

Eli and Boy Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

MAIN POINT: God spoke to Samuel.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

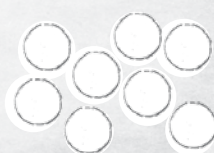
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Hannah—an ordinary Israelite during the time of the judges—wanted nothing more than to be a mother, but the Lord had closed her womb. (1 Sam. 1:5) Each year when her husband went to Shiloh to worship and to sacrifice to God, Hannah went up to the house of the Lord. One evening, Hannah returned to present herself to the Lord. She wept and prayed, asking God to give her a son and vowing to dedicate him to God. Hannah's cries to the Lord were so fervent that Eli the priest rebuked her because he thought she was drunk.

“I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord,” Hannah explained. Eli blessed

Hannah and said, “May God answer your prayers.” God answered Hannah’s prayers. Hannah had a son. She named him Samuel, which means “requested from God.”

When Samuel was old enough to be weaned, Hannah took him to Shiloh and presented him to Eli. First Samuel 2 records Hannah’s triumphant prayer. Hannah glorified God for His sovereignty, then she went home with her husband, leaving Samuel to serve God under the leadership of Eli the priest. Samuel faithfully served God. Hannah visited Samuel each year and brought him a robe.

Now Eli had two sons of his own who were also priests. Eli had trouble controlling his sons. They were wicked men with no regard for God. Eli rebuked his children, but they did not listen. So God rejected Eli’s family.

Review 1 Samuel 3. Note how Samuel responded to God’s call: “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” Samuel was the prophet Israel needed to give them God’s guidance. He became a prophet of God and was the last judge of Israel. Help preschoolers identify Samuel’s role as God’s messenger. Help them connect Samuel to Jesus, who came to earth not only to tell what God is like, but to show what He is like.



The BIBLE STORY

Eli and Boy Samuel

1 Samuel 1–3

A man named Elkanah (el KAY nuh) lived with his wife, Hannah, in the hill country. Hannah was sad because she did not have any children.

Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to worship God. Hannah went with Elkanah. She cried and would not eat. Elkanah saw that Hannah was upset. “What’s wrong, Hannah?” he asked. “Don’t I make you happy?” But Hannah was not happy. She wanted a baby.

Hannah prayed to God, “Lord, if You give me a son, I will give him to You. He will serve You all of his life.” A priest named Eli was sitting near the doorpost of the tabernacle. Eli **watched Hannah pray**. He thought there was something wrong with Hannah.

“I am very sad,” Hannah told Eli. “I’ve been telling God how I feel.”

Eli said, “Go in peace. May God answer your prayers.”

Hannah and Elkanah went home, and **God did answer her prayers**. After some time, **Hannah gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel.**

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to Eli at the tabernacle. “God has answered my prayers!” Hannah said. Hannah worshiped God. Then she left Samuel with Eli to serve God, and she went home. Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe. God gave Hannah many more children.

Now Eli was getting old. His sons were priests in the tabernacle, but Eli heard that his sons were not obeying God. Eli asked them, “Why are you doing bad things?” But

they did not listen to him.

Samuel grew older and obeyed God. One night, Eli went to bed. Samuel was lying in the tabernacle when he heard someone's voice.

“Here I am,” Samuel replied. He ran to Eli. “Here I am; you called me.”

God called Samuel three times. Each time, Samuel ran to Eli. “Here I am,” he said. But Eli did not call Samuel. Who called Samuel? Eli knew it must be God. Eli told Samuel what to say.

Samuel went back to his place. God called, “Samuel, Samuel!”

“Speak, for Your servant is listening,” Samuel said. God told Samuel that He was going to punish Eli's family for disobeying Him.

The next day, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. It was bad news for Eli. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God had said, so Samuel did.

As Samuel grew, God did everything He said He would do. God was with Samuel, and everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God's messenger.

Christ Connection: Samuel told people what God is like. Jesus came to earth as a human. His life showed the world what God is like.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son, and Hannah praised God. Like the Psalmist says, God is good and His love is eternal. (Ps. 136:1) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Eli and Boy Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

MAIN POINT: God spoke to Samuel.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

Welcome time

- “Help, Help, Help” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Mommies and Babies” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Invite preschoolers to draw a line connecting each baby with its mommy.

SAY • Great job matching the babies to their mommies. In today’s Bible story, a woman named Hannah wanted a baby more than anything. She prayed and asked God to give her a baby, and God did. Hannah had a little boy named Samuel. God had a special plan for Samuel. Let’s find out what that plan was.



- beanbag

Option: Consider downloading a child-friendly sound effects app. Play the sounds from your mobile device.

Guess the sound

Hold a beanbag and make a familiar sound with your mouth. Examples include a car honking, an airplane soaring, a bee buzzing, a clock ticking, a bird chirping, a dog barking, a cat meowing, and so forth. Invite preschoolers

to raise their hand to guess the sound. If a preschooler guesses correctly, toss the beanbag to her and invite her to make a sound for the group to guess.

SAY • Good job guessing the sound. In today’s Bible story, a boy name Samuel heard a sound. The sound was a voice calling his name. Samuel thought the priest Eli was calling for him, but he was wrong. Let’s discover who was calling for Samuel.

Play “deliver the message” relay

Form teams of no more than four preschoolers. Place a set of the “Messages” cards for each team at one end of the room. Invite teams to line up single file at the other end of the room. Give an envelope to the first child in each line. When you say go, the child with the envelope will walk to his team’s cards, place one card in the envelope, walk back to the next child in line, and give her the envelope. The action is repeated until the team has all four of their cards in their envelope. The first team to deliver their envelope with all four cards to an adult leader wins.

SAY • In today’s Bible story, we are going to learn about the last judge, Samuel. Samuel was God’s messenger. Like you delivered your messages, Samuel gave God’s messages to the people.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Call preschoolers by name to invite them to move to Bible study.

- “Messages” printable, 1 set per team
- envelopes, 1 per team

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Eli and Boy Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

MAIN POINT: God spoke to Samuel.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

Introduce the Bible story

SAY • Have you ever wanted something really, really badly? In our Bible story today, a woman named Hannah wanted a baby. Hannah wanted a baby so badly that she cried and would not eat. Hannah prayed and told God how she felt. We will hear how God answered Hannah’s prayer in today’s Bible story.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1.

SAY • God gives us His words in the Bible. The Bible is true. Everything in the Bible happened in real life. There is no other book like the Bible.

Show the Bible story video “Eli and Boy Samuel” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided.

Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Hannah wanted a baby boy, so she prayed. God heard her prayers and gave her a son, Samuel. God gave Samuel a special job. **God spoke to Samuel** and told Him what He was going to do. God chose

- Bible
- “Eli and Boy Samuel” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Samuel to be His messenger to God's people, Israel. Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Why was Hannah sad? (*She did not have any children.*)
2. What did Hannah promise to do if God gave her a son? (*give him to God to serve Him*)
3. Who called out to Samuel? (*God*)
4. What did Samuel say to God? (*Speak, for Your servant is listening.*)
5. What did God tell Samuel? (*God was going to punish Eli's family for disobeying Him.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • This is the last week for our big picture question and answer. Who knows the answer? ***Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.*** God chose Samuel to be His messenger. Samuel told people what God is like. Jesus came to earth as a human. His life showed the world what God is like.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Isaiah 33:22. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song “He Will Save Us.”

SAY • There is no one like God. He rules over everything. He is the Judge, lawgiver, and King. Everything happens according to His plan. God alone can save us, and He alone deserves worship.

• Key Passage Poster
• “He Will Save Us” song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: Eli and Boy Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

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KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.



• blindfold (optional)

Guess who called you

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle. Choose one preschooler to sit in the middle with his eyes closed or blindfolded.

Motion for one of the preschoolers in the circle to call out the name of the preschooler in the middle. Invite the preschooler in the middle to open his eyes and guess who called his name. Play until each preschooler has a turn.

SAY • Samuel thought Eli was calling for him, but it was really God. Eli told Samuel what to say. **God spoke to Samuel.** Samuel told people what God is like.

When Jesus came to earth, His life showed the world what God is like.

Make postcards

Provide an unlined index card for each preschooler. Guide children to draw a picture on one side of the index card. On the other side, use a marker to draw a line down the middle of the card creating one side for a message and the other side for an address. Invite preschoolers to think of a message about Jesus they could share with someone. Transcribe their message onto the postcard. Collect postcards to mail or send postcards home with preschoolers encouraging them

• unlined index cards
• crayons or markers

Tip: Consider sending the postcards to a ministry your church supports.

to send them to a friend this week.

SAY • God spoke to Samuel. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God’s messenger. Samuel told people what God is like. Jesus came to earth as a human. His life showed the world what God is like. We can be God’s messengers, too, by telling people about Jesus. Let’s pray that God will use the messages on our postcards to tell people Jesus saves us from sin.

Play out emotions

Hold up each “Emotions” card for preschoolers to examine as you say the emotion. Mix up the cards and hold them up one at a time, invite preschoolers to show you what their face looks like when they feel that emotion. Go through the emotions several times. Invite preschoolers to pray by telling God which emotion they are feeling at that moment.

• “Emotions” printable

SAY • God made us with emotions. God wants us to talk to Him about our feelings. Hannah was sad she didn’t have any children, and she told God how she felt. Hannah was happy when she had Samuel, and she worshiped God. Jesus came to earth as a human. Jesus had emotions, too. He showed the world what God is like.

Work puzzles

Set out puzzles showing the tabernacle, temple, or a church. As preschoolers work, talk about how Samuel helped Eli at the tabernacle.

• puzzles depicting churches

SAY • While Samuel was laying down in the tabernacle, God spoke to Samuel. God gave Samuel a message for Eli. Samuel was God’s messenger. Samuel told people what God is like. Jesus came to earth as a

human. His life showed the world what God is like. When we tell God's truth to people, we show the world what God is like, too.



• Unit 9 Bible Story
Pictures

Who am I?

Briefly review the judges by saying review statements. After each statement, ask the preschoolers, "Who am I?" Display the Bible Story Pictures for this unit to help preschoolers remember. Sample statements:

- I hid a sword under my clothes and used it to defeat the king of Moab. I ran away and locked the doors behind me. Who am I? (*Ehud*)
 - I went with Barak but told him a woman would get the honor when Sisera was defeated. (*Deborah*)
 - God used my small army of men who lapped water with their tongues to defeat the Midianites. Who am I? (*Gideon*)
 - God made me strong and used me to free Israel from the Philistines. Who am I? (*Samson*)
 - I told Naomi that her people would be my people, and her God would be my God. Who am I? (*Ruth*)
 - God spoke to me when I was a boy living in the tabernacle with Eli the priest. Who am I? (*Samuel*)
- SAY** • God sent many judges to help His people. Samuel was the last judge of Israel. **God spoke to Samuel**, and Samuel told people what God is like.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Instruct preschoolers to put their heads down pretending to be asleep. When you call out each preschooler's name, she should respond, "Here I am!" Then give her a snack. Remind preschoolers that **God spoke to Samuel**. God was with Samuel, and everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God's messenger. Samuel told people what God is like. Jesus came to earth as a human. His life showed the world what God is like.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Write a child's name on a journal page and invite him to trace over his name with a marker or crayon. Remind preschoolers that **God spoke to Samuel**. God called out Samuel's name and then told Samuel what He was going to do. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, Samuel *told* people what You are like, but Jesus *showed* people what You are like. Thank You for sending Jesus to come to earth and live as a human.

Thank You that He rescues us from sin. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

Journal Page

God Judges His People

Key Passage: Isaiah 33:22

Big Picture Question: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

Session 1: The First Judges
Judges 3:7-31
The Israelites forgot about the one true God.

Session 2: Deborah and Barak
Judges 4-5
God sent judges to help His people.

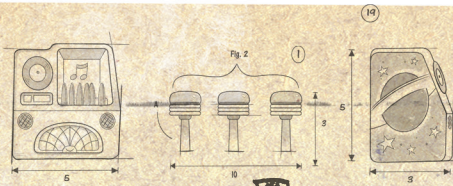
Session 3: Gideon
Judges 6-8
God gave Gideon victory over his enemies.

Session 4: Samson
Judges 13-16
God made Samson strong.

Session 5: Ruth and Boaz
Ruth 1-4
God gave Ruth a family.

Session 6: Eli and Boy Samuel
1 Samuel 1-3
God spoke to Samuel.

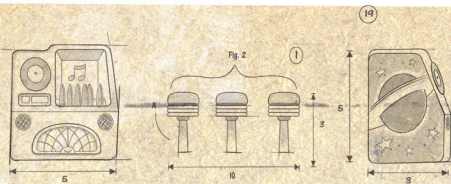




The LORD is our
judge, the LORD is
our lawgiver,
the LORD is our
king; it is he who
will save us.

Isaiah 33:22

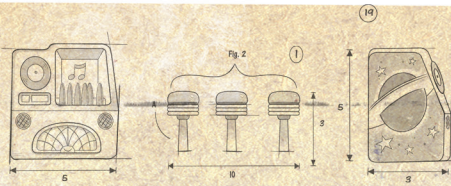




The LORD is our
judge, the LORD is
our lawgiver, the
LORD is our king;
he will save us.

Isaiah 33:22

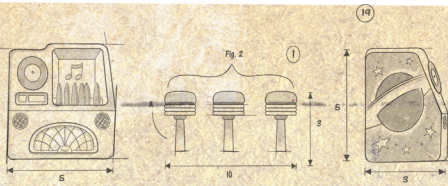




**For the LORD is our
Judge, the LORD is
our lawgiver, the
LORD is our king.
He will save us.**

Isaiah 33:22





The LORD is our
judge; the LORD
is our lawgiver;
the LORD is our
king; he will
save us.

Isaiah 33:22



God spoke to Samuel.





Mommies and Babies

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Match each mommy to her baby.



KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

BIBLE STORY:

ELI AND BOY SAMUEL

- Hannah prayed to God for a son.
- God gave Hannah a son named Samuel.
- Hannah took Samuel to live with Eli at the tabernacle.
- God called to Samuel and gave him a message.

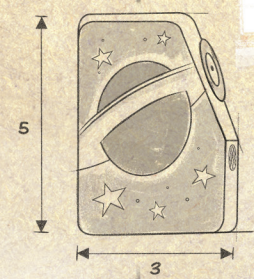
FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Hannah prayed to God about her feelings. Name a time you can talk to God about your feelings.
- How can we be God's messengers today?

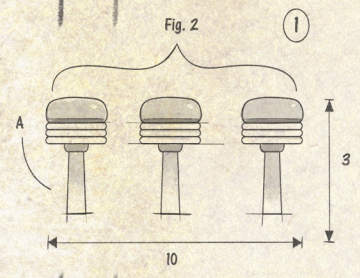
FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- If you do not have a regular Bible reading plan as a family, develop one.
- Go further: Pray for couples you know who have not been able to have children. Pray for kids who need to be adopted in your community.

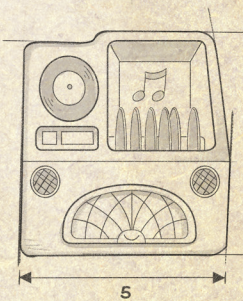
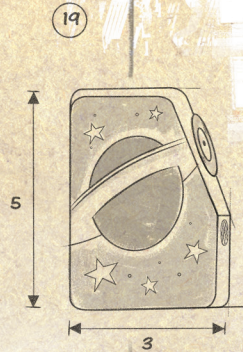
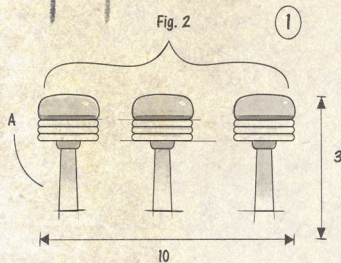




Whom does God use in His plan?



Whom does God use in His plan?



God uses people
in His plan.





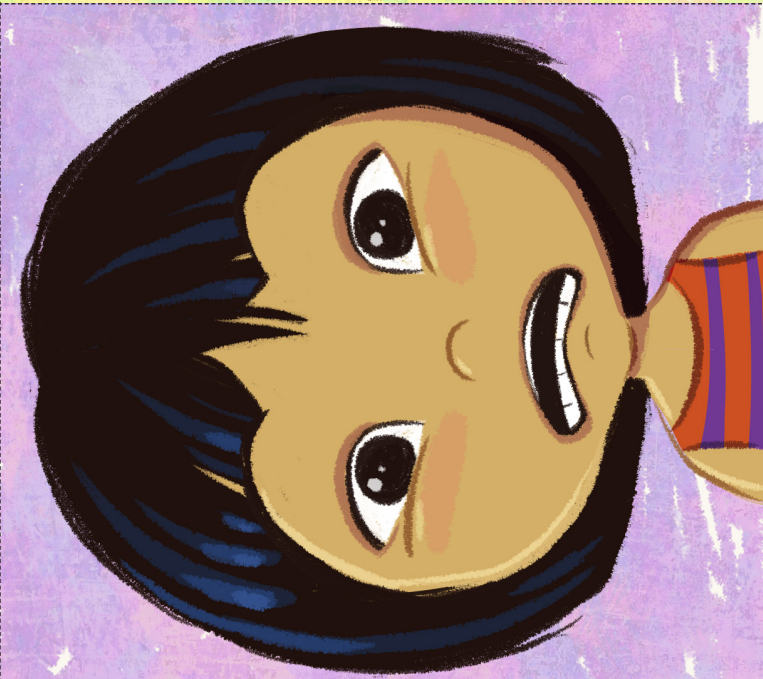
Anger



Happy



Sad



Scared

