



OLD TESTAMENT: SAMUEL

Lesson 23

BIG IDEA

Samuel, like Samson, was set apart for the Lord by his mother. He is raised by Eli the priest. One day the Lord calls Samuel and gives him a prophecy about Eli's sons. Samuel leads Israel as a prophet for much of his life. The Lord directs him in choosing Israel's first king.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Samuel 2:8

KEY VERSES

Samuel 1-3

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

- TL wears baseball cap
- Bear wears bear ears and a blind fold
- *Experience Mission provides baseball cap and bear ears*

GAME - LISTEN TO THE RIGHT VOICE

- Several bandanas or strips of fabric to use as blindfolds
- Obstacles such as chairs, boxes, etc.
- Two chairs or ropes to mark the starting and ending point

CRAFT - PIPE CLEANER PROPHET

- Pipe cleaners, several per child
- Scraps of fleece fabric, enough so each child can cut out a small blanket for their pipe cleaner person
- Some pre-made examples

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



EM PROVIDES

- Scissors, hole punches, staplers

Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



OLD TESTAMENT: SAMUEL

SKIT

lesson 23

STAGING

TL wears baseball cap. Bear wears bear ears and a blindfold.

SCRIPT

**Wrap blindfold over Bear's eyes and have a left shoe available back stage.

Bear (Enter stage with a blindfold over his eyes feeling around with arm)

TL (Enter stage and watch Bear for a moment.) Bear? What in the world are you doing?

Bear (Turn in the general direction of TL) TL? Is that you?

TL Yes. Why are you blindfolded?

Bear Oh, it's just a silly experiment of mine. I thought I'd try to find out what it's like to be blind today.

TL Interesting. You do the most fascinating experiments and projects of anyone I've ever known. So, what have you learned?

Bear (Bear still feeling his way around the stage) Well, at first it was super hard. I tripped over everything and smacked into a couple trees. But after a while it got easier.

TL Really? What made it easier?

Bear Actually, my other senses kind of kicked in and I learned a lot from what I could feel and hear and smell.

TL That's really cool! How did your sense of smell help you?

Bear I actually found the coolest treasure when I was blindfolded and it was all due to this sniffer right here (point to nose). You see I was walking along and I caught a whiff of garbage. And you know what garbage means – treasure! So I followed my nose and sure enough, I came upon a trash heap in the woods that I'd never noticed before.

TL Did you take off your blindfold and start searching for treasure?

Bear Absolutely not! I am very strict about this experiment. I kept the blindfold on and searched with my paws you see. It's simply amazing how much information one can gather just by feel.



OLD TESTAMENT: SAMUEL

SKIT (CONT. 2)

lesson 23

TL I'm impressed Bear, mighty impressed. So, what did you find?

Bear Just a minute, I'll show you! I found...a left shoe!!

TL (Surprised at first then notices the "stinky" smell. Fan hand over nose.) Wow. (Cough) That's a mighty potent left shoe you found there.

Bear (Pleased) I know! (Deep breath) Isn't it wonderful?

TL (Cough) Uh...yah. Fantastic. So, I'm wondering, how did you know it was me just now? I mean, you couldn't see me. Did you smell me (sniff under armpits), do I stink?

Bear No silly. I heard you. I know your voice because you've been my friend for a long time. It was pretty easy to know that it was you.

TL Now that's cool, Bear. And wouldn't you know it, this little experiment of yours ties right into the bible story I want to tell you.

Bear Perfect timing. I'm ready for a break. What is this story about?

TL This story is about a little boy who heard a voice but didn't know who it belonged to. You see, back when Israel was ruled by prophets and judges, there was a man named Eli. He was both a priest in the temple and a judge. There was also a man and woman, Elkanah and Hannah, they were married but they had no children. Hannah was very sad about this. Every year Elkanah and Hannah went to worship the Lord in a place called Shiloh. One year Hannah prayed, begging the Lord, "O Lord, I am so sad. Please don't forget about me. Please give me a son! If you do, I'll give him back to you. He will serve you all the days of his life."

The Lord heard Hannah's prayer and he gave her a baby boy, she named him Samuel. The name Samuel means "Asked of God." While he was still a little child, she brought him to Eli, the priest, and said to him, "My lord, I asked God for this child and promised he would be the Lord's as long as he lives. Let him stay here with you and grow up in God's house."

So little Samuel stayed at Shiloh and lived with Eli, the priest, in one of the tents beside the Tabernacle. As he grew up, he helped Eli in the work of the Lord's house. He was a comfort to Eli because Eli's own sons, who were also priests, were very wicked young men. Eli's heart was very sad over the sins of his sons, but he was not able to control them. The sin of Eli's sons was very great in the Lord's sight because they were making fun of God's commands.

One night, while little Samuel was laying in bed, he heard a voice calling him by name. It was



OLD TESTAMENT: SAMUEL

SKIT (CONT. 3)

lesson 23

the Lord's voice, but he didn't know it yet because it was not familiar. Samuel answered, "Here I am!" And he ran to Eli saying, "Here I am. You called me. What do you want me to do?"

Eli said, "My child, I did not call you. Go back to bed."

Samuel went back to bed, but soon he heard the voice calling him again. So he got up and went back to Eli. "Here I am. I'm sure you called me."

"No," said Eli, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

So Samuel went back to bed. And the voice called him again, for the third time. He went to Eli again, but this time Eli realized that the voice must be the Lord. So he advised Samuel, "Go back to bed. And if the voice speaks to you again, say 'Speak, Lord. I am listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed again and waited for the voice. "Samuel! Samuel!" the voice called.

Samuel paid attention and replied, "Speak, Lord. I am listening."

So the Lord spoke to Samuel. "Listen to what I say. I have seen the wickedness of Eli's sons. And I have seen that their father did not punish them when they were doing evil. I warned Eli long ago, but he did not stop them. I am going to punish them. They will no longer serve me as priests. They will both die on the same day."

When the Lord stopped speaking to Samuel, Samuel lay in his bed until morning. He worked at his morning chores, but was afraid to tell Eli about the message he had received. But Eli said, "Samuel, my son, tell me what the Lord said to you last night. Hide nothing from me." So Samuel told Eli all that God had said, even though it was a sad message for Eli. Eli said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him. He made everything Samuel said come true. Soon all the people of Israel recognized that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, making himself known to Samuel. He gave Samuel special messages to share with Israel. This is how Samuel served the Lord for most of his life. He learned the sound of the Lord's voice. He listened carefully and attentively, and he shared God's words with the people.

Bear That's a cool story! I like how God spoke to that little boy in the night.

TL Isn't it interesting that little Samuel didn't even know it was the Lord at first. But once he figured it out he never wondered again. And God spoke to him many, many more times.



OLD TESTAMENT: SAMUEL

SKIT (CONT. 4)

lesson 23

Bear So it's kind of like how I have known you for a couple years and now, even though I can't see you, I know it's you just by the sound of your voice.

TL That's exactly right.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did Hannah ask the Lord to give her?
- What did she promise God if she received it?
- Did she keep her promise?
- What did God tell Samuel?
- Why did God choose to punish Eli's sons?
- How did the people of Israel know that Samuel was a prophet?
- How does God speak to people today?
- How can a person be attentive to God?

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: PIPE CLEANER PROPHET

Kids will make a pipe cleaner person (Samuel) in a blanket.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Pipe cleaners, several per child
- Scraps of fleece fabric, enough so each child can cut out a small blanket for their pipe cleaner person
- Some pre-made examples

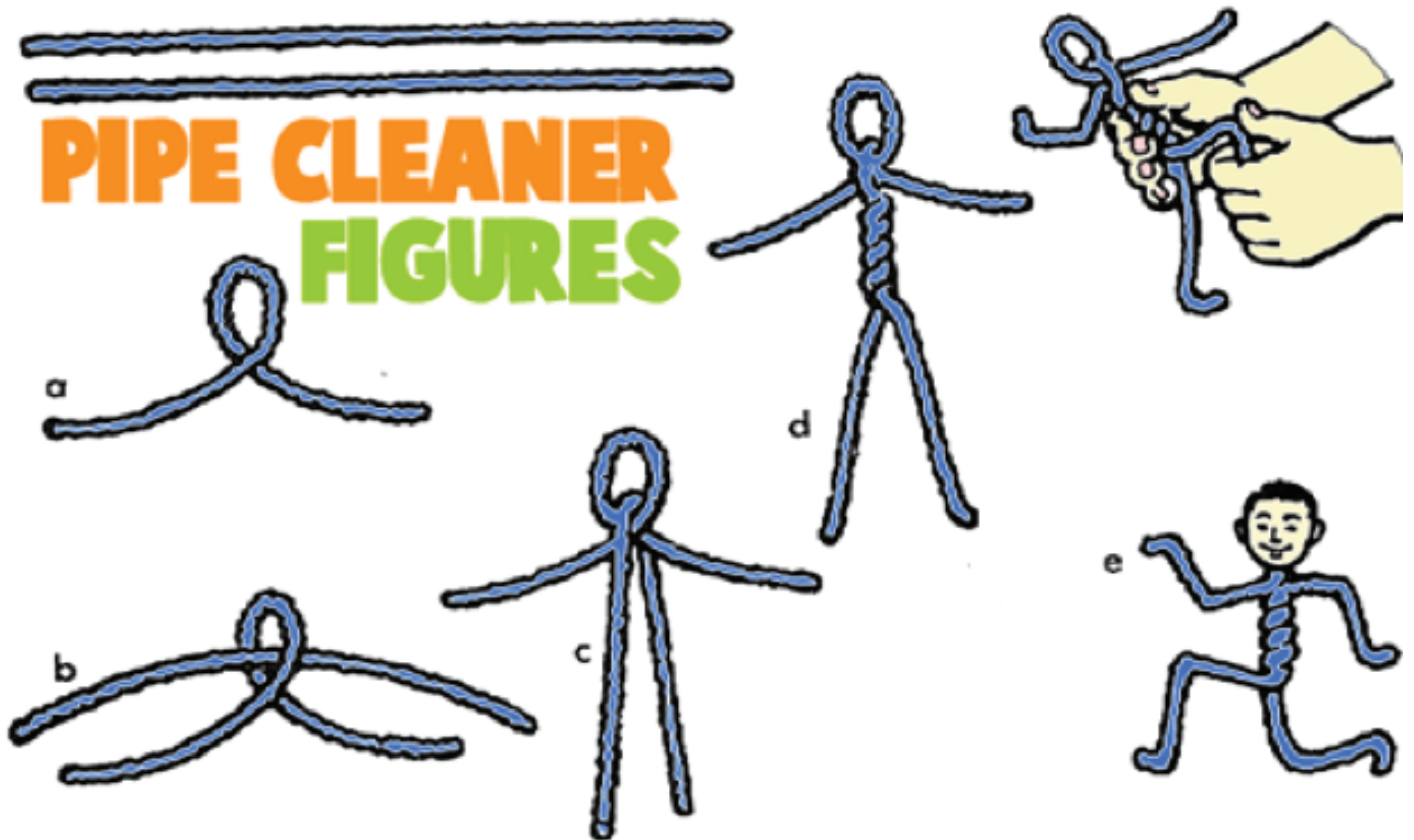
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors

DIRECTIONS

- Using the example below, help the children create a pipe cleaner person to represent Samuel.
- Let the kids pick out a piece of fleece to cut and make a blanket for Samuel.
- Act out the story of Samuel listening to the voice in the night and finally realizing it is God.
- Allow the kids to make more pipe cleaner people and decorate with fleece if time allows.
- There are many creative pipe cleaner ideas on the web.

EXAMPLE





OLD TESTAMENT: SAMUEL

lesson 23

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: LISTEN TO THE RIGHT VOICE

Objective: Kids are blindfolded and must listen carefully to the callers voice and ignore the other voices in order to reach the goal.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Several bandanas or strips of fabric to use as blindfolds
- Obstacles such as chairs, boxes, etc.
- Two chairs or ropes to mark the starting and ending point

INSTRUCTIONS

- Spread two chairs 30-50 feet apart across a room or play field
- One child volunteers to be the blindfolded and stands by one chair.
- One child volunteers to be the caller and stands by the other chair.
- The remaining children surround the game play area in a large circle.
- Choose some kids from the circle to create obstacles for the blindfolded player by setting up extra chairs, boxes or other objects in the path between the starting chair and the ending chair.
- To play, the caller instructs the blind folded player by saying things like “move forward 3 steps” or “turn left” or “sidestep to the right” etc.
- As the caller is instructing the blindfolded player, the other kids around the circle call out incorrect instructions to get the player off track.
- When the blindfolded player successfully makes it to the caller’s chair, he “wins”. Choose a new caller and a new blindfolded player.
- Options: If you have a loud or large group allow the players in the circle to call out only one or two incorrect commands per game. Consider dividing the kids into smaller groups and setting up two game play areas.

