



Lesson Nine

God Chooses Samuel

Heart Preparation & Bible Background



Bible Truth

When God called, Samuel listened and obeyed.

Scripture

1 Samuel 1–3



Lesson Focus

To grow in trust and obedience, as Samuel did.

Goals for the Children

- Tell that Samuel heard and obeyed God's call.
- Learn that God wants them to trust and obey his Word.
- Learn that God makes it possible for them to serve him.



Memory Minute

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up.

1 Samuel 3:19a

In this lesson, we move from the book of Genesis to 1 Samuel, skipping over centuries of covenant history. God had fulfilled his promise to give a land to the descendants of Abraham and multiply his people. Now living in Canaan, the Israelites certainly enjoyed the Promised Land and the benefits of God's loving protection and provision, but they were not faithful to God's covenant. They did not always believe his promises and cleave to him; instead, they wandered off time and again, choosing idols and their own sinful ways over the God of Israel.

Elkanah and his wife, Hannah, were a welcome exception, however. This godly couple rejoiced in the Lord and his salvation, choosing to trust and serve him. Hannah longed for a child, and prayed for a son whom she could dedicate to serve the Lord. And when God gave her Samuel, she faithfully surrendered him to the Lord as she had promised, taking him to Eli, the high priest at Shiloh.

As you read 1 Samuel 1–3, you will see that this lesson is much more than a story of godly parents and their longed-for child. It is about a sovereign and faithful God who preserved a family in the midst of ungodliness.

Little Samuel was raised in the tabernacle, the house of the Lord. Yet, right at the heart of this sanctuary, rampant corruption prevailed. Eli's sons willfully sinned against the Lord and disregarded their father, and Eli simply looked the other way. Miraculously, God protected Samuel in this setting, giving him a tender heart of faith. Samuel listened to Eli and to God, served in the tabernacle, and grew in trust and obedience.

In preparation for Sunday's lesson, consider each precious child in your class. Commit yourself to be God's instrument as you pray for each one, as you teach them God's Word and as you show them Jesus. When you pray, ask the Lord to give you and them tender hearts that are responsive to him—hearts that are ready to listen to his Word and willing to trust and obey him.