LESSON 8

THE CHILD SAMUEL IN THE HOUSE OF GOD



Aim: **To show the children that even a young child can serve God.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 1:21-28; 2:18-20, 26; 3:1-21**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 121:8**
[T]he Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Talk about how children can help in the house. Get the class to tell you how they try to help at home. Even before young children learn to walk, they try to copy their parents.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. **Show Picture 7. By questioning the children briefly review last week's lesson about Hannah's prayer and the birth of Samuel.** The name Samuel means "Heard of God". Do you remember why? **Remind them of Hannah's promise to God (1:11).**
2. When Samuel was still a little boy who had just been weaned, Hannah took him to Eli the high priest at the house of God in Shiloh. She was fulfilling her promise to dedicate his life to God. Samuel was to help serve God in the temple even though he was still very young (1:24-28).
3. Every year Hannah and Elkanah visited Samuel and brought him new clothes. Young Samuel was learning to be a servant of God and he knew God was with him. He probably helped Eli by keeping the temple clean and filling the lamps with oil; delivering messages and learning to sing psalms and other songs used in worship. He would have done many of the jobs children do around the house today. People thought well of young Samuel (2:18-20, 26).
4. In those days many people in Israel did not worship God sincerely. God stopped speaking to the Israelites because they would not listen (3:1). However, Samuel was learning to be different.
5. One night Eli, who was almost blind by then, had gone to bed while Samuel was watching the lamp in front of the ark of the covenant in the temple. This was the holiest place in the temple, as the ark contained the commandments that God had given Moses. The ark also was the symbol of God's presence. Suddenly Samuel heard a voice calling his name. **Describe in your own words what happens in verses 4 and 5 (3:1-5).**

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6. **Tell the story of God calling Samuel a second and a third time, and of Eli's instructions. Show Picture 8. If you act the scene, taking each part in turn, this can become a very dramatic story (1:6-10).**
7. Even though Samuel was only a child God had some very sad and serious news to tell him. Eli's sons, who also were priests, were disobedient. They were not good servants of God. The Lord would judge them (2:11-15).

God spoke to Samuel many times after that. Samuel became a great prophet and leader of his people (1:19-21).

Our Response to the Story

Samuel began to serve God when he was very young – possibly younger than some of you. He did his everyday tasks not just to please Eli, but mainly to serve and honour God. He learnt to listen to God. He is an example for children to follow today.

Instil the Memory Verse

Review the verses of Psalm 121 the children have learnt so far.

Have you noticed? This Psalm is true for all the people we have talked about so far – Ruth, Mary, Hannah and Samuel.



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