

## Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

### Primary 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 lead songs about the Bible & the Judges, including visuals and motions as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use  
15 minutes Strategies: Character and Pantomime Reading  
Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-21  
Instructions: Make sure that students have the same Bible translation as the Leader. Students carry out dialogue between characters like a reader's theater. As Scripture is read, other students perform roles by pantomiming actions described in the reading. Leader should prepare ahead by marking the passage based upon the character that is speaking. (Characters: Eli, Samuel, Lord)
- 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 whom? (Eli)
  - At this time, was the word of the Lord common; were there frequent visions? (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)
  - What did Samuel do when he thought Eli was calling him? (Ran to Eli and said "Here I am.")
  - How many times did the Lord call Samuel before Eli realized that it was the Lord? (Three)
  - What did Eli tell Samuel to say to the Lord? ("Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.")
  - The Lord told Samuel that he was going to punish Eli's house forever because "his sons were blaspheming blank" (God)
  - The Lord also said that Eli did not blank his sons. (Restrain)
  - 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 blank..." (Sacrifices, offerings)
  - When Eli heard what the Lord had told Samuel, he said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems blank to him." (Good)

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- Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. What did all Israel know about Samuel? (That he was a prophet of the Lord.)

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** Materials: White board with word cards

10-15 minutes Strategy: Scrambled Words

Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on word cards & taped to 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*

Students read the passage in unison a few times. Students cover their eyes as the words are re-arranged, scrambling the passage. Students uncover their eyes and re-arrange words into the correct word order. Students read the passage in unison after they have corrected it. The process is repeated until students have memorized the passage.

**Bible Craft** Materials: Cups, soil, seeds, markers sample project

As time allows Activity: Sample of Life Plant

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a cup. Have student write on the cup "It is the Spirit who gives life." John 6:63. 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.