

Kids' Chronicle

God calls Samuel

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Hannah was so upset that she did not have any children, that sometimes she would cry and refuse to eat. Elkanah, her husband, would try to comfort her, but Hannah remained heartbroken. Finally, Hannah went to the temple and prayed to God.

"Lord of Abraham, hear my prayer," she said. "I have been faithful to you since I was a child in my parents' home. Please send me the son my heart desires, and I promise that I will dedicate his life to you from the day of his birth."

Eli, the priest, heard Hannah's prayer. After she had stood up and was leaving the temple, Eli said to her, "Let your heart be at peace, woman. I too will pray that God will grant your request."

Hannah felt encouraged. "Please remember me in your prayers," she said.

Within a year's time, Hannah gave birth to a handsome baby boy. His name was Samuel. Hannah knew her child would be special, and she remembered the promise she had made to God.

She told her husband, "When he is old enough to walk, I am going to bring him to the temple," she told her husband. "That is where he will spend his life."

Elkanah put his hand on Hannah's shoulder and said, "If that is what you have told the Lord you will do, that is my wish as well."

When Samuel was able to walk Hannah brought him to the temple. Eli was there. Hannah reminded him that she

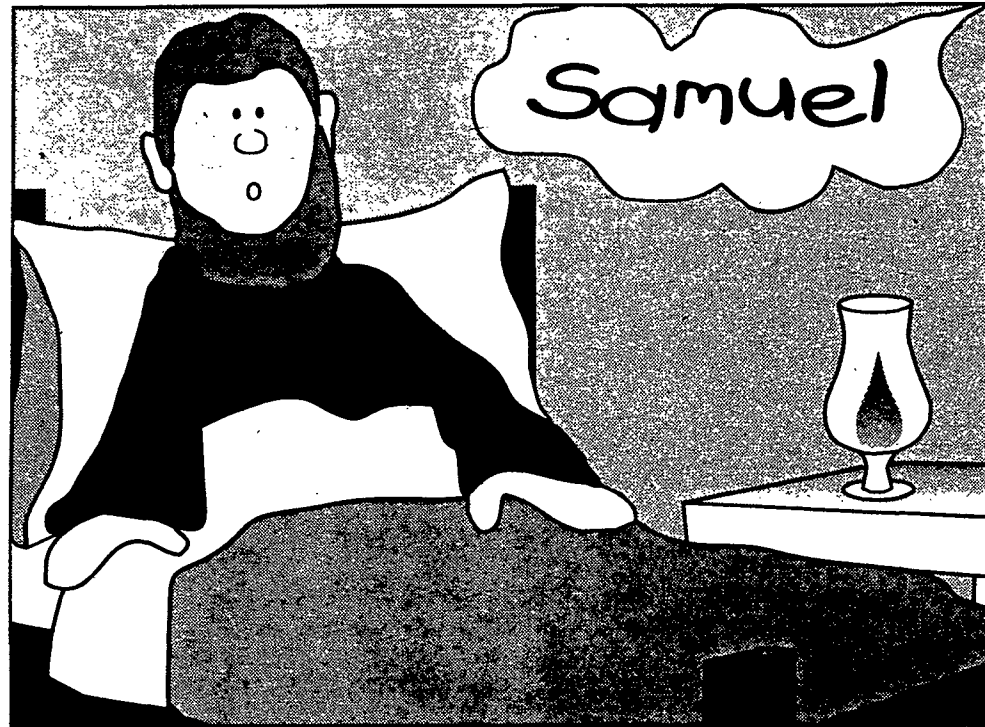


Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

had been the woman praying for a son she would dedicate to God.

Eli remembered, and said, "May the Lord give you other sons to replace the one you have given to him."

Samuel grew strong and healthy. He worked in the temple during the day and slept in a small but comfortable room at night.

On one particular night, Samuel fell asleep in the sanctuary of the temple while the lamps were still lit. He awoke to the sound of a voice calling his name. He went into Eli's room.

"Here I am sir. What do you need from

me?"

"I did not call you," replied Eli, who had been sleeping. "Please go back to sleep and let me do the same."

Samuel went back to his room and fell asleep.

"Samuel. Samuel," the voice said once more.

Once again, he went into Eli's room and asked what he wanted.

"Samuel, I did not call you," Eli responded. "Not this time, not the first time. Go to bed."

When the voice called Samuel a third time and a third time Samuel woke Eli, Eli knew something more must be happening.

"It must be the Lord calling you," Eli said. "If he calls you again, say 'Here I am Lord, your servant.'"

The next time the Lord spoke to him, Samuel said, "I am your servant, Lord."

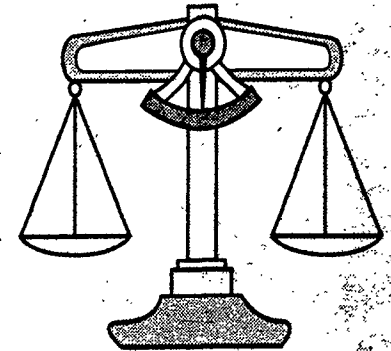
And from that day Samuel became a prophet of the Lord.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

I Samuel 3

1. Why was Hannah so unhappy?
2. What was Samuel's reply to the Lord?



Bible Accent

In addition to becoming a prophet of God, Samuel became a judge.

The judges in Israel were leaders and defenders of the poor and people who were not being treated fairly. Samuel is considered the last of the judges.

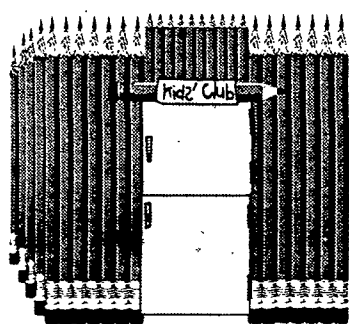
Samuel was instrumental in turning his people away from their idol worship and back to the ways of God. When the Israelites demanded that God provide them with a king, it was Samuel who anointed Saul into the position. He also later anointed David when he succeeded Saul as king.

St. Genevieve

St. Genevieve of Nanterre, a small French village, demonstrated her devotion to God from the time she was a child. When the bishop was visiting her parents, he recognized this and told them such a child would be well-suited to religious life.

He was right. Before Genevieve was 18, she began to have visions. At first people didn't believe her, but when her prophecies began to come true, it was clear God had blessed this young girl.

When there was a threat that Attila the Hun would march his soldiers through Genevieve's village, she led the people in a day of prayer and fasting. Attila attacked many cities, but not that one. Genevieve is the patron saint of people enduring disasters. We honor her on January 3.



Essay

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

Samuel's mother was faithful to God. What are some of the ways your parents show their faithfulness to God?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is Jan. 23, 1997. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was **Dominic Palumbo**, a sixth-grade student at Mother of Sorrows School, Rochester. In response to the question **If God sent an angel to visit the president, what do you think God's message would be?** he wrote:

God would say, Mr. Clinton, you're doing a tremendous job, but there's still some things you need to do. You should reach out to the children of the country, and teach them just how important it is to get a good job and education. Set up recreational programs for youth to keep them off the streets. Start with the very young teaching them that violence and crime get you nowhere.

You need to teach the children that peace begins within their hearts, and they should spread the "Good News" to all mankind. They are tomorrow's leaders.

This is what I think an angel would say to Mr. President.

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Puzzle

In the Bible, children and young adults were often called to serve God. Match the following clues with the people from the list to the right. *Answers on page 4.*

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ___ 1. He defeated Goliath. (1 Samuel 17) | a. Solomon |
| ___ 2. He was born in a manger. (Luke 2) | b. Abel |
| ___ 3. His brothers sold him into slavery. (Genesis 37) | c. Joseph |
| ___ 4. He was the second son of Adam and Eve. (Genesis 4) | d. Jesus |
| ___ 5. He was David's wise son. (1 Kings 3) | e. David |

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