

# Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNOLA

## The Calling of Samuel

**H**annah, the wife of Elkanah, was in the temple crying.

"Dear God," she prayed, "My husband and I have no children. Look down on our loneliness and remember our faithfulness to you. If you give me a son, I will dedicate him to you for all his life."

Eli, one of the priests, had been watching Hannah. He could see that she was crying and her lips were moving, but no sound was coming out of her mouth. He walked over to her.

"Young lady," he said, "you should not be getting drunk and acting in this way."

Hannah wiped the tears from her eyes. "I have not had anything to drink. I have been pleading with God to bless my marriage with children."

Eli placed his hand on Hannah's shoulder and smiled. "Go in peace, child, and may the God of Israel grant the desires of your heart."

"May this servant of the Lord find favor in your eyes," replied Hannah as she stood up. She hugged Eli and returned home.

Within a year Hannah gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, which means, "promised of God."

When Samuel was barely able to walk, Hannah brought him to Eli at the temple and said, "I am the woman who prayed here for a child, and God sent me this beautiful boy. Now I am giving him up for the Lord's service, as I promised."

"May the Lord give you children to take the place of the one you have given to him," said Eli.



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

While Samuel spent his childhood studying to be a priest in the temple, Hannah bore three more sons and two daughters. Hannah visited Samuel often, and every year on his birthday she would bring him new clothes that she had made for him.

One night when Samuel was alone in the temple praying, he heard someone's voice.

"Samuel, Samuel."

The boy ran into Eli's room, where he found the priest sleeping.

"Here I am, Eli. Did you call me?"

"I did not call you," answered Eli.

"It is late now, so get ready for bed." Samuel went into his own room and again he heard the voice.

"Samuel, Samuel."

Again Samuel ran into Eli's room.

"Did you call me this time, Eli?" asked Samuel.

"I did not call you," insisted Eli. "Now please go to sleep."

Samuel went to bed confused. Who could be calling him? There was no one else in the temple. Then the voice called Samuel a third time, and a third time Samuel woke Eli.

"Eli," asked Samuel, "why do you keep calling me and denying it?"

Eli realized what was happening. "Go back to your room. If you hear the voice again, say this, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'"

And God spoke to Samuel. "Samuel, I am about to perform a miracle in Israel that will astound everyone who hears of it."

In the morning Samuel told Eli of his vision. "Let the Lord do what is good in his sight," said Eli.

As Samuel grew up, everyone from one end of Israel to the other recognized Samuel as a prophet of God.

Read more about it: 1 Samuel 1-3

### Q & A

1. Why did Hannah name her son Samuel?
2. Do you know why your parents gave you the name they did?
3. What are some of the duties of a priest in today's church?

## The Bible Times

Shiloh 1100 BC — Last week in the temple, Samuel of Ephraim, a boy studying to be a priest, claims to have heard the voice of God.

Eli, the head priest, reports that the boy heard the voice three times and thought it was he who had called him. The priest says he told Samuel to ask if it was God calling him.

Witnesses say that since the incident the boy has spoken with knowledge beyond his age. Some argue this is evidence of a visit from God. News of the child/teacher is spreading throughout the region.

Hannah, Samuel's mother, says she is not surprised by this recent development, because she claims to have turned the boy over to the Lord's service before he was three years old. He has been studying with Eli for the past nine years.

Rumors have been circulating that the boy may be the Messiah promised by Moses. Eli and the boy's mother deny these reports. Samuel was unavailable for comment.

### April Essay Winner

Congratulations to Victoria Rook, a fifth-grade student at Christ the King School in Rochester. She is the winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the April Kids' Club Contest. Her essay is reprinted below.

April Essay Question: What are some of the small miracles that occur in your life each day?

Getting up every morning to a brand new day is a miracle to me. It's especially a miracle to enter the days of spring after all these months. The sun has risen, the birds are chirping, and the children are outside playing. It is nice to go outside to feel the warmth of the sun and the cool breeze blowing. I enjoy the smell of the fresh grass, the beautiful pine trees, and all the flowers. The biggest miracle of all is to wake up in a house with a whole family that cares and loves me and always will.

### Talking to God

Give me the wisdom to recognize your voice when it is speaking to me, and the strength to follow your commandments each day.

"Surely God is my Salvation, I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

Isaiah 12:2

### King Solomon's Wisdom



"A wise man's heart guides his mouth and his words are persuasive."

Proverbs 16:23

### Scrambled Prophets

Unscramble the word list to find prophets whose books are found in the Old Testament. Answers on page 6.

1. ezilke
2. saaih
3. olje
4. hanoj
5. midlea
6. jmaaceih
7. munha
8. gahiag
9. chain
10. smoa

## Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!!!

Samuel went to Eli to talk about the important things in his life. Who do you talk to, and why?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone. The essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of Kids' Chronicle. Send your entry to: Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The deadline for essays is May 27, 1993.



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