

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson One Hundred Nine: The Lord Calls Samuel

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: I Samuel 3:1-21
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about the Holy Spirit
Learning Objectives: (1) The word of the Lord was rare in the days when Samuel ministered to the Lord under Eli. (2) When the Lord first called Samuel, Samuel did not yet know the Lord. (3) The Lord told Samuel that He was going to punish the house of Eli forever because Eli's sons were blaspheming God and Eli did not restrain them. (4) When Samuel told Eli what the Lord said, Eli said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him." (5) Samuel grew, the Lord was with him, and all Israel knew that he was a prophet of the Lord. (6) The Holy Spirit gives spiritual life.
- Opening** Get students' attention by using a pre-planned silence signal.
Have students sit in rows or a semi-circle facing you.
Open in prayer asking God's blessing upon the time.
- Bible Facts** Materials: Song visuals &/or props as needed
5-10 minutes Strategies: Sing It with Hand &/or Body Motions as appropriate
Instructions: Ask students to help lead songs about the Bible & the Judges. Encourage students to think about what they are singing. Include actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Leader Read Aloud and Student Pantomime
Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-21
Instructions: Leader reads aloud expressively using different voices for the different characters. As Scripture is read, students perform roles by pantomiming actions described in the reading. Leader should pause often to allow students to respond and should cue students as needed.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #3 "Work of the Holy Spirit," add "Spiritual Life Giver"
10 minutes Strategy: Clothes Clues
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Clothes clues are written on small pieces of paper, folded, and placed into a container. A clue is pulled out and read aloud. Only those that fit the clue can share. Examples: wearing black shoes, wearing red, wearing NO hair accessory...
Questions:
- When Samuel was a young man he ministered to the Lord under Eli. At this time, was the word of the Lord common? (No)
 - Where were Eli and Samuel sleeping? (In the temple of the Lord)
 - What was physically wrong with Eli? (He could not see.)
 - Who did Samuel originally think was calling him? (Eli)
 - When Samuel thought Eli was calling him, he ran to Eli and said what? ("Here I am.")
 - How many times did the Lord call Samuel before Eli realized that it was the Lord? (Three)
 - Eli told Samuel to say to the Lord, "Speak, Lord, for your servant blank." (Hears)
 - The Lord told Samuel that he was going to punish Eli's house forever because "his sons were blaspheming blank" (God)
 - Eli's sons had scorned the offerings to the Lord and had treated the Lord's sacrifices with contempt. God said, "...the iniquity of Eli's house shall NOT be atoned for by blank or offerings..." (Sacrifices)
 - When Eli heard what the Lord had told Samuel, he accepted it and said, "It is the blank. Let him do what seems good to him." (Lord)
 - Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. All Israel knew that Samuel was a prophet of the blank. (Lord)

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Transitional Thought: Samuel did not know the Lord until the Lord called him. Then the Lord was with him as he grew and became a prophet of the Lord. When an unbeliever is called and puts his/her faith in Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice for sins, the Holy Spirit gives spiritual life to the new believer and stays with person as s/he grows in the Lord.

Show students word poster #3 and have them act out the words – Work of the Holy Spirit: Prayer Interpreter (place hands at heart and then extend toward heaven); Convictor of Sin (turn two thumbs down and then point emphatically); Spiritual Life Giver (place hand over heart with fingers in the shape on an "L")

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is and for the work of Jesus Christ the Messiah and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Materials: White board with markers and eraser
Strategy: Hand Motions
Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:

Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do in salvation?

Answer: The Holy Spirit gives life to believers in Jesus Christ.

Verse: "It is the Spirit who gives life..." John 6:63a

Simple hand motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students repeat the passage a few times using words and hand motions. Students then repeat the passage leaving out the words that have hand motions. Next, students repeat the passage using hand motions and words from memory.

Bible Craft As time allows Materials: Cups, soil, seeds, markers sample project
Activity: Sample of Life Plant
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a cup. Have student copy or glue on the cup the words "It is the Spirit who gives life." John 6:63. (Words can be handwritten with black marker or printed from a computer for students to cut out and glue.) Assist students to fill his/her cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with soil. Assist student to plant seed(s) and water lightly. Discuss how the believer's growth in the Lord is similar to the growth of a plant – need for water, sunlight, weeding, etc. is similar to the believer's need for the Word, prayer, sanctification, etc. (For a fast-growing plant, use bean seeds.)

Alternative: If seeds and soil are unavailable, the same discussion may take place while students make paper plants at various stages of growth.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.