

After God's Heart

Portrait of Samuel
Taken from 1 Samuel
Chapters 3, 7, 12, 16

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What lesson or warning lingers with you from the story of Eli?

2. Samuel was dedicated to the LORD before he was even conceived. As a young child he ministered before the LORD. When he was just a boy he heard God's voice. As Samuel grew God was with him, blessed him, and made him a prophet and judge to Israel. Samuel's entire life was a testimony of hearing and obeying the voice of God. Read the following passages and write a brief comment on the facets of Samuel's life:
 - a. His Call - 1 Samuel 3:19-21

 - b. His Message - 1 Samuel 7:3

 - c. His Example - 1 Samuel 12:23-24

 - d. His Assignment - 1 Samuel 16:1

3. Knowing that prayer is a vital part of Bible study, take a moment to pray about your study in God's Word. As you write your prayer, ask Him to speak to your heart.

Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.

1 Samuel 3:9

SECOND DAY: Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21

1. Review 1 Samuel 1:24-28 and explain how Samuel came to live at the tabernacle.

2. According to 1 Samuel 3:1b, describe the spiritual climate in Israel during Samuel's childhood.
 - a. Based on what you have studied so far, what do you think was the cause of this spiritual climate?

3. Briefly recount the events of 1 Samuel 3:2-14.
 - a. According to 1 Samuel 3:7, why did Samuel not recognize the Lord's voice?
 - (1) How was Eli instrumental in helping Samuel? 1 Samuel 3:8-9

 - (2) How would you help someone to discern the voice of the Lord? See also John 10:4-5.

4. Summarize what happened in 1 Samuel 3:15-18.
 - a. What did Eli stress to Samuel concerning the message from God? 1 Samuel 3:17-18a
 - (1) Why is it important to declare *the whole counsel of God*? See also Acts 20:26-27.

5. In The New Living Translation 1 Samuel 3:19 reads, *As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable.* Use this verse to describe how the Lord established Samuel as a prophet of the Lord. 1 Samuel 3:20
 - a. From 1 Samuel 3:21 note how God revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh.
 - (1) How does this underscore the importance of God's Word?

 - (2) Share a time God revealed Himself to you through His Word.

THIRD DAY: Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17

1. List the steps Samuel instructed Israel to take for God to deliver them *from the hand of the Philistines*. 1 Samuel 7:3
 - a. Why are these steps essential for every believer?

2. How did *the children of Israel* respond to Samuel's instructions? 1 Samuel 7:4-6
 - a. Read Isaiah 59:2 and comment on their need to repent.

 - b. How did their response reflect true repentance?

3. Using 1 Samuel 7:7-14 answer the following questions.
 - a. Record the drama of 1 Samuel 7:7.

 - b. What did the people ask Samuel to do? 1 Samuel 7:8

 - c. According to 1 Samuel 7:9-10, what did Samuel do?
 - (1) How did God respond? 1 Samuel 7:10b

 - d. How did Samuel commemorate God's victory? 1 Samuel 7:12
 - (1) What does *Ebenezer* mean? 1 Samuel 7:12b
 - (2) Share an *Ebenezer* from your life.

 - (3) How do you commemorate the victories of God in your life?

4. Comment on the thoroughness of God's victory from 1 Samuel 7:13-14.

5. Read 1 Samuel 7:15-17 and explain how Samuel safeguarded the spiritual health of Israel.
 - a. What safeguards can you suggest to maintain spiritual health?

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25

1. After anointing Saul, Samuel had to transition out of a prominent leadership role. Remark on Samuel's godly testimony from 1 Samuel 12:1-5.
 - a. What aspect of Samuel's testimony do you find most compelling?

2. Summarize Samuel's brief account of Israel's history from 1 Samuel 12:6-12.
 - a. Why do you think Samuel reminded the people of these things?

3. In your own words write the stipulations God gave Israel in 1 Samuel 12:13-15.

4. According to 1 Samuel 12:16-18, how did God demonstrate His disapproval?
 - a. How did the people respond? 1 Samuel 12:19

5. Read 1 Samuel 12:20-25 and jot down the exhortations of Samuel that stand out to you.
 - a. Why would the Lord *not forsake His people*? 1 Samuel 12:22
 - (1) What does this convey about God's character?
 - (2) How does this comfort you?

6. Observe and write Samuel's declaration to Israel from 1 Samuel 12:23.
 - a. Link Samuel's declaration with Colossians 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Share your thoughts.
 - b. What prayer is the Lord prompting you to *pray without ceasing*?

FIFTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. 1 Samuel 13-15 records the reign of Saul, including his disobedience to the Lord, which cost him his throne. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3 and record God's remedy.
 - a. Write God's instructions to Samuel from 1 Samuel 16:1b, 3b.

2. Describe how Samuel responded to the Lord's command. 1 Samuel 16:4-5

3. Outwardly Eliab looked like a great prospect for a king. However, God was looking for something else. According to 1 Samuel 16:6-7, what was the difference between Samuel's and God's perspective?
 - a. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and comment further on God's perspective.

 - b. How does this speak to you?

4. What happened when the rest of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel? 1 Samuel 16:8-10

5. How was the *Lord's anointed* finally discovered? 1 Samuel 16:11-13
 - a. Initially, David had been left out of this feast. What does this convey about his family's estimation of him?
 - (1) Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 and comment on those whom God chooses.
 - (a) How does this minister to you?

6. What do you glean from Samuel's example?

