

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of November 19, 2017

Timeless Truth: God uses willing hearts to serve him.

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 1, 3, 8-10:9

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 10 Messages from God

Memory Verse: As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him. He made everything Samuel said come true. 1 Samuel 3:19



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- **How can we obey and listen to God's call?**
- **The Israelites focused on their immediate desire for a king on earth so that they could be like other nations instead of trusting God as their king (and waiting for the promised Savior). Is there a circumstance in your life you would like God to change? How can you trust in God's supreme knowledge and bigger-picture plan over your immediate desires? Where can you find God at work in those circumstances?**
- **How does God call us to be different than those who may not believe in Him?**
- **Why is it sometimes hard to put God first and follow His commands instead of focusing on what our culture tells us is important?**
- **What are ways we can serve God? Pray as a family about how God might call you to serve him in your daily lives, as well as during the advent season in particular. This may involve packing a shoebox for a child in Mexico, participating in the Alternative Christmas Market, spending time with a lonely neighbor, or extending an invitation to your Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner to someone you know would otherwise be alone.**

EXTRA MILE

God called out to Samuel in the middle of the night. When Eli finally figures out that it's the Lord speaking to Samuel, he tells Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). What great advice! The Lord wants us to be ready and eager to hear him anytime – day or night. Construct an old-school "telephone" by using plastic or paper cups, string and tape. Kite string or yarn works well. Once you gather the needed materials, poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup with a pencil. Thread the string through each hole, tie a large knot and then tape the knot on the bottom of the inside of the cups. When you pull the string tight, you'll be able to hear each other when one person speaks softly into the cup and another person listens with the cup to his ear. See if you can say special messages to each other around the corner of a wall or down the stairs. Put the string under furniture or through the banister and see if it works. How long can you make the string and still communicate with each other?

When you're done experimenting, ask:

- What was the hardest part of communicating using the old-fashioned telephone?
- God doesn't speak to us through cups (though He could if He wanted). What ways does God speak to us today? (Through the Bible; through godly advice from parents or pastors; through our prayers; through circumstances.)
- How can we make sure we are listening to God in our daily lives?
- How might you feel called to respond to God's word?

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you for loving us unconditionally and listening to us when we pray. Help us to listen, respond, and follow you in all we do, so that we may grow closer to you and better reflect your love and light to the world. Help us to do these things in your name, in a way that is authentic and glorifies you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *God Answers Prayer*, pg 69 - break on pg 71 (blue-pg 83 - break on bottom of pg 85) (3 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 1

Summary: Hannah prayed for a son and God answered.

Do together: Have each child write a prayer request on a slip of paper (or write it for them). Date each slip of paper and place it with the others in a jar to be prayed over all three days and in future days.

Think about: Discuss each prayer request. Talk about the likelihood of each request being answered how we want. Are they possible? Impossible? Remind the children, using Hannah as an example, that God can do anything. Like Hannah, we can put our requests before God and expect that he will do what is best.

Also read: Matthew 6:9-13

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for everything you have already done. Now, we set before you these simple prayer requests. To the God of the universe, these are not difficult at all. We trust you will do what is best for us. So, we thank you in advance for answers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *Hearing God*, break on page 71 – top of pg 73 (blue- break on pg 85 – break on pg 87) (2 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 3

Summary: Samuel needed help learning to hear God.

Do together: Play the “Calling to Service” game. Have the children line up at the far end of the room. Then call each one by name. If you say the name twice, the child can take a full step toward you. If you say the name only once, they must remain still or be penalized. When called only once, for every step the child takes, he/she must step backward two steps. Repeat to end of the game.

Think about: Talk about God's persistence when he calls. Use Samuel as an example. God called him three times before Samuel knew that it was God and not Eli calling. God continued to call a fourth time. Why do you think God was so persistent with Samuel? Why do you suppose he kept calling Samuel and didn't just give up and call someone else?

Also read: Isaiah 6:8

Prayer: Please, God, help us to know when you are calling. We want to hear your voice and trust in your decisions for our lives. Please help us to be more like Samuel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *God's Way* –pg 73 - end (blue- break on pg 87- end) (7 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 8-10

Summary: God's people didn't want to follow God's way; neither did their first king.

Do together: Tell the children this story: A bunch of people were sitting on a fence minding their own business. Along came Jesus on one side and Satan on the other. They both beckoned people to follow. Little by little everyone dropped off the fence and began to follow their leader. Many chose to follow Christ; others chose to follow Satan, until only one man remained on the fence. Jesus had left with his followers. Satan had left with his followers. But Satan came back. “Come on,” he said to the guy on the fence. “Let's go.” The man on the fence shook his head. “No,” he said. “I'm sitting on the fence. I'm not going to choose one or the other. Perhaps I can have both.” Satan looked back and grinned. “You have to come with me,” he said. “I own the fence.”

Think about: Talk about God's way versus man's way. Why is it better to go God's way? What can happen when man turns away from God and does his own thing? Can man be restored to God after disobeying? Read also: Joshua 24:15

Prayer: Lord, I want to choose you. Help me every day to make good choices; choices that please you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.