

October 13, 2013

Lesson 6: Call of Samuel



1 Samuel 3:1-21

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!'

and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Call of Samuel

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The Big Story Truth: God uses even young children, like Samuel, to be messengers of truth! We are never too young to be used by God to do big and important things!

About This Scripture Passage: Some kids will probably remember that we met Samuel in our Sunday School classes last year. When we talked about Samuel last year, though, it was Baby Samuel we were talking about. Samuel’s mother was a woman named Hannah who had never been able to have children. Hannah prayed, asking God for a child, and Samuel was born. Part of Hannah’s promise to God was that if she had a child, that she would bring him to Shiloh (the place of worship) to serve God. In this passage, Samuel is just a young boy. When he hears a voice calling out to him, he assumes it is

the priest, Eli, who is calling to him. But the third time Samuel heard the voice, Eli told him to call out to God. God indeed was the one speaking to young Samuel. God would use Samuel in many ways throughout his life. Samuel would become a prophet to speak to God’s people on God’s behalf. He would also be the one to anoint the first kings of Israel... including another young boy, King David!



Making the Connection: Often times kids feel like they can't make a difference because they are "just kids." In God's eyes, there is no such thing as being "just a kid." Over and over in scripture we see how God knows children even before they are born. This is one of the stories where God speaks to a child to lead the adults! This is an empowering message to our kids. God can and does work through them!

Where in the World Are We? The story takes place at Shiloh, which was an important place of worship. This was where the Ark of the Covenant (which carried the tablets of the 10 Commandments) was kept and so it was the central place of worship.

For Your Reflection:

When have you felt like you weren't "enough" to make a difference?

When have you felt valued and empowered to use the gifts God has given you?

