



# Church of God Sunday School

## HANNAH PRAYS FOR A SON: THE BOY SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1-3

There was a certain man named Elkanah who had two wives. The name of one was

Penninah. The name of the other was Hannah. Penninah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Every year Elkanah would go to Shiloh to worship the Lord and offer sacrifices to Him. When Elkanah made his offering, he always gave Penninah and her children a share of the meat, but to Hannah, he gave a special portion, a "worthy portion," because Elkanah loved Hannah, even though she could not bare children.

Hannah felt bad enough, in herself, that she could not bare children, but every year, when they went to the house of God, Penninah would purposely say things to upset her. Then Hannah would cry and not eat. Elkanah would ask Hannah why she was crying and why she was grieving. He asked her, "Am not I better to thee than ten sons?" And he was, but she wanted children, especially a son.

One year, after they were done eating, Hannah went to pray in the temple. She was deeply troubled and very sad. She wept much and vowed a vow to the Lord. She said, "O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head [the Nazarite law; see Numbers 6:5]."

Now Eli, the priest, was sitting in the temple. He saw Hannah praying and thought she had been drinking because her lips moved but her voice was not heard. He did not realize that Hannah was praying in her heart to God, in deep earnestness. Eli said, "Put away thy wine from thee."

Hannah said: "I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: for I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but

have poured out my soul before the LORD. Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial [Belial means worthlessness or wickedness]: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto."

Eli answered, "Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him." Hannah was not sad anymore. She went away trusting that God would answer her prayer.

In the morning, after worshiping before the Lord, Elkanah and his family returned to their home in Ramah. The Lord remembered Hannah and she conceived. When her time was come to deliver, she had a little son. Hannah called him Samuel, meaning "asked of God."

The next year, when Elkanah and his family were preparing to go to Shiloh for the yearly sacrifice, Hannah said, "I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever." Hannah was preparing to carry out her promise to the Lord. Elkanah told her to do as she wanted. So Hannah stayed at home until Samuel was weaned.



The day came when Samuel was entirely weaned; he was a very young child. When it came time for the yearly sacrifice, Hannah took Samuel, three bullocks, some flour, and a bottle of wine

along with the rest of the things they were taking to sacrifice in Shiloh. When they got there, they killed a bullock and presented Samuel to Eli, the priest.

Hannah said to Eli: "I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD."

Samuel stayed there with Eli and "ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod [a priestly garment]." When Hannah came to Shiloh every year after that, for the sacrifice, she always brought a new coat for Samuel.

God continued to bless Hannah for giving Samuel to Him, to do His work. She and Elkanah had three more sons and two daughters, but Samuel grew up before God in the temple.

As time passed, naturally, Eli got old. But his sons were wicked men. They committed terrible sins and demanded unlawful things of God's people. Eli knew of their wickedness. He had reproofed his sons for their wickedness and told them they should not do the things they did—but he did not honor God enough to correct them and restrain them from doing evil. This went on for some time. Meanwhile, Samuel helped Eli every day, and Samuel had the favor of both God and man.

There came a day, however, when a man of God came to Eli. He told Eli that God would cut off him and his sons from the priesthood, for their evil ways—even though God had said that Eli's family would continue in the priesthood forever.

The man of God gave Eli a sign when his removal from the priesthood would happen. The sign was that both of Eli's sons would die in one day. God said, "Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." God was going to raise up a "faithful priest," a man after God's own heart.

One night, when Eli and Samuel were in their beds, the Lord called to Samuel. Now, Samuel had never before heard the voice of God; so He did not know that it was God calling him. Samuel ran to Eli, thinking Eli had called him, and said, "Here am I."

Eli said, "I called not; lie down again."

Samuel went back to bed, but again, the Lord called, "Samuel." Samuel returned to Eli, saying, "Here am I; for thou didst call me." Samuel thought to himself that surely Eli must realize that he had called

for him, but Eli said, "I called not, my son; lie down again."

When the Lord had called to Samuel for the third time, Eli finally realized that God was the One calling the boy. Eli told Samuel to lie down, one more time, and when he heard the call again, he was to say, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth." So Samuel went and lay down, waiting. (What would you be thinking if you were Samuel?)

The Lord did come again. He stood by Samuel and said, "Samuel, Samuel."

Samuel replied, "Speak; for thy servant heareth."

God began to tell Samuel of all the sad things that were going to come on Eli, Eli's sons, and Eli's family, because Eli knew about his sons' wickedness but would not keep them from doing it. Samuel laid on his bed until the morning, thinking of all that God had said. He was afraid to tell Eli!

In the morning, Samuel opened the doors of the temple; then Eli called for him. Eli wanted to know everything God had told Samuel. As frightened as Samuel was, he told Eli all that God had said. He hid nothing. Eli listened, no doubt, regretfully. He said, "It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good."

As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him. Samuel listened to God and did all that God told him to do.

"And all Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD."

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."*

—1 Samuel 2:30

**Connect the dots.**

**Trace the letters.**

They lived in a  
temple.



**S**amuel heard a voice calling to him in the night. He thought it was Eli. After it happened 3 times, Eli knew what was going on! He told Samuel what to say when it happened again.



Use the Answer Graph to fill the blanks.

Answer Graph

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	D	H	N	S	W
	E	I	O	T	X
	F	K	P	U	Y

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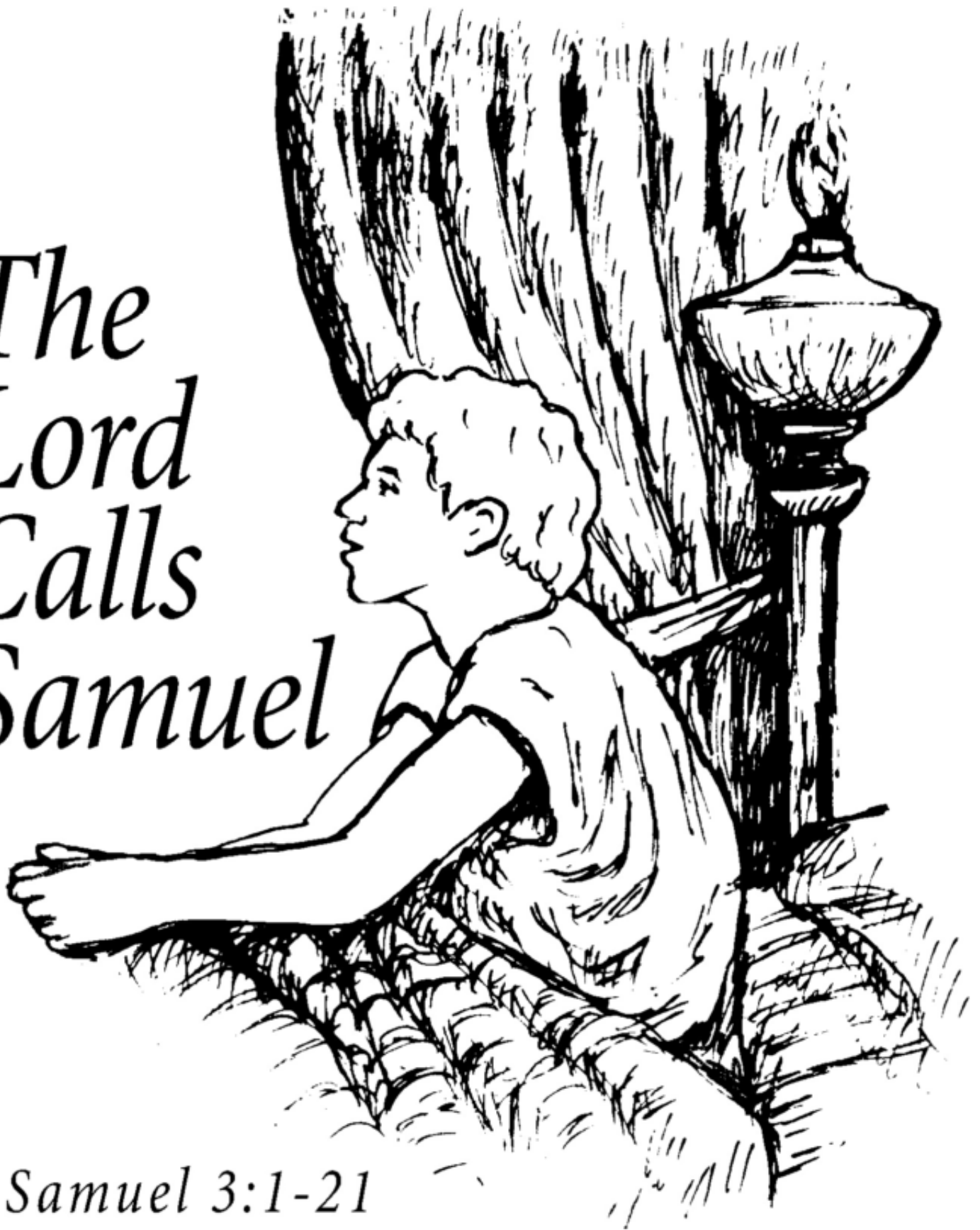
Who was calling to Samuel?



Samuel was a

of the Lord.

# *The Lord Calls Samuel*



*1 Samuel 3:1-21*