He would have compassion on her and give her a child, she would dedicate the child’s whole life to the Lord and would set him aside as a special child for God by raising him as a Nazarite. The priest, Eli, saw Hannah while she was praying. She was praying silently, so her lips were moving but no sounds were coming out of her mouth. Eli did not know that Hannah was praying and assumed that she was drunk! But Hannah corrected him. She said, “I have poured out my spirit before the Lord.” She told Eli what she had prayed for, and Eli blessed her. Hannah knew that God had heard her prayer. God acted graciously toward Hannah and allowed her to become pregnant. Hannah gave birth to a son, and she named him Samuel. Elkanah encouraged Hannah to keep her promise to dedicate Samuel to the Lord. So when Samuel was about two or three years old, Hannah took him to the tabernacle at Shiloh and gave him to the priest, Eli. Hannah gave up her son gratefully because she was thankful that God had given her the child she had prayed for. This time when Hannah prayed to God at the tabernacle, it was not a prayer of sadness, but a joyful prayer because of God’s faithfulness.

Samuel lived with Eli at the tabernacle, and he served the Lord faithfully. Eli had two grown sons who also lived there, but they were very wicked. Their names were Hophni and Phinehas. They did not love God. They stole from the offering and took other things that did not belong to them. But even though Samuel grew up around such wicked people, he still served the Lord faithfully. His mother, Hannah, came to visit him every year while she was there to worship, and God even gave her more children. Samuel had three brothers and two sisters! God was very gracious to Hannah because He gave her more children, and He was gracious to Samuel because He kept Samuel from the wickedness of Eli’s sons. God was also gracious to the Israelites, because He would use Samuel to lead Israel. Remember, Israel was not a good place at this time. Very few people were obedient to God, and the judges had not been leading the Israelites to serve God. God rarely spoke to His people. There had not been many prophecies or visions. But God was going to make Samuel the greatest prophet since Moses. God decided to speak to Samuel directly. One night Samuel, who was a young boy, heard a voice call to him. He ran to Eli, who was old and blind, and said, “Here I am! You called me.” But Eli said, “I didn’t call you; go back and lie down.” So Samuel went back and lay down. Then Samuel heard the voice again, and he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am! You called me.” But again, Eli said, “My son, I did not call you. Now go back and lie down.” This happened three times before Eli realized that it was the Lord who had been calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go lie down, and the next time he heard the voice, to say, “Speak, for your servant hears.” So Samuel did, and the Lord spoke to Samuel and gave him a prophecy. He told Samuel that there would be a judgment on Eli’s family because of their sins. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said to him, but Eli warned Samuel that he must tell God’s message. Samuel told Eli that God was going to judge his family, and Eli knew the message was from God. Samuel continued to grow, and God continued to reveal truth to Samuel. Samuel told the Israelites the words of the Lord, and He became a great prophet in the land of Israel.

God had more planned for Samuel. Not only was he a great prophet, but God was going to make him a judge, too. Many things were happening in Israel at this time. Eli and his sons had died in God’s judgment against them. The Israelites were not

worshiping God; instead, they were worshiping idols. Samuel called on the Israelites to get rid of their idols and serve the Lord God with all their hearts. To God's glory, the people obeyed. The Israelites all gathered and fasted, and Samuel confessed their sins to the Lord. Samuel became the next judge of Israel, as well as their prophet. The Philistines saw the Israelites all gathered together and became afraid that they were going to try to fight them, so they decided to attack Israel. The Israelites chose not to trust in their own strength, and they begged Samuel to continue to pray that God would save them from the Philistines. Samuel offered a sacrifice to God and cried out for Israel. God answered Samuel's prayer by sending great thunder to the Philistines. The Philistines became confused by the loud noise and ran away while the Israelites chased them off. From that time, Israel had a long period of peace under Samuel's rule.

During the time of Samuel, God did not speak to or give visions to many people. But God had chosen Samuel to be a prophet for Him. When God told Samuel about what would happen to Eli and his family, Samuel told Eli everything God had said. At other times, God spoke to Samuel, too. Whatever Samuel said in the name of the Lord proved to be true. All the people in Israel knew that Samuel was a prophet of God. No one ever chose to be a prophet for God. It was God who chose the people He wanted to be His prophets. God wanted to use Samuel for a special purpose: to be His prophet. We can learn from Samuel's life. We can rejoice that God intervenes in our lives, cares about our problems, and answers our prayers, as He did Hannah's. We can respond to God's grace by obeying Him, as the Israelites obeyed when Samuel called them to stop worshiping idols. And, most of all, we can trust in the greatest intervention in the lives of men, which was Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross.



Lesson Questions

In the Old Testament, whom did God use to speak to the people?
God used men called prophets to tell the people His message.

What was so special about Samuel?
Samuel's mother was not able to have children. She prayed to God that she would have a son and promised that if God blessed her with a son, she would give him back to the Lord. God gave Hannah a son, and she did as she promised.

Whom did God call in the night?
God called to Samuel while he was lying down. God had a message for Samuel to tell Eli. The message was hard for Samuel to tell because it was bad news, but he faithfully obeyed the Lord and gave the message to Eli.

What was the job that God had for Samuel?
God made Samuel both a prophet and a judge over Israel. His job was to give the people messages from God and to lead the people according to God's words.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Hannah's Hope

The events in today's lesson can be acted out to illustrate for the students what it may have been like for Hannah and Samuel. Ask a female volunteer to dress up as Hannah and tell the story as a monologue from Hannah's perspective.



Props

As you teach throughout the story, use props to illustrate major aspects or events. For example, a baby bottle can be used to illustrate Hannah raising Samuel until he was weaned. Baby clothing of various sizes could be used to illustrate that Hannah would bring Samuel clothes every year. A pillow could be used to illustrate that God spoke to Samuel as he was lying down.



Prophet or Judge

Write the words "prophet" and "judge" on the board, making two columns. While teaching through the lesson, list things that refer to Samuel as prophet in the right column, and list things he did as judge in the left column. After the lesson, play a review game. Erase the columns, and then read one of the statements from your list. The students should use signals to indicate whether the act was done by Samuel as prophet (open hand coming down from mouth) or Samuel as judge (fist hitting palm like a judge's mallet).

Samuel the Prophet

1. Set apart to God (1:21–23)
2. Ministered to the Lord (2:11; 3:1)
3. God had called him (3:8)
4. God was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground (3:19)
5. Established as a prophet of the Lord (3:20)

Samuel the Judge

1. Called Israel to get rid of idols and turn to the Lord with all their hearts (7:3)
2. Confessed Israel's sins to God (7:5–6)
3. Offered a sacrifice to God and prayed for Israel's deliverance (7:8–9)
4. Set up a memorial stone (7:12)
5. Judged Israel throughout his life (7:16–17)



Three Wrapped Presents

Bring three large wrapped packages for the students to open during the lesson. For the first part of the story, "The Lord Gives Hannah a Son," have one student open the first box, containing a baby doll (Samuel). For "The Lord Gives Israel a Prophet," the present should contain a Bible, since prophets brought the word of God. For the third part, "The Lord Gives Israel a Judge," the present may contain a stone to represent the Ebenezer stone of 1 Samuel 7:12. Other possibilities could be a judge's gavel, a military medal, or a captain's hat.



Thunder

Materials: thin sheet metal, cookie sheets or foil serving dishes

Directions: Make thunder sound effects by shaking and striking some thin sheet metal while reading about God's thunder in 1 Samuel 7:10.



“Samuel! Samuel!”

Materials: copies of the “Samuel! Samuel!” template printed on cardstock, pieces of felt or cloth, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the “Samuel! Samuel!” template printed on cardstock. Have the students cut along the dotted lines, separating the bed template from the verse card, Samuel figure, and bed back. Instruct the students to fold along the solid lines, creating a bed. The verse card should be taped as the footboard and the larger piece as the headboard. Students may decorate the bed using crayons and other materials. They should color and cut out the Samuel figure. This figure can be folded along the waist so that he can sit up in bed when he hears God’s voice. Pieces of felt or cloth can be glued to the bed for a blanket and pillow. Make sure to allow time for the glue to dry.



Who’s Calling?

Act out the portion of the lesson where Samuel is called by God. One student can be Samuel, and a teacher can be Eli. (They should be prepared in advance.) At the appropriate time in the skit, have an adult with a deep voice call Samuel from an unknown location.

Praise and Worship

God Is So Good

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Rejoice in the Lord Always

The B-I-B-L-E

Trust and Obey



God Cares for Hannah and Israel

Hannah wept and prayed a prayer:

(Trace tear down cheek; fold hands together.)

“Oh, Lord, if You will help me bear

(Raise clasped hands as though begging.)

A son, I’ll give him back to You;

(Pretend to hold baby in arms, first close to body and then outward.)

He will be Yours, faithful and true.”

(Lift hands above head, palms facing up.)

Hannah’s prayer rose to God’s ears,

(Fold hands together; point to ears)

And He remembered all her tears.

(Point to temple; point to eye.)

Soon the blessing of a son

(Smile; pretend to rock baby in arms.)

Became a gift to everyone.
(Lift hands up and out, palms up.)

Samuel grew into a man
(Raise hand, palm down, from a child's height to an adult's.)

Who spread God's grace throughout the land.
(Spread hands out, palms upward.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Thunder Noisemaker

Materials: paper or plastic cups, beans or rocks, foil, fabric, rubber bands, cutouts of 1 Samuel 7:10 (at back of lesson), other decorations

Directions: Give each student a cup, and have him decorate it with the materials provided. Have each student glue the verse to the cup. Next, give each student a handful of beans or rocks to put inside the cup. Cover the top with foil, and then cover the foil with fabric. Secure the foil and the cloth to the cup with a rubber band.



Wrapped Presents Lift-the-Flap

Materials: copies of "The Lord Gives Special Gifts" craft page, two 3.5x5-inch strips of wrapping paper per student, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of "The Lord Gives Special Gifts" craft page and have him color the pictures. Next, give each student two strips of wrapping paper to glue over the picture, making a flap.

Variation: Add a gift tag to each gift. One tag should read, "To Hannah." The other should read, "To Israel." Next, glue on ribbons or bows.



Card or Frame for Mom

Materials: a picture of each student (taken the week before or with a Polaroid), cardstock, cutouts of 1 Samuel 1:27, scissors, glue

Directions: Make a card or frame using a half-sheet of cardstock. Have each student glue his picture to the card and then glue on the verse, 1 Samuel 1:27. Students can decorate the cards with stickers, crayons, glitter, etc., and take them home to their moms.



Right and Wrong List

This can be a game between two teams or a group effort for review. Make two columns on a dry-erase board or a piece of butcher paper hung on the wall: right response and wrong response. Review the story and ask students to identify the right and wrong human responses. For clues, you can compare Hannah with Peninnah, Samuel with Hophni and Phinehas, and Israel before and after repentance.



Are You Listening?

Pick a student to be the “sleeper.” Have him lie on the floor, facing away from the group. Select one student to be the “caller” who goes up to the sleeper and says, “[sleeper’s name two times], are you listening? Do you know who’s calling you?” Then have the sleeper guess which student called his name. Allow enough time for each student to be the sleeper or the caller. If the students don’t know each other very well, have them share their names and birthdays (or something else fun about themselves so that they can get acquainted with one another’s voices. To end the game, say, “Today we’re going to learn about a young man named Samuel. God called him to love and obey God’s Word. Samuel did not recognize God’s voice at first, but finally, when he did, he listened to and obeyed God.”



Speak, Teacher

Following the story, ask the students to lie on the floor and pretend to be Samuel, sleeping on a cot. When they hear you call them, they should get up and stand in front of you. They should say, “Speak, teacher, for your servant is listening,” and you reply with instructions for them to follow. You might ask them to sit in a particular place for snack time, stand by the door or against the wall, sit on the floor in preparation for the next activity, or answer a question.



Samuel to Eli

Materials: a pillow 10 feet in front of each team and a teacher sitting 10 feet beyond that.

Directions: Divide the class into three or four groups. For younger students, have each student take his turn by having a leader tap him on the shoulder or head. When tapped, the player (Samuel) goes out and lies down on a pillow, gets up, and continues to the teacher (Eli) who shakes his head “no.” The player then goes back and lays his head on the pillow before getting up and going back to his team. Each player is tapped for his turn until all the players on the team are done.



How Does God Speak Today?

In today’s lesson, God communicated to Samuel in a voice that Samuel could hear. How does God speak to us today? Does He still call to us at night when we are lying in bed? Can we hear His voice tell us what we should and should not do? No. God does not speak to us in the same way He did when the Bible was being written. Now God speaks to us through His Word. In God’s Word we have all we need to know about who He is and what He requires of us.

Variation: Begin with a discussion on ways that we communicate. Examples: speech, sign language, signs, and books. This could lead into the above discussion.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets from the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness” (1 Samuel 2:9).

Verse for Noisemaker

“Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel” (1 Samuel 7:10).

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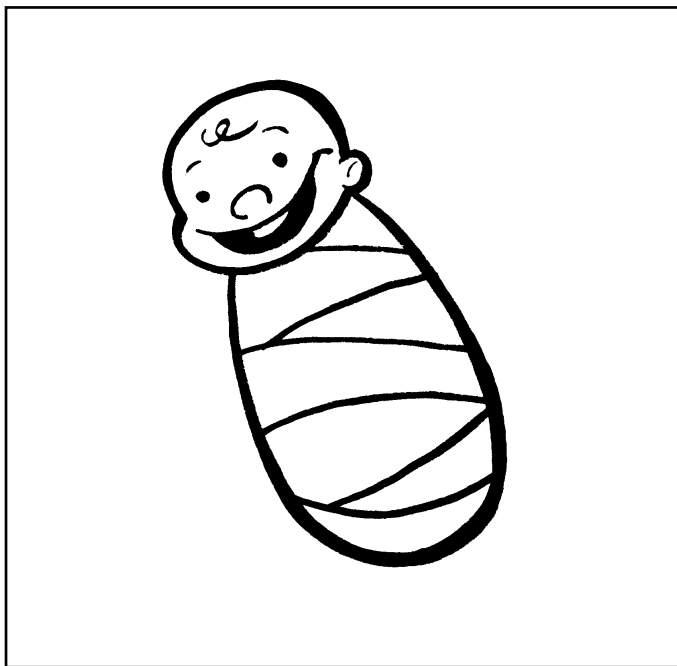
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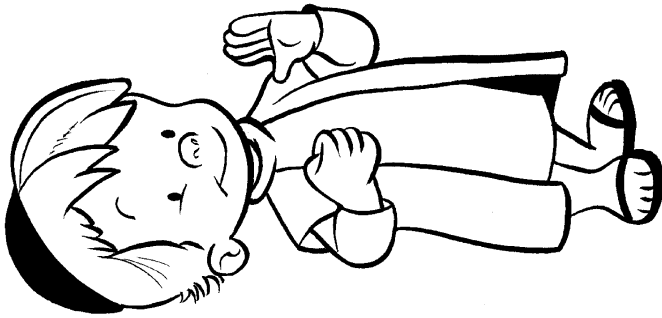
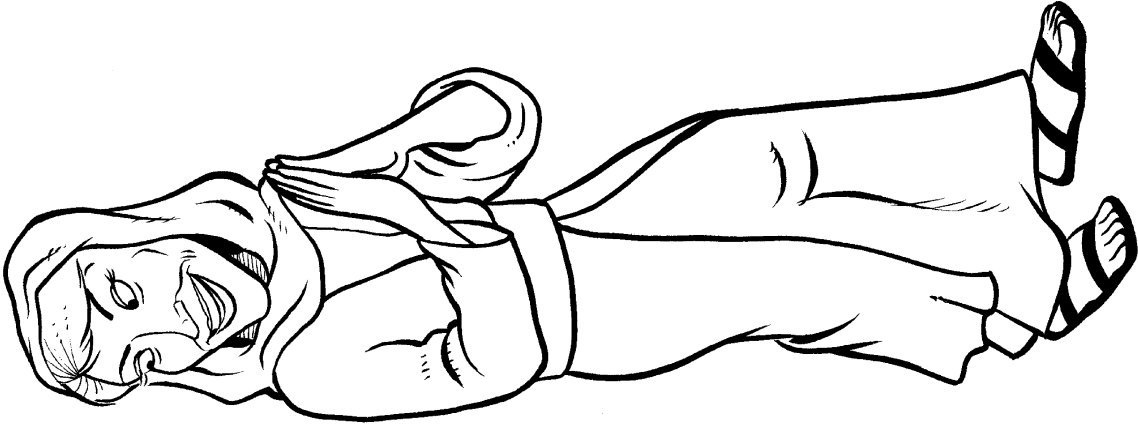
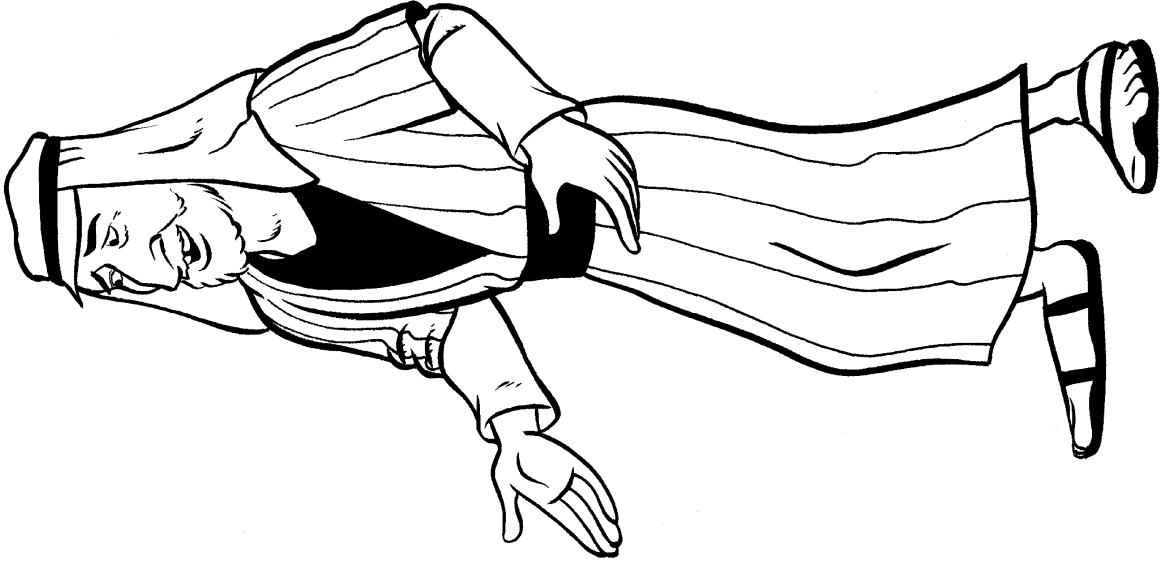
The Lord Gives Special Gifts

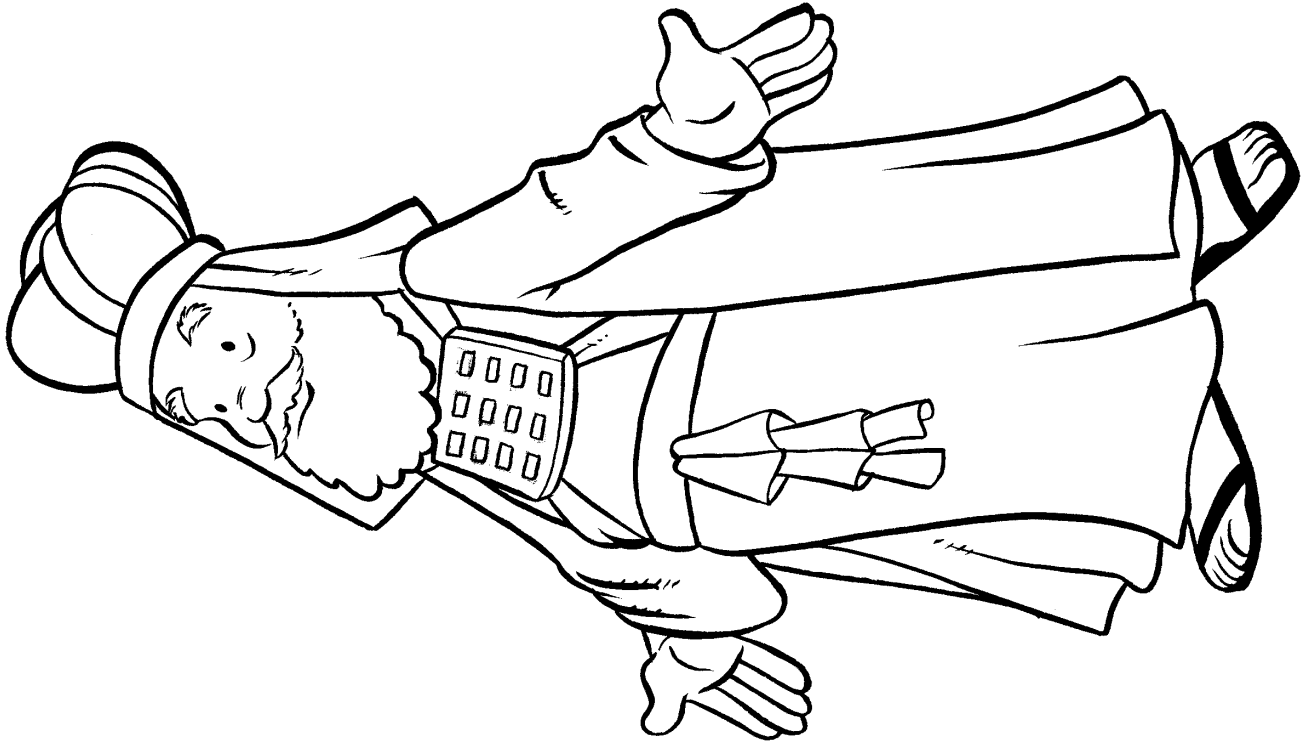


The Lord gives Hannah
a son (1 Sam. 1)



The Lord gives Israel a prophet
and judge (1 Sam. 2-3; 7)







“For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD” (1 Samuel 1:27–28).



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