



Lesson 58: God calls Samuel

Scriptural Basis:



1 Samuel 3

Overview:

Both Eli and Samuel are lying down at night, when God calls to Samuel. Thinking it is Eli who called, Samuel runs and answers. Eli tells Samuel that he did not call and to go back to sleep. This happens two more times, and on the third time, Eli realizes that it is God who is calling Samuel. So Eli tells Samuel to respond directly to God the next time He calls. Samuel does so (with this week's memory verse), and God delivers a message of renewal to Samuel: He is going to remove Eli and his sons from the ministry as a consequence of their sinful mismanagement of the Temple.

Things to consider:

This story is of profound importance in telling us about who God is. This week's story shows God's faithfulness, mercy and grace in bringing Samuel in to "clean house." in the temple. The story begins and ends with reference to the word of the Lord, which is where our true hope lies. God cares about us enough to bring His word to us!

The gospel in the story:



Samuel's calling comes on the tail end of the time of Judges, when "everyone did as he saw fit." And because of Israel's depravity (which reflects the depravity of all unregenerate hearts) and rebellion, things were not well. In fact, corruption had even infiltrated the office of the priest (particularly in Eli's sons). God's installment of Samuel is a picture of the larger story in play of His plan to defeat Satan's sin and death through His son, Jesus.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read 1 Samuel 3, and contemplate God's desire to provide His word, and shine His light into a depraved world. The text tells us both that the word of the Lord was rare in these times, yet that God's word came before the light of the lamp (the menorah which provided light in the Holy Place), had gone out. This provides a strong image of the light growing dim due to the depravity of men's hearts, yet God would not let sin prevail.

Teaching the lesson:

A: Review – Last week – God gives Hanna a son.

B: Bible verse memory activity

C. Story

D. Additional activity



"Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10



Learning At Home

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Application

Head: What did we learn?

Q: Who is Eli? A: He is the priest in charge of the Temple?

Q: Who is Samuel? A: He is Hannah's son, whom Hanna dedicated to the Lord.

Q: Who called Samuel? A: God

Q: What was God's message to Samuel? A: That Eli and his household would be punished for blaspheming God

Heart : Memory verse

"Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

Hands: How does this affect the way I live my life?

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." God might not answer us as loudly as He did Samuel, but He talks to us through prayer, through through His Word the Bible, and through His Holy Spirit.

Home: How does this affect my household?

God is establishing a household that won't falter (as Eli's did). Followers of Christ must build on His foundation, so that our households will reflect that truth.

Heaven: How can we be intentional about sharing our faith?

Eli's sons lived in a way that showed their lord wasn't God, it was their selfishness. Our prayer is that friends and neighbors will see that knowing and Loving God is our highest pursuit!