

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## *Kings and Prophets*

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### SAMUEL'S VISION

#### I Samuel 3-4

#### Elementary Lesson

#### Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Fourteen

[0390]

AIM: to use the story of Samuel's vision to teach my students that God uses young people who listen when God speaks.

OBJECTS TO HAVE: Your driver's license or car keys

A pillow

Your ear 📞

Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: I really enjoyed being a kid. I liked playing with my toys, I liked pretending, I liked coloring in my coloring books, riding my bike, and playing games with my friends. There was one thing, though, that kids are not allowed to do, that I always wanted to do when I was a kid. Do you know what that was? I always wanted to drive a car. I could not wait until I was old enough to drive a car. I loved pretending I was driving, I loved playing with cars, and I loved dreaming about driving. That was the one thing that I did not like about being a kid—not being old enough to drive.

When you're a kid, it seems like there are a lot of things about which people are always telling you, "Oh, don't do that, you're too little." Things like climbing a ladder, cutting with a knife, or crossing the street. And they are right: it is dangerous to do those things unless you have learned how to do them, and your parents tell you it is safe to do them by yourself.

But today I am going to tell you about something really exciting that anybody can do, whether you are young or old, tall or short, fat or skinny, rich or poor. First, let me tell you a story from the Bible.

STORY: Last Sunday I told you the story of Hannah. I told you that Hannah was a godly lady, but she did not have any children. I told you that Hannah cried and prayed before the Lord, because she wanted God to answer her prayer. I also told you how Hannah told the Lord that, if He would give her a son, she would give that son right back to Him. And then I told you how God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a baby boy. Hannah kept her word, and when that baby boy was old enough, she took him to the house of God to be raised by the priest, *Eli*. That baby boy's name was *Samuel*.

Samuel grew to become a young boy about your age. Samuel was a good little boy. Samuel obeyed when Eli told him to sit still and be quiet. Samuel did not talk back to Eli. Samuel worked hard when he was given a job to do. Samuel told the truth when Eli asked him a question. Samuel was a good little boy.

Because Samuel was being raised by Eli the priest, Samuel lived in the temple where Eli lived. Samuel had his own little room in the temple where he slept every night. At the end of every day when all of the work was completed, Eli went to his room and went to bed, and Samuel went to his room and went to bed.

One night, after all of his chores were completed, Samuel brushed his teeth, washed his face, and went to his room. He laid down his head on his pillow to go to sleep. As Samuel was lying there with his head on the pillow, he heard a voice say, "**Samuel.**" Samuel always answered right away when he was called, so he jumped up and ran to Eli's room and said, "Here I am."

Eli said, "What do you want, son?"

Samuel said, "You called me, sir, and here I am."

Eli said, "I didn't call you, Samuel. Go back to your bed."

Samuel said, "Yes sir," and walked back to his bed. Samuel was confused as he walked back down the hallway to his room. He could not understand what was going on. He knew that he had heard Eli call him. He went back to his room and laid down his head again. Suddenly, he heard it again: "**Samuel.**" Samuel jumped up again and went running to Eli's room and said, "You called, sir? Here I am."

Eli said, "No, Samuel, I didn't call you. Go lie down again."

Samuel turned and went back to his bed. What was going on? He knew that he had heard his name called.

Sure enough, it was just a matter of time before he heard his name again: "**Samuel.**"

Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli's room again. "You called, sir? Here I am."

Then Eli realized what was happening. Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. Eli knew that God was calling Samuel because God wanted to use Samuel to do a special job. So Eli told Samuel exactly what to do the next time his name was called. Eli said, “Samuel, go back and lie down in your bed. If you hear that Voice call your name again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.’ Then listen to what God says to you.”

Samuel walked back to his room, laid down, and put his head on the pillow. In a little while he heard his name called again: “**Samuel.**” Samuel was very nervous, but this time he answered, “Speak, for thy servant heareth.” God began to speak to Samuel. God began to tell Samuel that He had a very important message for him to deliver. God told young Samuel that because of Eli’s sins, and because of the sins of Eli’s sons, God was going to have to bring judgment on the house of Eli. God told Samuel that He had warned Eli to change his ways, but Eli had not obeyed. Now the judgment would not be reversed.

When God finished speaking to Samuel, Samuel lay awake the rest of the night. He was amazed by what he had heard, and he did not know what to think. He could not believe that God would speak to him, and he could not believe that God would use him to deliver an important message.

Early the next morning, the sun came up, and Samuel got up to do his chores in the temple. In a little while, Eli came in and asked Samuel what God had said. Because the message was against Eli, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. But Eli said, “Samuel, don’t be afraid to tell the message that God has given you.” So Samuel told Eli the message from God. When Samuel was finished, Eli said, “God is right. God knows best. May His will be done.”

Kids, do you realize what happened to the little boy Samuel? Even though Samuel was young like you, God used Samuel to do a very important job. God used Samuel to deliver a very important message.

**There is nothing in this whole world more exciting for a human being than to be used by God to do a job.** Being used by God is the greatest thing that can happen to any man, woman, boy, or girl. And Samuel was used by God to do a very important job while Samuel was still a boy.

God wants to use **you**, too. God has an important job for **you** to do. It is not exactly the same job that God had for Samuel. No, God has a job just for **you**. He needs **you** to do that job. If **you** do not do the job that God has for **you**, the job will not get done. Nobody else can do the job that God has for **you**. God needs **you** to do it.

How did Samuel find out about this important job? By saying to God, “Speak, for thy servant heareth.” Samuel was listening. When God spoke, Samuel listened. When it was time to read the Bible, Samuel listened. When the preacher spoke, Samuel listened. When Samuel went to school, he listened. When Samuel went to church, he listened. When an adult spoke to Samuel, Samuel listened.

When you read your Bible, you ought to be saying, “Speak, for thy servant heareth.” When you sit in Sunday School, you ought to say, “Speak, for thy servant heareth.” When you sit in Junior Church, you ought to say, “Speak, for thy servant heareth.” When you do, God will show you what He has for you. It may not be the first time, or the second time. But if you sit still every time, and listen every time, and ask God to speak to you every time, some day you will hear God tell you what it is that He has for you to do.

Somebody tell me, what part of your body do you use to listen? That’s right your ears. But you know, you also listen with you eyes, by looking at the person who is talking. You also listen with you mouth, but keeping it quiet. You also listen with your hands, by keeping them on your lap. You also listen with your whole body, by sitting as still as you possibly can.

God used Samuel because Samuel listened when God spoke to him, and then he obeyed what God told him to do. Because Samuel lived his life listening and obeying, listening and obeying, listening and obeying, Samuel was used by God again and again and again. As long as Samuel lived, God used him to do many very important jobs. Why? Because when God spoke, Samuel listened.

It was a very sad thing that God had to do to Eli and his sons. An enemy army attacked the nation of Israel, and Eli and his two sons died. Worst of all, the most important thing that the Israelites possessed, the *Ark of the Covenant*, was stolen and taken to the land of the Philistines. But even while others were being judged for sin, Samuel was being used by God. Why? Because when God spoke, Samuel listened.

Let’s learn our memory verse: **Psalm 1:2 – *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.***

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## SAMUEL'S VISION

### I Samuel 3-4

#### Teen and Adult Lesson

#### Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Fourteen

[0390]

*Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.*

- I. **WHEN WE STOP LISTENING, GOD STOPS SPEAKING.** 3:1. It says that “there was no open vision” in those days, not because God just didn’t feel like talking, or God didn’t have anything to say; but because no one had been responding to the voice of God. Everyone was doing what was right in his OWN eyes, instead of doing what God told them to do. Judges 17:6, 21:25.
- II. **GOD SPEAKS TO THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITIES THAT GOD HAS PUT IN THEIR LIVES.** 3:2-7. Note the way that Samuel responded when he thought it was Eli speaking. When God sees someone “hop to it” at the call of their proper authorities, He knows that that is a person who will respond properly to His voice. Do you want God to speak to you? How are you responding to the voices of the authorities in your life?
- III. **WE MUST HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD SO THAT WE CAN TEACH OTHERS HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE VOICE OF GOD.** 3:8-10. This incident seems to have caused Eli to recall his younger days, when he himself heard the voice of God. Even though Eli had stopped listening to God’s voice, he still knew what to do, and he instructed Samuel. There are those coming after us, and they need to hear God’s voice for their generation. It is imperative that we know what they are experiencing when they begin to hear God’s voice, and that we are able to tell them how to respond.
- IV. **WHEN GOD BEGINS TO SPEAK, WE MUST RESPOND BY YIELDING TO HIS VOICE.** 3:9-10. Notice that God did not continue speaking to Samuel until Samuel acknowledged God’s voice, and asked him to continue speaking. This is a fact that every believer ought to ponder: God called Samuel, but would not continue speaking until Samuel acknowledged his voice, and told God he was listening. How many Christians have heard God begin to speak, but never invited Him to continue speaking? They had an initial stirring, or conviction, or excitement, but they never asked God to “speak on”? Or how many of us have STOPPED asking God to speak when what we were hearing was no longer convenient for us?
- V. **WHEN YOU LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD, IT CHANGES WHO YOU ARE.** 3:19-21. Samuel quickly grew from being an unknown helper in the house of God, to having a nationwide reputation for having God’s Words. If you are listening and following God’s Words, God is changing you, and changing the impact that you are having on the world around you.

# Samuel's Vision

## I Samuel 3

[0390]

### *God Raises Up A Prophet*

#### **I. I SAMUEL 3:1-9 Samuel Learns to Answer God's Voice**

1 Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli

2-7 Samuel mistakes the LORD's voice for Eli's voice

8-9 Eli teaches Samuel how to answer God's call

#### **II. I SAMUEL 3:10-14 God Speaks to Samuel**

10 Samuel answers God's call

11-14 The LORD tells Samuel that He will judge Eli and his sons

#### **III. I SAMUEL 3:15-18 Samuel Shares His Vision with Eli**

15 Samuel is afraid to tell Eli

16-17 Eli persuades Samuel to tell him all the vision

18 Samuel tells Eli everything the LORD told him.

#### **IV. I SAMUEL 3:19-21 God Establishes Samuel as a Prophet**

19 Samuel continues to grow

20 Samuel's reputation spreads across Israel

21 The LORD appears to Samuel again

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD;  
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

**Psalm 1:2**

# Samuel's Vision

## I Samuel 3-4

[0390]

From today's Bible lesson, write "TRUE" next to each true statement below,  
and "FALSE" next to each false statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Hannah's son was named Samuel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Samuel grew up in the house of the Lord in Shiloh.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Samuel was a disobedient little boy, who didn't listen to the adults in his life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Samuel always answered right away when he was called.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. One night after Samuel went to bed, Samuel heard someone call his name.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When Samuel heard his name, he immediately ran down to Eli's room to see what he wanted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After three times, Eli knew that it was God who had called Samuel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. After the third time, God never called Samuel's name again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When God called Samuel again, Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. God showed Samuel some things that He was going to do in Israel in the future.

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD;  
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

**Psalm 1:2**

# Samuel's Vision

I Samuel 3-4

[0390]

*The answers to this week's puzzle*

- TRUE** 1. Hannah's son was named Samuel.
- TRUE** 2. Samuel grew up in the house of the Lord in Shiloh.
- FALSE** 3. Samuel was a disobedient little boy, who didn't listen to the adults in his life.
- TRUE** 4. Samuel always answered right away when he was called.
- TRUE** 5. One night after Samuel went to bed, Samuel heard someone call his name.
- TRUE** 6. When Samuel heard his name, he immediately ran down to Eli's room to see what he wanted.
- TRUE** 7. After three times, Eli knew that it was God who had called Samuel.
- FALSE** 8. After the third time, God never called Samuel's name again.
- TRUE** 9. When God called Samuel again, Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."
- TRUE** 10. God showed Samuel some things that He was going to do in Israel in the future.