

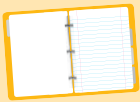


Samuel—God’s Priest and Prophet

1 Samuel 1

God appoints leaders to govern His people.

The success of a leader depends on his obedience to God.



From our study of the judges of Israel, it is clear that they were ordinary people—not perfect and often not very good leaders. However, the last judge over Israel was a Godly leader. His name was Samuel, which means “asked of God.” His mother, Hannah, prayed to have a baby and then dedicated him to God before he was born. Remember, Samson’s parents also dedicated him for God’s service. However, the character of Samson and Samuel could not have been more different.

Have you ever wanted desperately for God to do something for you? What were you willing to do? The fact that Hannah wanted a child desperately can be seen in 1 Samuel chapter one. Read the chapter to find out what she did that indicated how badly she wanted a son.

Discussion and Notebook Work

1. Record the memory verse and file.
“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.” (Proverbs 20:11)
2. Practice the memory verse to recite at the end of the week.
3. Complete a **sequence chain** for the birth and dedication of Samuel in 1 Samuel chapter one.
4. Use a **T-chart** to compare and contrast the character traits of Samson and Samuel. (See the special feature in your Bible, “People in Bible Times” or special tools found in other Bibles for additional information on Judges chapter thirteen and 1 Samuel chapter one.)
5. Record and answer the reason questions.
 - a. Does God always answer our prayers?
 - b. Does God always give us what we want?
6. Begin a prayer journal to record your prayer requests and how God answered them.





Samuel's Call

1 Samuel 2-3

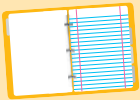
In 1 Samuel chapter one, you learned about the faith and character of Hannah, Samuel's mother, and how God answered her prayer for a son. She kept her vow (promise to God) by taking Samuel to live and serve in God's temple when he was very young. We know this from 1 Samuel 2:18-19, "But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice." *Minister* means to attend and serve, or to give things needed. This shows us that even children can serve God. In 1 Samuel 2:26 we learn, "And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men." You might be interested to know that Luke 2:52 says something similar about Jesus, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Learn how Samuel received his call from God by reading 1 Samuel chapter three. You will learn about the beginning of his training, which led to his becoming a priest, prophet, and judge over Israel.



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Discussion and Notebook Work

1. Use your Webster's 1828 *Dictionary* and Bible dictionary-concordance to define *stature* and *favor*. Write a sentence using each word to demonstrate your understanding of the meaning.
2. Create a page similar to the one below and complete it with what you learned about Samuel's character from 1 Samuel chapter three.
3. Continue to add to your prayer journal.



Samuel's Character

Scripture	Conclusions about Samuel's Character
1 Samuel 3:1 He ministered before the Lord under Eli.	<i>Samuel was obedient and humble. Samuel was willing to be trained by Eli.</i>
1 Samuel 3:5 "And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' "	
1 Samuel 3:7a "Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD."	
1 Samuel 3:9 "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."	
1 Samuel 3:15a "Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD."	
1 Samuel 3:18a "So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him."	
1 Samuel 3:19 "The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground."	
1 Samuel 3:20 All Israel knew that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord.	