

Lesson 1
Samuel's Early Life
(1 Samuel 1:1 – 3:21)

Questions

1. Who was Hannah and what was her condition in life (1:1-8)?

2. What did Hannah do about her condition (1:9-11)?

3. What did Eli think about Hannah's actions and what was her response (1:12-18)?

4. What did the Lord do for Hannah and what does the name "Samuel" mean (1:19-20)?

5. When did Hannah bring Samuel to the tabernacle at Shiloh and what did she do there (1:21-28)?

6. How would you summarize Hannah's view of the Lord that she presented in her prayer (song) of thanksgiving (2:1-10)?

7. What did Samuel do while he was a child (2:11, 18-21, 26)?

8. How did the sons of Eli show that they were base (worthless) and sinful men (2:12-17, 22)?

9. What did Eli say to his sons when he heard about their sinful behavior (2:22-26)?

10. What was the main point of the Lord's rhetorical questions asked of Eli through an unnamed prophet (2:27-29)?

11. What did the Lord promise to do to Eli and his house (2:30-36)?
12. What did Samuel do each time the Lord called him and why (3:1-9)?
13. What did the Lord tell Samuel in a vision about Eli and his house (3:10-14)?
14. What did Samuel tell Eli concerning his vision from the Lord and how did Eli react (3:15-18)?
15. What did the Lord do for Samuel as he continued to grow (3:19 – 4:1)?

Digging Deeper

1. Locate the following on a map: Ramathaim-zophim and Ephraim (1:1), Shiloh (1:3, 9; 3:21), Ramah (1:19; 2:11), and Dan and Beer-sheba (3:20).
2. What tribe did Elkanah and Samuel belong to (1:1; 1 Chron. 6:27-28, 33-34)? What tribe did Eli belong to (1:3; 2:27-28; 1 Chron. 24:1-3)?
3. What is the “the temple of the Lord” in 1:9 and 3:3?
4. What does “my horn” (2:1) and “the horn” (2:10) refer to? What is “Sheol” (2:6)? What are the “pillars of the earth” (2:8)? Who is the “king” and the “anointed” (2:10)?
5. What was the law of the burnt offering for the priests and how were the sons of Eli violating it (2:12-17; see Lev. 3:2-4, 8-10, 13-16 and 7:6, 28-36; Deut. 18:3)?

6. Who was the “faithful priest” that the Lord raised up (2:35)?

7. What action of restraint did Eli refuse to take toward his sons (3:13; see Deut. 17:12; 21:18-21)?

8. What do the following words mean: “let none of his words fall to the ground” (3:19)?

Applications for Today

1. It is good to go regularly for worship and sacrifice to the Lord (1:3, 21; Heb. 10:24-25).
2. When you have problems, pray. It is important to make your requests made known to the Lord and pour out your soul to him (1:10-11, 15; Rom. 1:10; Phil. 4:6; Col. 1:9).
3. When you make a vow to the Lord, keep it (1:11; Rom. 1:31).
4. Don't assume the worst in others and be suspicious of them before you know the facts (1:13; 1 Tim. 6:4).
5. The Lord answers our prayers, remembers our requests, and does not forget them (1:11, 17, 19, 23, 27; 2:20-21; Heb. 6:10).
6. Children are a gift from God (1:19; Psa. 127:3-5).
7. Don't forget to return and thank the Lord for your answered prayers (2:1; Luke 17:17-18).
8. The Lord is great and he is to be praised for his greatness (2:2-10; Rev. 4:8-11).
9. The best time persons learn to serve the Lord is when they are still young and a child (2:11, 18-21, 26; 3:19-21; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:15).
10. We should not sin as the Lord's priests, but present a good example to those around us (2:12-17, 22-25; 1 Pet. 2:1-12).
11. God's people can “know the Lord” (intellectually) and not “know the Lord” (reverently and obediently) at the same time (2:12; Judges 2:10; Hos. 5:4).

12. You cannot out give God (2:21; 2 Cor. 9:8-15).
13. Undisciplined children bring shame to their parents (2:23-25; Prov. 29:15, 17).
14. Like young Samuel, you can be raised in a sinful environment and still serve the Lord properly (2:26; 1 Cor. 15:33-34; Rom. 13:11-14; Eph. 5:11-14).
15. When the Lord gives you great privileges, don't waste them (2:27-29; Mt. 25:29).
16. Don't honor family or friends above the Lord (2:29-30; Mt. 10:37).
17. The Lord will judge us for how we have raised our family (2:30-36; 3:10-14; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21).
18. When some prove themselves unworthy and unfaithful, God needs faithful individuals to take their place. Will that be you (2:35; Acts 1:15-26)?
19. When God calls, we should answer that call. Our attitude toward the Lord should be like that of Samuel who said, "Speak, for thy servant hears" (3:9-10; Heb. 12:25).
20. Restrain your children from bad behavior (3:13; Prov. 13:24; Heb. 12:5-11).
21. Sometimes we have to overcome our fears and tell people the truth. Speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to others no matter how hard it is to do so (3:15-18; Eph. 4:15).