

Loving Hearts & Working Hands



Lesson 1

God Makes Samuel a Leader

Theme: Obedience — Deciding to obey God early in life

Memory Verses

“Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.”

1 Samuel 12:24-25

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday 1 Samuel 1:1-18
Friday 1 Samuel 1:20-28; 2:11
Saturday 1 Samuel 2:12-26
Monday 1 Samuel 2:29-36
Tuesday 1 Samuel 3:1-21

People need leaders. God knows this and provides leaders in the home and church. God’s Old Testament people – the nation of Israel – needed leaders to lead them in God’s way.

Eli was one of Israel’s leaders. He was both a judge and a priest in Israel, but his leadership was ruined by the way his sons acted. In time, God replaced Eli with

1 Samuel 1:1-18

What did Hannah promise to do if God gave her a son?

Give the son to _____

What did Eli say to Hannah that made her happy?

- “May God give you a son.”
- “You are drunk!”
- “Welcome to the house of God.”

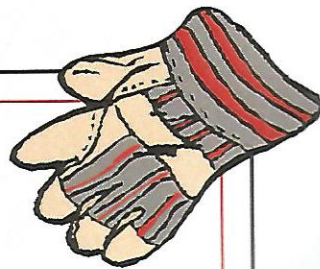


Samuel. God helped Samuel become a great leader. Samuel led Israel as a judge and a prophet, as well as acting as a priest. Let's see how Samuel learned to lead people in God's way.

1 Samuel 1:20-28; 2:11

After giving birth to Samuel, what was Hannah's plan?

- keep Samuel to herself
- take him to serve Eli after he was weaned
- give him to Eli as soon as he was born



Parents Helping Children be Leaders

Samuel's parents, Elkanah and Hannah, worshiped God each year at the tabernacle. For a long time, Hannah could not have children, and she was sad. Hannah prayed to God, asking Him to give her a child. She said she would give the child to serve the Lord.

God helped Hannah have a child, and she named him Samuel. Hannah thanked God for Samuel and gave him to God in a special way. Samuel

went to Shiloh to serve Eli the priest at the tabernacle. Eli served God, but his sons Hophni and Phinehas did not. Hophni and Phinehas disobeyed God. Eli did not do enough to help his sons obey God or lead people in God's way. Because of this, God removed Eli and his family from being priests.

Parents must teach their children about God and His Word. At times,

parents must discipline their children – teaching and encouraging right actions while punishing wrong ones. If your parents are trying to teach you to love and obey God, you should work with them and not against them.

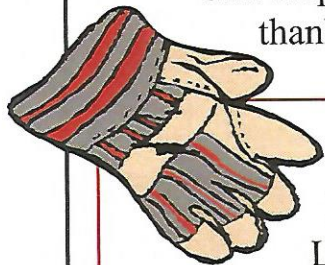
1 Samuel 2:12-26

How did Eli's sons sin before the Lord?

- ate too much
- didn't like Samuel
- didn't treat the sacrifices in the right way

Read verses 21 and 26 together. What does it mean that Samuel grew up "before the Lord"?

- he got tall
- he was God's favorite
- he learned to be obedient



Choosing to be Good Leaders

Samuel's parents helped him know God, but they could not always be with him and tell him what to do. Samuel had to make his own decisions. Samuel chose to live and work "before the Lord." Each

of us has to decide how we will live. Our parents can teach and train us, but each person has to choose his own attitudes and actions.

No doubt, Eli had taught Hophni and Phinehas the way of God, but instead they went their own way. It is also sad to read that Samuel's

sons did not follow the Lord. Surely Samuel had taught them how to live, but they chose another way.

Many young people make wrong choices. They don't obey their parents, and they don't obey God. You can choose to be God's person and a good leader. Decide this is what you want to do and do it!

1 Samuel 2:29-36

What would happen to Eli and his family because of their sins?

- none would live to be old
- Hophni and Phinehas would die
- none would be priests any more
- all of these things



1 Samuel 3:1-21

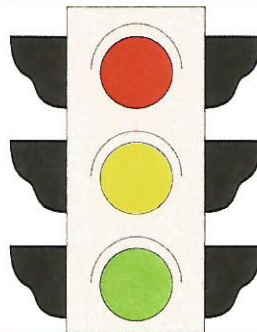
What did Eli tell Samuel to say when the Lord called him?

Everyone understood that Samuel . . .

- had weird dreams
- was a prophet of the Lord
- would be a king



I try my best to obey God and my parents.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — never

Yellow — sometimes

Green — always

Think About It ...

Suppose your mom told you to clean your room and get your homework finished before watching television. You got most of your room clean, and then decided just to see what was on TV.

A program caught your interest and you kept watching. After about five minutes, your mom found you watching TV, not having touched your homework. She said you will be punished. What would you say if you decide to work ...

- against her and her discipline —
- with her and her discipline —



Working Hard on Bible Facts

What Old Testament books are about the United and Divided kingdoms?

Be prepared to recite the books of the Bible from memory in class. Practice here by writing the first letter of each book. **G, E, L ...**

On a map inside the back cover, trace lightly with a pencil the route of the Exodus from Egypt to Mount Sinai to the wilderness and to Moab.