

HomeWord
For Parents

During an annual visit to the Tabernacle, Hannah breathed a prayer to God, asking Him for a son. God answered that prayer, and Samuel was born. Samuel grew up with Eli, the priest in the Tabernacle. As priest he was responsible for his sons—Hophni and Phinehas. However, his sons were wicked, and Eli failed to restrain them. Eli's sons were not the only wicked ones in the land. All of Israel was continually falling into wickedness, idolatry, and sin.

Because of this sin, God's judgment was about to come through Samuel, the last judge of Israel. God spoke the message to Samuel. It was fearful news from the Lord. God planned to finally judge Eli's household and Israel as a nation. The judgment prophesied by Samuel would prove to be God's final judgment on Israel during this dark era of history.

God's judgment came to the nation of Israel through the Philistines who came against them in battle. Israel lost the battle, and the Ark of the Covenant—that the Israelites had hoped would serve as a spiritual force to bring success—was stolen.

Not only that, but the judgment God spoke on Eli and his family came about. Both of Eli's sons died in the battle with the Philistines, just as God had told Samuel. Eli, upon hearing that the Ark was taken and his sons killed, fell over in shock and died. God's glory had departed from Israel. And Samuel's prophetic declaration of the judgment of Holy God on the sin, wickedness, and idolatry of Israel was fulfilled.

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord For Family Discussion

Your friend might want to go to church, learn the Bible, or even find out about Jesus. But what if he is scared to do that, afraid of what people will think?

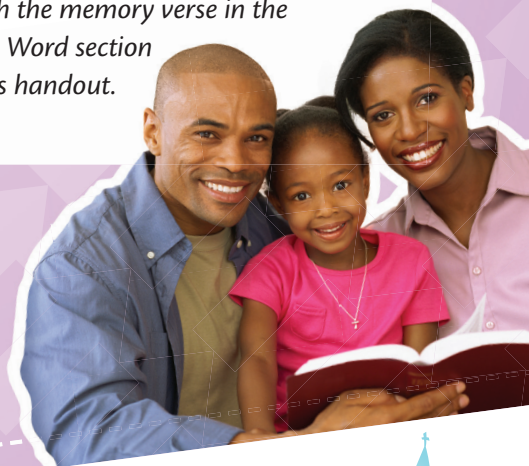
What would you say?

At first, following Jesus does seem scary. It's true. People might make fun of you because you changed. But God created us to glorify Him. Our hearts are designed to want to worship something. So, basically, we are always worshipping. And there are only two options—we worship the world or we worship God. The world is a scary thing to worship. It is always changing. It is sinful, violent, and evil. The world cannot be trusted! But God never changes. God is the Creator of everything and He holds it all together. He can be trusted. And we can know all about Him in His Word which, by the way, has never changed either. Knowing what God did for us through Jesus is wonderful news. You won't care what people think. And you won't be scared.

inWord
For Family Study

"Thy word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalm 119:11). You hope your children will turn from sin. God's Word hidden in their hearts will equip them to fight against temptation. Encourage them by memorizing God's Word together!

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



God Calls Samuel

KEY THEME

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

KEY PASSAGES

- 1 Samuel 2:23–26, 3:2–15, 4:3–4, 4:10–11



What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- Even though the message of judgment was a difficult one to bring, Samuel obeyed and delivered it. The Lord's Word came true. God's judgment came.
- God judged the Israelites by sending the Philistines in battle to defeat them. They lost the Ark of the Covenant of God. God's judgment also came to Eli and his family when they were killed for their disobedience.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Why was Samuel afraid to pass on the message from the Lord to Eli?
- 2 The message contained news of God's two-part judgment. What were the two things God was going to judge?
- 3 What happened when Israel took the Ark of the Covenant into battle with the Philistines?



1) Because it was bad news of judgment. 2) The nation of Israel and Eli's whole family. 3) They were defeated and lost the Ark of the Covenant.

Read the Word

Monday {Judges 21:25}

What were the people of Israel doing during this time?

Tuesday {1 Samuel 4:3}

What did the people want to bring into battle with them?

Wednesday {1 Samuel 3:17}

What did Eli ask Samuel?

Thursday {1 Samuel 3:18}

How did Eli react to the news from the Lord? What did he say?

Friday {1 Samuel 3:4}

Who was calling Samuel?

Saturday {1 Samuel 16:7}

Does man see the same way God sees? (This is your memory verse!)

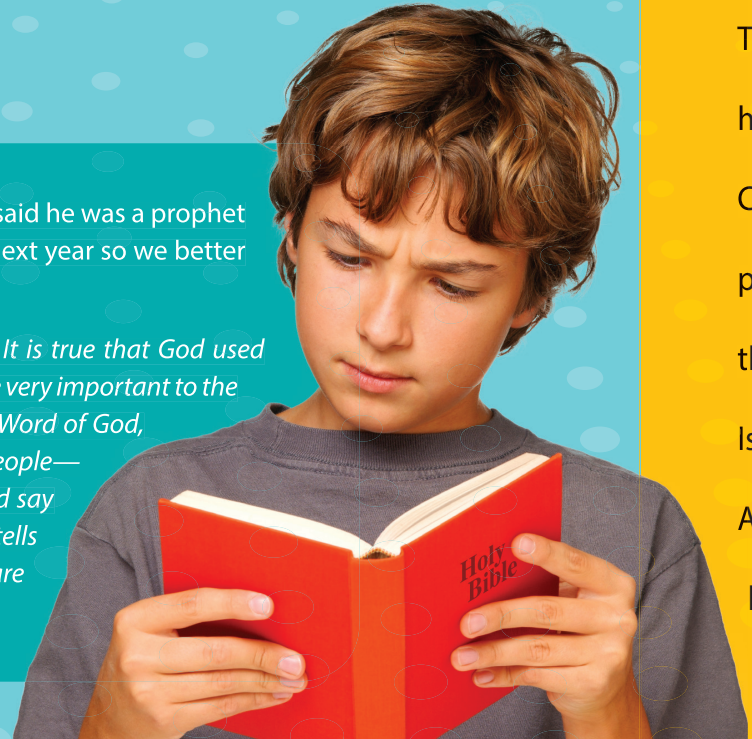
Learn the Word Fill in the blanks

But the Lord said unto Samuel, "Look not on his _____ or on the height of his _____, because I have refused him. For the Lord seeth not as _____ seeth; for man looketh on the _____ appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

LIVE the Word

Suppose your friend tells you about a man he saw on TV who said he was a prophet of God—and God told him the world was coming to an end next year so we better repent. **What would you say?**

We need to be careful of people who say they are prophets! It is true that God used prophets to give His message to His people long ago. They were very important to the early church. But the early church didn't have the completed Word of God, the Bible, like we have now. God does still work through His people—teaching us through parents, teachers, pastors, and friends. I'd say that it would be a good idea to always compare what anyone tells you about God with what the completed, true Bible says. We are blessed to have it and we should rely on it for all truth.



WHO WAS SAMUEL?

Use the words from the word bank to complete the sentences.

- The last _____ of _____.
- His mother was _____.
- He lived with _____, the priest.
- His job? To help Eli lead Israel in pure _____ of God.
- He received his first _____ from the Lord while he was sleeping.
- His first message was hard because it had to do with the _____ of Israel and Eli's household.
- Samuel was _____ to deliver the message.
- But he was _____ to the Lord and Eli and delivered the message _____.

WORD BANK

afraid	Israel	obedient
anyway	judge	worship
Eli	judgment	
Hannah	message	

Transfer the letters above to their proper place below to see what we learned from the lesson about Samuel today. Place them by shape, in order, into the blanks below.

God uses people to accomplish His plans. And He will use us if we _____, _____, and _____.

JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

Unscramble the letters to make words that tell what really happened in the account of Israel found in 1 Samuel 4:1–18.

The Israelites were losing in their _____ with the Philistines. What new plan did they try to help ensure their _____? They wanted to bring the _____ of the Covenant onto the battle field as a kind of good _____ charm. The people had more _____ in the thing the Lord had given them than they did in _____ Himself! Bad idea. The Israelites were defeated and fled to their _____. The Ark of the _____ was captured. _____ and his sons died. _____ had come upon Israel.



SNEAK PEEK
Israel is crying out for a king. Will God give the people what they want? Find out next week!

ANSWERS: 1) Judge, Israel 2) Hannah 3) Eli 4) worship 5) message 6) judgment 7) afraid 8) obedient, anyway ANSWER: listen, learn, and obey

ANSWERS: battle, success, Ark, luck, faith, God, tents, Covenant, Eli, judgment