

LESSON



Samuel's Service

SERVICE Service means helping others.

References

1 Samuel 7; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 589-591.

Memory Verse

"Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life" (1 Samuel 7:15, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God wants children to serve Him all during their lifetime.

Feel a desire to grow up to be God's servant too.

Respond by learning more about God's servants.

The Message



I will serve God all my life.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Israelites turn away from God and worship idols of neighboring countries. Samuel urges them to return to God and get rid of all their idols. They do. Then Samuel invites the people to meet at Mizpah to worship God. While the Israelites are at Mizpah, the Philistines decide to attack them. The Israelites are warned and they ask Samuel to pray. Samuel offers a sacrifice and prays for God's protection. God speaks through thunder and frightens the Philistines,

who drop their weapons and run away. Samuel sets up a rock at Mizpah as a memorial so the Israelites will remember that day and tell their children about it.

This is a lesson about service.

The boy Samuel served Eli in the tabernacle. Now the man Samuel serves the entire nation of Israel. Throughout the rest of his life Samuel served God as a prophet, leader, guide, and judge. Children can also grow up to serve God all throughout their life.

FOUR

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Time Line</i> B. <i>Monument</i>	long piece of paper, ruler, marker, crayons rocks
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 46. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	rock monument
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible, gift-wrapped box, cutout of a child, scissors, marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Guest Speakers</i>	guest speakers
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Our Monument</i> B. <i>Take-Home Monument</i>	large cardboard box or small boxes, art supplies rocks, markers

Teacher Enrichment

"Since the days of Joshua, the government had never been conducted with so great wisdom and success as under Samuel's administration. Divinely invested with the threefold office of judge, prophet, and priest, he had labored with untiring and disinterested zeal for the welfare of his people, and the nation had prospered under his wise control. Order had been restored, and godliness promoted, and the spirit of discontent was checked for the time" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 603, 604).

"Samuel had judged Israel from his youth. He had been a righteous and impartial judge, faithful in all his work" (*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4, p. 65).

What special work has God called you to? How are you using the unique talents God has given you?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1. Also, use Readiness Activity B in this lesson to make a rock monument, or make one of your own beforehand to use during Experiencing the Story.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Time Line

You Need:

- long piece of paper
- ruler
- marker
- crayons

Prepare in advance a long piece of paper about six feet (two meters) long. (You can use bulletin board paper, roll of plain white shelf paper, computer paper, or notebook paper taped together.)

Hang lengthwise on a bulletin board or wall so it is like a growth chart. Place marks on the paper about every 18 inches (45 centimeters) to create a time line of Samuel's life. Starting at the bottom, indicate Samuel's birth at the first mark; Samuel going to live at the tabernacle at the next mark; Hannah bringing a coat to Samuel at the next mark; Samuel as an older boy with Eli serving in the tabernacle at the next mark; and Samuel now the judge in place of Eli at the last mark. Talk with the children about Samuel serving God his whole life. Allow the children to "measure" themselves on the chart.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Samuel began serving God when he was very young. What did he do to serve God while a child? What did he do when he grew up? How can you be like Samuel? What can you do to serve God while you are young? Do you want to serve God all your life? Our message for today is:**



I will serve God all my life.

Say that with me.

B. Monument

You Need:

- rocks

If possible, have the children go outside and collect rocks. If not, in advance hide various sizes of rocks around the room. Ask the children to find as many rocks as they can and bring them to the center of the room. Help them stack them to make an altar, or monument, like the one Samuel made. You may wish to use this monument in Experiencing the Story.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Did you like making a monument? Who can tell me about a monument you know? Why do people build monuments?** (to honor somebody or something that happened) **Our story today is about a time Samuel built a monument to remind God's people of how God showed His love to them by helping them. We show our love to God by serving Him. That makes me think of today's message:**



I will serve God all my life.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 46.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story**You Need:**

- rock monument

Invite the children to join you near the “rock monument” that was built beforehand or in Readiness Activity B. They may also participate in the story where directed as you read it.

Read or tell the story.

God’s people, the Israelites, had done a terrible thing. They had stopped worshipping the true God. They had stopped teaching their children about the true God. They didn’t go to the tabernacle anymore for the special feasts. The Israelites had started worshipping idols! It was the worst thing they could have done. God was very unhappy.

One day Samuel said to the people, “Turn back to God with all your hearts! Throw away your idols. Serve God only.”

The people of Israel listened to Samuel’s words. They threw away the idols that were in their houses and began to worship God again. [Have children applaud.]

Samuel told the people, “Come meet at Mizpah. I will pray to the Lord for you there.” When they got there they heard that they were going to be attacked by the Philistine army. Samuel just kept praying, and God answered in a loud way that sounded just like thunder. [Have children make a boom, boom thunder sound.]

The Philistines were scared! They probably dropped the swords and spears and arrows that they were carrying. They

may have put their hands over their ears. They turned around and ran home as fast as they could go. Let’s do the same thing that the Philistine army did. [*Have children cover their ears, and run to the opposite corner of the room.*]

Samuel took a large rock and used it for a monument on the road to Mizpah. He wanted the people to remember how the true God had saved them. It was something like our monument here [*point to the monument*]. Families would travel along the road, and the children would ask, “Why is that big rock set up there?” Then the parents could tell their children the wonderful story.

Samuel was a ruler in Israel for the rest of his life. Samuel served the Lord all of his days.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was your favorite part of our story? Do you think that the Israelites remembered how God took care of them when they looked at the big rock monument? What do we see or have that reminds us that God takes care of us today? God does wonderful things for us, like He did for the Israelites. And that makes us want to serve Him. Remember our message? Let’s say it together:**



I will serve God all my life.

Bible Study**You Need:**

- Bible

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 7. Point to the chapter and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible.** Read aloud verses 3-5, 7-10, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Ask: **What wrong thing were God's people doing?** (worshipping idols) **Where did Samuel tell the people to go?** (Mizpah) **Why?** (to pray) **Who wanted to attack (hurt) God's people?** (the Philistines) **What did God do to save His special people?** (sent thunder; frightened the Philistines, and they ran)

Memory Verse

In advance, inside a gift-wrapped box, place a large cutout in the shape of a child. Print the memory verse on the cutout, writing from the head down to the feet.

Turn to 1 Samuel 7:15 and say: **This**

is where we find our memory verse. Read the text aloud.

"Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life."

Then proceed to teach the memory verse as follows:

As you slowly pull the "child" from the box prepared before class, say the memory verse. Repeat this until the children can say the verse with you.

Say: **Samuel was a gift from God to his mother. And his mother gave him back to God. He served God all his life, from the time he was a small boy until he became an old man. And God wants us to serve Him all our lives too. How can you serve Him now? How can you serve Him when you grow up?**



I will serve God all
my life.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible
- gift-wrapped box
- scissors
- marker
- cutout shape of a child

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "Jesus Is Happy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 268)
- "Jesus Helps Me Choose" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 304)
- "God's Children Are Helpful" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 287)
- "I Give Myself to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 192)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **One way we can serve Jesus even when we are very small is by bringing an offering each week.**

Prayer

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you do this week that was serving Jesus? Let's thank Jesus that we have so many children here who are serving Him.**

If prayer books were made in Lesson 1, help the children write or draw a new prayer request and pray for that request. Have the children take home their prayer books this week.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson

Guest Speakers

In advance, arrange for several people of different ages (teen, young adult, middle-aged adult, and older adult) to come and share how they have served Jesus throughout their lives. Allow the children to ask questions if they would like.

You Need:

- guest speakers

served the Lord? How are they like Samuel? What can you do to serve God today? What can you do to serve Him when you grow up? So let's remember:



I will serve God all my life.

Say that with me.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you like having our visitors? What were some of the ways they have**

4

Sharing the Lesson

A. Our Monument

You Need:

- large cardboard box or several small ones
- art supplies

To make a “monument” for your Sabbath School, use a large cardboard box or pile several small boxes on top of each other. Add a sign that says: “All Children Here Serve the Living God.” Read it to the children and ask

them if they want to serve God all their lives.

Let the children help decorate the monument and write their names on it. They can also decide where they want the monument to be placed in the Sabbath School room.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
Did you like making a monument? How is our monument like the one Samuel built? What will you think of when you look at it? Invite someone into our room to look

at it today. Tell them how you serve God now and how you want to serve Him when you grow up. Let’s say our message again:



I will serve God all my life.

B. Take-Home Monument

Use the rocks from Readiness Activity B or collect some beforehand. Give each child a rock to color.

You Need:

- rocks
- markers

Debriefing

Say: **Take your rock home and show it to someone as you tell them about Samuel serving God all his life. Tell them how you serve God and Jesus now and how you want to serve them when you grow up. Let’s say our message again:**



I will serve God all my life.

Closing

Pray: **Jesus, please help all of us to serve You this week.**

STUDENT LESSON

Samuel's Service

References

1 Samuel 7;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp. 589-
591

Memory Verse

"Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life" (1 Samuel 7:15, NIV).

The Message

*I will serve
God all my life.*

What will you be when you grow up? Will you be a leader like Samuel?

God's people, the Israelites, had started worshipping the idols of their neighbors, the Philistines. One of these idols was Baal, the Philistine god of thunder and rain. Many Israelites had little idols of Baal in their houses.

God sent Samuel to talk to the people. "Remember the name Israel means 'ruled by God,'" he began. "Turn back to God with all your hearts! Throw away your idols. Give yourselves to God and serve Him only."

The people of Israel listened to Samuel. They broke all their idols and began to worship God again.

"Come meet at Mizpah," Samuel told the people. "I will pray to the Lord for you there."

So the people gathered at Mizpah. "We have sinned against the Lord!" they admitted. "We are sorry. We are really, really sorry."

The Philistines heard that the Israelites had gone to Mizpah. "Let's go attack them!" they said. So the Philistine rulers gathered their soldiers and marched toward Mizpah.

"The Philistines are coming! The Philistines are coming!" a young man may

have shouted as he ran up the dusty road.

The Israelites looked at one another with wide eyes. "Ask the Lord to save us from the Philistines!" they begged Samuel.

Samuel prayed for the safety of the Israelites. Suddenly, there was the sound of loud thunder from heaven. It echoed from the mountains. It shook the air. It rumbled, rolled, and boomed.

The Philistines were frightened! They dropped their swords and spears. And they ran away as fast as they could go.

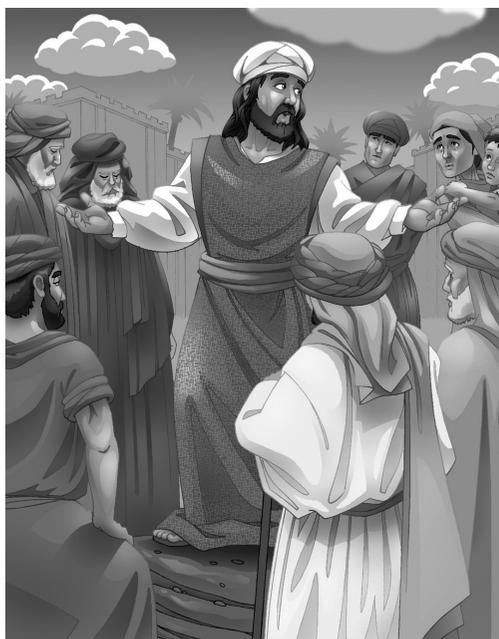
The Philistines thought their god Baal was the god of thunder. So the true God used thunder to show that only He had power and an idol did not.

Samuel put a large rock for a monument on the

road to Mizpah. He wanted the people of Israel to always remember how the true God had saved them. For years to come children would ask, "Why is that big rock there?" And the parents would tell their children the wonderful story.

Samuel led Israel for the rest of his life. He served the Lord all of his days.

Do you want to serve the Lord too? How can you serve Him today?



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson story.

Using a gift box, place a cutout of a child inside. On the cutout write the words to the memory verse from head to toe. As your child slowly pulls the cutout from the box, say the verse together. Repeat it each day.

Sunday

Together, read 1 Samuel 7:1-11, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: Were the Israelites sorry? How did Samuel help them? What did God use to scare the Philistines away?

Look at pictures of different professions and talk about them. Say: Whatever you choose to do when you grow up, you can serve God while doing it.

Monday

Ask: What were the Israelites to tell their children about the stone monument?

Help your child find two rocks (or use the rock brought home from Sabbath School). Take one to a friend and tell them about Samuel's service. Keep the other to remind your child that he or she should want to serve Jesus always.

Sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 202).

Tuesday

Read 1 Samuel 7:12-17. Ask: What did Samuel name the monument he built? How long did Samuel serve God?

Help your child count how many years old they

are and explain how many days that is. Say: You may have been serving God all those days!



Wednesday

Act out the Bible story. Let your child make noise with a pan and spoon for the thunder.

Ask: Did the Philistines' thunder god Baal help them? Who helps us during storms?

Thursday

Help your child make an "I Serve Jesus" door-knob hanger. (See picture.) Hang it on their bedroom door.

Sing "Serve Him, Serve Him, All You Little Children" (tune: "Praise Him, Praise Him").



Friday

During worship tonight, read about Samuel's service in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 590 (first paragraph) and page 591 (last paragraph).

Say the memory verse together. Sing songs that tell how Jesus takes care of us.