

General Church Education



The Lord Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Lesson 2

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is King of Kings

For ages 10-11

The Lord Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1:21

Teacher Background

The prophet Samuel was the last judge of Israel and a priest who served the Lord. This lesson is about Samuel's early childhood. Samuel lived during a dark time in the history of Israel when most people had fallen away from the Lord. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phineas, were his main assistants but they did not love the Lord. Eli was aware that they were corrupt but he did not stop them from doing corrupt things. Israel needed a strong leader, a leader who could bring back worship of the Lord. Whereas the previous judges had been local rulers, Samuel would judge all of Israel.

Samuel's mother Hannah promised that if she had a son she would give him to the service of the Lord. She kept her promise and brought her young son to the tabernacle to be raised by Eli. Samuel's early ministry under Eli pictures a state in which we humbly read the Word, worship, and look to the Lord for guidance. The Lord can speak to us during such states of innocence and humility, and we can return to these states of innocence in adulthood. Like Samuel, we can model states of obedience and trust in the Lord for the children in our care. We can teach them the Word to clothe their minds with important truths just as Samuel's mother provided him with a new linen tunic each year.

Focus Points

- Hannah took Samuel to the tabernacle to be raised by Eli in service to the Lord.
- The Lord called Samuel at night to say the priestly office would be taken from Eli's sons.
- Samuel would become the Lord's prophet and Israel's priestly leader.

Readings from the Writings

“To hear [the Lord] means to have faith in Him and to obey His commandments.” *Arcana Coelestia* 3869

“When a person is a young child he receives good from the Lord.... This goodness composes the first beginnings of a new will with a person, and it develops in the next period of life in the measure that he leads an innocent life among those of his own age, behaves properly in life and does what he is told by parents and teachers.” *Arcana Coelestia* 9296

“Good which goes with innocence and charity flows in from the Lord in earliest childhood.... As a person advances in life this good which has been instilled by the Lord in early childhood is drawn in towards the interior parts and kept there by the Lord so that it may modify the states of life which he experiences subsequently.” *Arcana Coelestia* 3793

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears. (Psalm 24)

Projects and Activities (see back for answers)

Who Said It?

Read each sentence and decide whether it is true or false.

Sequence the Events

The Lord called Samuel four times, and each time something slightly different happened. Look at 1 Samuel 3 and complete a chart telling what happened each time.

Learn a Song

Learn the song *Samuel, Samuel!* by Lori Odhner. Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-samuel-samuel/>

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Sheet Music: Samuel, Samuel

Learn the song *Samuel, Samuel!* by Lori Odhner. Sheet music at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/song-samuel-samuel.pdf>

Calligraphy: Color a Quote From the Word and Decorate the Border

Decorate Samuel's words to the Lord, and color the border. At <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/calligraphy-speak-lord-for-your-servant-hears-1-samuel-3.pdf>

Discussion: How or When Does the Lord Call Us?

The Lord called Samuel in the night. How or when does the Lord call us? The Lord called Samuel for a special purpose. What does the Lord call us for?

The Lord Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Vocabulary

childless—a person who does not have any children

tabernacle—a holy tent where the children of Israel worshiped the Lord

dishonor—failed to do or respect the Lord’s commands

abhorred—disliked strongly

The Voice of the Lord

The Word tells us many stories of the Lord speaking to people on earth through angels and prophets. This lesson is about the Lord speaking to a young boy named Samuel. The story begins when a childless woman called Hannah went to the tabernacle to pray for a child. She promised that if she should have a child, she would give him to the Lord.



After many years the Lord answered her prayer and gave Hannah a son. She named him Samuel. Hannah kept the promise she made to the Lord. When Samuel was still a young child she took him to the tabernacle to live with Eli, the high priest. He grew up in the tabernacle, and learned to serve the Lord with humility and obedience.

The Voice of the Lord Was no Longer Heard

Samuel was born during a dark time in Israel’s history. The Word tells us that

“...the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.” (1 Samuel 3:1)

Many of the Israelites had turned away from the Lord. They had fallen into wicked ways. They had even forgotten about the Ten Commandments. The Israelites would need a strong leader to bring them back to the worship of the

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Lord. And so the Lord prepared Samuel for this work. From the time he was a little child Eli trained him in the tabernacle. Eli taught him about the laws of Moses and how these laws should be properly used.

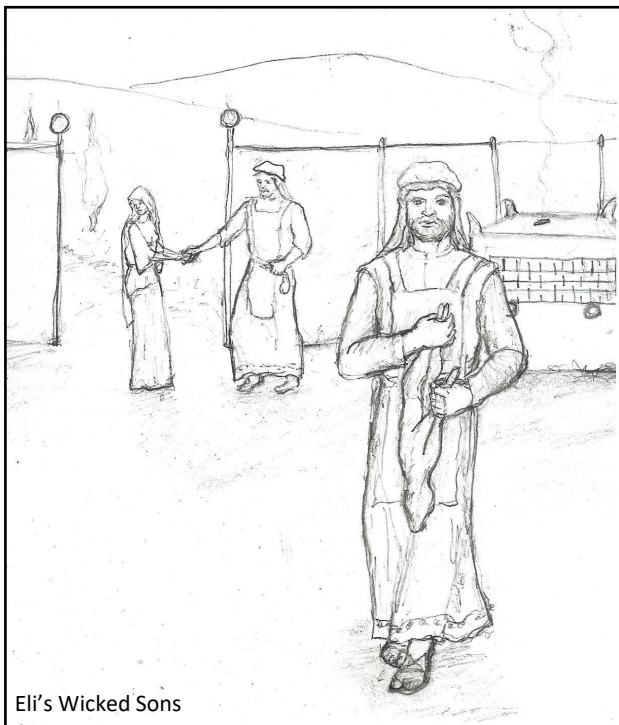
Eli's Wicked Sons

Eli was in charge of worship in the tabernacle and of all the priests in Israel. When Eli became an old man, his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, did most of the work for him. Unfortunately, Hophni and Phinehas were wicked priests, and showed no love to the Lord. They did not care about the people they were supposed to serve.

Hophni and Phinehas were corrupt in many ways. They even did wrong when they offered sacrifices to the Lord. The Lord gave strict rules about how a sacrifice was to be made on the altar of burnt offering. When an Israelite came to the tabernacle with a sacrifice, part of the offering was to be given to the priests. But Hophni and Phinehas took much more than their share. They dishonored this holy act of worship.

The duty of the priests was to serve the Lord and the Israelites. So you can see how sad it was that Eli's sons betrayed people's trust and used their position to take advantage of those they were supposed to serve. Even the people who were trying to be good no longer wanted to come to the tabernacle to make offerings to the Lord.

“Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.” (1 Samuel 2:17)



Eli's Wicked Sons

Eli Scolds His Sons

Eli knew that his sons were doing evil. He tried to stop them, but they refused to listen to him. Eli was their father, and as the high priest it was his duty to make sure they behaved properly. If they refused to behave, he was supposed to stop them from being priests.

Prophecy Against Eli's Household

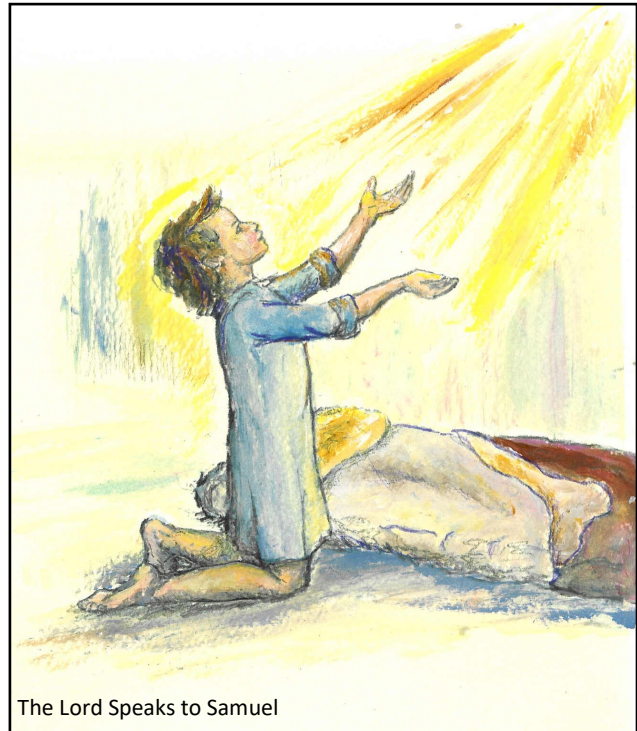
One day, the Lord sent a prophet to warn Eli that his family would be punished for their sins. None of his descendants would ever again be priests or be allowed to grow old. Both of his sons would die on the same day. In their place the Lord would raise up a faithful and obedient priest who would follow His teaching.

The Lord Speaks to Samuel

One night, when Eli and Samuel were in their beds, Samuel heard a voice calling to him. He jumped up and ran to Eli, because he thought Eli had called him. Samuel said to Eli, “Here I am, for you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; lie down again.”

Soon, Samuel heard the voice calling “Samuel!” again. He ran to Eli. Again Eli said he had not called. Then the Lord called Samuel again, a third time. This time, when Samuel went to the priest, Eli realized that it was the Lord calling. He said, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.’”

The Lord told Samuel the things that were going to happen to Eli’s family because of their wickedness. In the morning, Eli asked him what the Lord had said. Samuel found the courage to face a difficult task and bravely told him the Lord’s words. As you get older, *you* can develop this same courage if you do not avoid difficulties, but face them honestly and do what is right.



Samuel was still a young boy when he heard the voice of the Lord in the night. All through his life, Samuel listened to the voice of the Lord and obeyed Him. The people trusted him, and recognized that he had very special work to do for the Lord.

You can be like Samuel. The Lord loves you and wants you to be a good and useful person in this world, and after living a full and happy life on earth become an angel of heaven. When you read and understand the Word, and then listen to what the Lord is teaching you, you will be like Samuel, saying, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.” (1 Samuel 3:10)

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.” (1 Samuel 3:9)

Projects and Activities (answers at back)

Choose one or two.

Who Said It?

Read each sentence and decide whether it is true or false.

Sequence the Events

The Lord called Samuel four times, and each time something slightly different happened. Look at 1 Samuel 3 and complete a chart telling what happened each time.

Learn a Song

Learn the song *Samuel, Samuel!* by Lori Odhner.

Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-samuel-samuel/>

Who Said It?

Identify made the following statements: **Samuel** (the young boy), **Eli** (the high priest) or the **Lord**. These quotes are from the New King James translation of the Bible. If you are reading from a different translation the words may be slightly different. You may look at 1 Samuel, chapter three if you need help remembering.

Statement	Who said it?
1. "Samuel!"	_____
2. "Here am I!"	_____
3. "Here I am for you called me."	_____
4. "I did not call, lie down again."	_____
5. "Go lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.' "	_____
6. "Samuel! Samuel!"	_____
7. "Speak, for your servant hears."	_____
8. "...I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them."	_____
9. "What is the word that the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me."	_____
10. "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him."	_____

Sequence the Events

The Lord called to Samuel four times, however different things happened each time. Look at 1 Samuel 3 and complete the chart to show what happened when the Lord called Samuel.

Lord called Samuel	What Samuel said and did	What Eli or the Lord said
First call		
Second call		
Third call		
Fourth call		

Answers

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Who Said It?

1. the Lord, 2. Samuel, 3. Samuel, 4. Eli, 5. Eli 6. the Lord, 7. Samuel, 8. the Lord, 9. Eli, 10. Eli.

Sequence the Events

Lord called Samuel	What Samuel said and did	What Eli or the Lord said
First call	Samuel said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli.	Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again."
Second call	Samuel said, "Here I am, for you called me."	Eli said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
Third call	Samuel said, "Here I am, for you did call me."	Eli said, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'"
Fourth call	Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant hears."	The Lord said, "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle."