

Bible Stories for Adults

The Birth and Call of Samuel

1 Samuel 1 - 7

Opening

Gathering: Share a time when you recognized God's voice and direction.

Today's Focus: God wants to communicate with us. He wants to hear us and He wants us to hear Him.

Key Verses: *We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.* Romans 8:26

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Faithfulness During the Judges (*Judges 21:25*)

How effective was Israel's leadership during the time of the judges?

Judges 21:25

How faithful were God's people during the time of the judges?

Judges 2:10-13, 18-19

How actively did God reveal Himself to this unfaithful people?

Judges 4:4, 6:7-8a

1 Samuel 3:1

Spiritual Leaders (*1 Samuel 2:12-36*)

Where was Israel's central place of worship during the time of the judges?

Joshua 18:1a

How faithful were the priests of God's tabernacle at Shiloh?

1 Samuel 1:3; 2:12, 17 (12-17)

Did Eli support his sons' actions?

1 Samuel 2:22-25

How did God feel about what they did?

1 Samuel 2:27a, 29-31, 34-35 (27-36)

A Valentine's Love (*1 Samuel 1:1-8*)

Who is one man who tried to live faithfully?

1 Samuel 1:1-3

Though he had two wives, which was his true valentine?

1 Samuel 1:4-5

Where have we seen similar polygamy with a preferential love toward one wife?

Genesis 29:30-31

How did Peninnah treat Hannah because of Elkanah's preferential love?

1 Samuel 1:6-7

How did Elkanah respond to his valentine's sadness?

1 Samuel 1:8

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Take it to the Lord in Prayer (1 Samuel 1:9-10)

How did Hannah respond to her barrenness?

1 Samuel 1:9-10

How are we to respond to our troubles?

James 5:13-16

Psalms 50:15

When should we pray?

Ephesians 6:18

Why should we pray?

Matthew 7:7 (7-11)

Hannah's Drunken Prayer (1 Samuel 1:11-20)

For what did Hannah pray and what was her promise?

1 Samuel 1:11

What was the meaning behind the promise that no razor would be used on his head?

Numbers 6:1-2, 5 (1-21)

How did Eli interpret Hannah's emotional prayer?

1 Samuel 1:12-14

What did Hannah say she was pouring out instead of wine or beer?

1 Samuel 1:15-18

Did God hear and answer Hannah's "drunken" prayer?

1 Samuel 1:19-20

Samuel, the Baby Nazirite (1 Samuel 1:21-2:10)

Why didn't Hannah go to Shiloh to worship after Samuel was born?

1 Samuel 1:21-23

Did Hannah remember her promise to give Samuel to God as he got older?

1 Samuel 1:24-28

How did Hannah's prayer change after giving Samuel to God?

1 Samuel 2:1 (1-10)

What other parents of *Nazirites* praised God in response for their children?

Judges 13:19 (2-25)

Luke 1:67 (67-79)

Luke 1:46 (46-55)

Mama's Child Grows (1 Samuel 2:18-21)

Did Hannah forget about Samuel after she gave him to God?

1 Samuel 2:18-19

Did Hannah remain barren after Samuel?

1 Samuel 2:20-21

How did Samuel fit as a young Nazirite boy in the High Priest's home?

1 Samuel 2:26

Whose childhood is described in a similar manner?

Luke 2:52

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The Lord Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3)

Where did Samuel sleep?

1 Samuel 3:1-3

What did Samuel do when he heard his name called in the night?

1 Samuel 3:4-5

What did Eli realize after this happened twice more?

1 Samuel 3:6-9

What message did God have for Samuel?

1 Samuel 3:10-14

Was Eli upset when he learned what Samuel had been told?

1 Samuel 3:15-18

Did God come to Samuel to tell him about Eli or for some other purpose?

1 Samuel 3:19-21

The Philistine Menace (1 Samuel 4:1-4)

Who was Israel's enemy during Samson's time as judge?

Judges 13:1

Had the Philistines been subdued by Samuel's time?

1 Samuel 4:1-2

What did Israel believe was the cause of their defeat? What did they do?

1 Samuel 4:3-4

Why had Israel lost in the first place?

Judges 3:10 (Joshua 9:14)

You Can't Force God (1 Samuel 4:5-11)

Would bringing the ark to the battlefield ensure success from God's presence?

Judges 4:6-9

What effect did the presence of the ark have on the Israelites?

1 Samuel 4:5

What effect did the presence of the ark have on the Philistines?

1 Samuel 4:6-9

Did the ark have the intended effect as both sides expected?

1 Samuel 4:10-11

How did this event fulfill the message God gave to Samuel?

1 Samuel 4:17-18 (12-18)

Was God referring to the demise of Eli's family when He said that ears would tingle (3:11)?

1 Samuel 4:22 (19-22)

The Tour of the Ark (1 Samuel 5)

How did God display His power to the Philistines even through the capture of the ark?

1 Samuel 5:1-4

How did God inform all in Ashdod that He was in control?

1 Samuel 5:6-8

How did God make sure that all Philistines knew that He was in control?

1 Samuel 5:9-12

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Send It Back (*1 Samuel 6*)

What did the Philistines decide to do to stop the problem?

1 Samuel 6:1-2

Who were the Philistines trying to appease by returning the ark? The Israelites?

1 Samuel 6:3, 5 (3-6)

How would the Philistines send it back?

1 Samuel 6:7-9 (7-12)

How did Israel respond when the ark was returned?

1 Samuel 6:13-14 (13-18)

What happened when Israelites curiously looked into the ark?

1 Samuel 6:19 (6:19-7:1)

Lessons From the Loss of the Ark (*1 Samuel 7*)

How did the Israelites respond to God's lack of protection in the loss of battles and the ark?

1 Samuel 7:2

What was significant at this time for the Israelites about Samuel's name?

1 Samuel 1:20

What was the central lesson for the Israelites?

1 Samuel 7:3

How did the Israelites respond to Samuel's message?

1 Samuel 7:4-6

How did God bless Israel after they returned to Him?

1 Samuel 7:13-14 (7-14)

This sounds like the classic cycle of a judge. Did Samuel qualify as a judge?

1 Samuel 7:15-17

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Do I recognize God's presence even though He doesn't reveal Himself to me directly?
(*1 Samuel 3:1, 17-18; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 139:7-9; Luke 10:21-24; Galatians 1:15-16*)
2. Do I take seriously and reverently the call God has given me to lead others spiritually?
(*1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-36; Luke 12:48; Ephesians 4:1-13; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; James 3:1*)
3. Are my prayers focused on myself or on God?
Are my prayers filled with ACTS - Adore, Confess, Thanks, Supplication?
(*1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 95:6-7; 1 John 1:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6*)
4. How have I dedicated my life to the Lord? How can I be more of a 21st Century Nazirite?
(*1 Samuel 1:11, 28; Numbers 6; Joshua 24:14-24; 1 Chronicles 22:19a; Matthew 22:36-40*)
5. Do I hear and recognize God's voice and guidance in my life?
(*1 Samuel 3; 1 Kings 22:1-28; Job 33:14; Psalm 29; John 10:1-5, 25-30*)