

4.01 THE BOY WHO LISTENED TO GOD

1 SAMUEL 1 – 3

Once upon a time, there was a man named Elkanah who had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah had none.

As a tradition, every year Elkanah and his wives would go to bring his offerings to the tabernacle to worship God. Each time, Peninnah teased and mocked Hannah until she wept because God had not given her any children. That year, when they went to the tabernacle, Hannah wept and poured out her heart to God in prayer, “God, if you give me a son, he will serve You all his life.”

When a priest named Eli saw Hannah praying so intensely and weeping like that, he mistakenly thought that Hannah was drunk and scolded her. But Hannah said, “My heart is broken. I’ve been pouring out my heart to God.” “Go in peace,” Eli told her, “and may God give you what you have asked.”

Hannah returned home and God answered her prayer, a year later she gave birth to a baby boy. She named him Samuel, which means, “asked of God.”

When Samuel was no longer a baby, Hannah brought him to Eli and said to him, “God gave me this boy and now I give him back to God to serve Him.” Thus, from then on, Samuel lived with Eli and served God faithfully at the tabernacle.

Every year Elkanah and Hannah would come to visit Samuel and they would bring new clothes for him. The boy Samuel grew up in the presence of God and had favor with the Lord and with all the people. God gave Hannah 3 more sons and 2 daughters.

One night, when Samuel was fast asleep, he was awakened by a voice calling his name. He ran to Eli thinking that Eli was calling him. “Here I am,” he said to Eli. But Eli said, “I didn’t call you; go back to sleep.” But this happened again twice. Eli realized that it must be God calling Samuel. He told Samuel that the next time he hears his name being called to answer, “Here am I Lord, speak and I your servant will hear!”

Samuel returned to lay down to sleep. Then again, Samuel heard God calling his name. This time Samuel did as Eli told him. He said, “Here am I Lord, speak and I your servant will hear!” Then God began to speak to Samuel and tell him many things.

4.01 THE BOY WHO LISTENED TO GOD - TEACHER'S GUIDE

1 SAMUEL 1 – 3

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) There was once a man named Elkanah who had two wives. His wife, Peninnah, had children. His wife, Hannah, was unable to have children. This made Hannah very sad.
- 2) Every year, Elkanah's family went to the temple to worship. This particular year, Hannah poured her heart out to God. She told God if He would give her a child, she would see that he would serve God all his days.
- 3) God answered Hannah's prayer. A year later she had a son and named him Samuel, which means "asked of God."
- 4) When Samuel was no longer a baby, Hannah gave him to a priest named Eli. He learned to serve God while living with Eli.
- 5) Samuel heard a voice one night calling his name. He thought it was Eli calling him, but Eli said it wasn't him. When it happened again, Eli realized it was God calling to Samuel.
- 6) Eli taught Samuel to respond to God's voice by saying, "Here am I Lord, speak and I your servant will hear!" When Samuel did this, God began to speak to Samuel.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why was Elkanah's wife, Hannah, so sad?
- 2) What was Hannah's prayer to God?
- 3) What did Hannah name her son?
- 4) Where did Hannah take Samuel to live?
- 5) Who did Samuel hear calling his name one night?
- 6) What did Eli tell Samuel to do?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Hannah was sad because she had no children.
- 2) Hannah prayed to God telling Him if she could have a son, she would have him serve God all his life.
- 3) Hannah named her son Samuel.
- 4) Hannah took Samuel to live with Eli, a priest.
- 5) One night, Samuel heard God calling his name.
- 6) Eli told Samuel to say to God. "Here am I Lord, speak and I your servant will hear!"