

# Lesson 13:

## God Calls Samuel

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

I Samuel 2-3

### MEMORY WORK:

Joshua 1:9

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must do as God asks me to do in His Word so that I can be a good leader and a good example to others.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION:

Why did Hannah pray to God? What did she ask for? What was her son's name? Where did she take her son when he was about three years old? What do you do when you hear your parents call you? Do you run quickly to see why they need you? What would you do if you heard someone calling you, but you didn't know whose voice it was? Samuel had grown into a big boy. He obeyed Eli the priest and helped him in the Tabernacle. One night he heard someone calling his name. Let's find out what he did.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Eli was an old man who had served as a priest and judge for Israel for many years. He had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were also serving as priests, but he had not taught his sons to respect God's authority and God's commandments. Eli's sons were two among many Israelites who chose to disobey God's commands.
2. God had spoken directly to different men in the Old Testament (since Adam), but there were many different times when He spoke to no one for many years. In the days of Eli and Samuel, it was rare for God to talk to humans (1 Samuel 3:1). But God chose to speak directly to Samuel—a young boy who was growing “in favor with the Lord and with men.”
3. One night, after Samuel had laid down, God called Samuel. Samuel, thinking that Eli had called him, got up and ran to him to see what he wanted. Eli sent him back to bed. God called him again, and again, Eli sent him back to bed. And a third time, God called Samuel, Samuel ran to Eli, and this time, Eli realized God was calling Samuel.
4. Eli told Samuel to answer God and pay close attention to Him—to listen carefully to what God said. So Samuel replied, “Speak, for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:10).
5. God's message to Samuel was sad news: Eli's sons would die because of their great sins against God, and Eli would suffer because he did not restrain (stop) them. God wants us to obey our parents, and He wants parents to train and discipline their children! Samuel lay in his

bed until morning, afraid to tell Eli of his vision. The next morning, Eli pressed Samuel until Samuel told him what God had said. Eli accepted the message, knowing why God would punish his sons. He said, “It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.”

6. Eli continued to help Samuel learn and grow; Samuel “grew and the Lord was with him.” As he grew, he became wiser (learned to make good decisions). As he got older, he became known as a prophet of the Lord, and all the Israelites understood that He spoke God’s Words. Samuel became a great leader for Israel.
7. Samuel was not very old when God began to speak to him; he may have been about 12 years old. But he listened to what God said, obeyed Him, and tried to lead the Israelites, based on God’s Word. He was young, but he knew that he had a responsibility to follow and teach God’s words. If he followed God’s messages and taught them to others, he knew he could be a good leader and example.
8. God does not speak to us personally today when we’re lying in our beds or sitting in the park or anywhere else. But God does speak to us through the Bible, and He still expects us to do the same things that Samuel did: listen, obey, grow, and be good leaders and examples.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[How Could Samuel Have Inhabited the Temple?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about why the word “Temple” is used in places where “Tabernacle” seems more appropriate.

### RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

- Betty Lukens’ felt pieces
- ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
- Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “13” in the Visuals Folder

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

# SUNDAY

## LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Let the children use play phones to have brief conversations with you or with each other.
- Have the children stand in a line. Whisper a message in the first child's ear, and let him share the message by whispering in the next person's ear, and him whispering the message in the next person's ear, and so forth. See if the message is the same when it gets back to you.
- Listening Ears Headband – let students cut out and glue (or you staple) ears to a cardstock headband. Discuss how Samuel listened to God. Today we listen to God through the Bible.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday's lesson. briefly (See Review Questions for example questions.)

## LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Samuel Craft Stick Craft – Template is in lesson file. Let students color Samuel and the bed. You may want to have the pieces precut to save time. Attach Samuel to a craft stick. Add a small piece of fabric or paper to cover the bed as a blanket. Act out the story and make Samuel get up when he hears God's voice.

# Review Questions

1. What were the two ways that Eli served the Israelites?
  - a. He was a priest and one of the judges
2. What were the names of Eli's sons?
  - a. Hophni and Phinehas
3. Did Eli require his sons to respect God's authority?
  - a. No
4. How did God speak to Samuel? A. Through a dream; B. Through someone else, or C. Directly?
  - a. C. Directly
5. How many times did it take Samuel (with Eli's guidance) to realize that it was God who was speaking to him?
  - a. Three times
6. How did Samuel reply to God?
  - a. He said, "Speak, for your servant hears"—1 Samuel 3:10.
7. What did God tell Samuel?
  - a. That Eli's sons would die because of their great sins against God.
8. What did Samuel become known as to the Israelites?
  - a. A prophet of the Lord
9. What was Samuel known to be the last of?
  - a. The judges

