

# SAMUEL WAS BORN AND CALLED

1 SAMUEL 1-3



**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 4:19

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God called to Samuel, and Samuel responded. God calls people to turn from sin and follow Jesus. Everyone who responds by trusting in Jesus is saved from sin.

**STORY POINT:** Samuel responded to God's call.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

First Samuel 1–3 reveals God’s call of salvation and the response of faith that follows for all who belong to Him. In the dark of night, God called to Samuel and invited him to become His prophet who would shed the light of His words to His people. God’s call upon Samuel’s life is one that followers of Christ still respond to today: to trust in Him as the hope of salvation and to lead others to do the same.

How do we see God at work in Samuel’s life? How does trust in the Lord play a recurring role in this story?

Samuel was an answered prayer in his mother’s life. She spent years praying to God for a son whose life she promised to dedicate back to the Lord’s service. She allowed her precious son to grow up in the Lord’s house under the care and supervision of Eli the priest. It was Eli’s instructions to Samuel that prepared the young boy to receive the Word of the Lord and to share it as instructed. Though the call to repentance was not an easy message to share, Samuel did so and grew up to become a prophet. All of Israel knew he walked with the Lord.

From an early age, Samuel was brought up to recognize the Lord and His provision. From the prayers of Hannah to the instructions of Eli, Samuel was led in the ways of the Lord and responded to God’s call with open-handed faith. Samuel’s obedience flowed from His trust in the God of His salvation. He listened to God and dedicated his life to His service. Like Samuel, we can respond to God’s call by placing faith in Jesus, turning from sin, and proclaiming His truth to the world.

Consider the relationship between trust and obedience. Does your life reflect the truth that God’s ways are good and worthy of your trust? Lead boys and girls to see the fruit of a faith-filled life in service to God. Show them that, like Samuel, they can begin leading others to follow the Lord in faith.



#### PREPARE

##### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



#### WELCOME

##### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Truths about Prayer” activity page.

**SAY** “ Today, we’ll see how a woman named Hannah prayed to God, and He answered her. We’ll learn how Hannah’s answered prayer led to Samuel being born and called by God. ”

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 3. Tell kids that the books 1 and 2 Samuel were originally written as one story. Discuss how both books focus on the lives of Samuel, Saul, and David.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 3:21 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**SAY** “ The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel by His word. The Bible is God’s Word to us, and it is how we come to know God and His Son, Jesus. In fact, the Bible tells us that Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). When we trust in Jesus, not only do we come to know God, but we also are saved from our sin so we can live with God forever. Jesus is the perfect Prophet who guides us in truth and leads us to God. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ When has God answered your prayer? How did He answer you? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that God always answers our prayers, but sometimes His answer may be a “yes” or a “no.” Discuss how we can trust God, like Hannah did, and come to Him with our frustrations, challenges, heartbreaks, desires, praises, and needs. Encourage kids to make prayer a daily habit, knowing God sees and hears them. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 5:14.)

**SAY** “ How can we respond to God’s call to obey Him? ”

Remind kids that God calls all people to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus. Tell kids that God also calls us to respond in obedience to His commands. Explain that we discover God’s will for our lives by reading the Bible. We can then use that knowledge to act in obedience through faith. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Sam. 15:22.)

**SAY** “ How can we respond to God answering our prayers for His glory? ”

Tell kids that Hannah gave Samuel back to the Lord to serve Him, and she praised Him for His grace. Discuss how we can worship God and praise Him when He answers our prayers. Tell kids that we can use the gifts He gives us to serve Him and point others to Him. Share how God receives the glory when we acknowledge He alone is worthy of our praise. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 11:36.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: AMAZING GOD



Form kids into four groups and assign each group a section of letters from the alphabet such as A–F; G–L; M–P, R; S–W. Distribute paper and pens to each group. Then challenge kids to list a characteristic of God for each letter they have been assigned. For example, kids may write Almighty, Deliverer, Just, Kind, Unchanging, etc.

**SAY** “ Hannah praised God for who He is. God has revealed Himself to us through what He has made, the Bible, and His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth to show us what God is like, and when we trust in Him, we are saved from our sin. We can praise God for who He is and how He alone is our salvation. ”

##### OPTION 2: WHAT'S THE RESPONSE?

Form kids into five groups. Provide each group with a Bible, paper, and pens. Assign each group with one of the following Bible references: Genesis 6:14,22; Genesis 12:1,4; Exodus 4:19-20; Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 2:13-14.

Direct groups to read their Bible verse and answer the following questions: 1) Who called someone? 2) What did He call the person or people to do? 3) How did the person or people respond? Then review their answers.

**SAY** “ In the Old Testament, God spoke directly to people. He called Noah to build the ark, Abraham to go to a new land, and Moses to rescue the Israelites in Egypt. These people responded by faith and obeyed God. In the New Testament, Jesus called people to follow Him. The Bible tells us that God has spoken to us through Jesus (Heb. 1:2). Just as **SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD'S CALL**, we can respond to God's call through faith in Jesus. ”

#### 2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for calling people to Himself through faith in Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Complete the Crossword” on the activity page.