

LESSON PLAN

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

1 Samuel 2:22-3:21

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 119:130 – “The entrance of your Words give light; they give understanding to the simple.”

Lesson Aim: We need to understand how privileged we are to have the Bible because it is God’s Word. He speaks to us from the Bible so we should make every effort to listen to it carefully and obey it.

Lesson Plan” Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): During the week before you teach this lesson send each of your students a letter or a card with a personal message from you. Then ask this question on Sunday: “Did anyone receive any letters in the mail this week?” When they tell you that they received one from you, you can tell them that each letter was a special message from you. Then tell them that the Bible is a special message from God. Our Bibles are God’s letters to each one of us. This is the way that God speaks to us today. Someday we will be able to hear the sound of His voice and see His face, but now we must be satisfied to have Him speak to us as we read our Bibles.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that God’s words give us light or understanding. It is like turning on a light in a dark room; you need not stumble over the furniture when the light is turned on. So we do not need to stumble, fall and get hurt in our spiritual life when we read and obey the Bible, God will give us the light that will help us make the right decisions. Without the Bible we will have darkness in our minds and will make all kinds of mistakes. Read the Bible so you do not stumble as a Christian.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. (How to prepare a lesson is given in the Introductory Notes.) In this lesson we will learn how God talked to His people. God will talk to us, too, if we will go to the right place and listen to Him. This lesson will tell us where God is speaking to us.

I. The Lord Spoke to Eli’s Sons (2:22-25)

The Lord had spoken to Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, by means of His written laws, but they were very wicked and would not listen to Him. They disobeyed His commands and did not care what God said. Then God spoke to them once again when Eli warned them, but they still would not listen. God would have to kill them before they would stop their sinning, and this is exactly what God did (4:11).

WE: We must never be stubborn when God speaks. How does He speak to us? He speaks to us from the Bible. We need to obey His messages to us in the Bible. Sometimes our parents will remind us what God says in the Bible. We should thank them for doing this, because we will get into serious trouble with God, if we do not obey Him. We do not want to be punished like God punished Hophni and Phinehas.

II. The Lord Spoke to Eli (2:27-36)

The Lord sent a man to Eli to give him a special message that He wanted him to obey (v. 27). This man reminded Eli that the Lord had spoken to him when He had spoken to his fathers. He had spoken to his fathers in the Law of Moses. Can you name the books of the Law of Moses? (Genesis – Deuteronomy) Eli, the high priest, had sinned by allowing his sons to take the best part of the sacrifices for themselves when it really belonged to the Lord (2:12-17, 29). By allowing them to do this, Eli actually honored his sons more than the Lord. This was a very wicked thing for Eli to do (3:13). As a result, the Lord told Eli through this special messenger that He was removing Eli’s family from their important place in the priesthood, and that his sons would both die in one day. The Lord also told him that He would choose for Himself a faithful priest to take their place.

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WE: We will be punished like Eli, if we fail to listen to God. Eli failed to obey what God said in the Bible. We must listen carefully to His words in the Bible and obey His commands.

II. The Lord Spoke to Samuel (3:1-21)

A. Samuel served with a good attitude (3:1; 2:26).

Samuel gained the favor of the Lord and also of men. That is what a good attitude will do for you.

WE: We need to please the Lord, our parents and others by serving them with a good attitude

B. Samuel was quick to obey (3:2-10).

When Samuel heard the Lord's call, he thought Eli was calling him. He got out of bed and ran to help Eli three times before Eli told him that it was the Lord who was calling him.

WE: We need to be quick to obey our parents, even when it causes us some discomfort to do it. The Lord sees what we do and is pleased when we obey quickly. Do you quickly run errands for your parents? Would you get out of bed quickly to help your parents? Would you do it three times without getting angry? When you learn to obey your parents and your leaders quickly, you will be learning how to please the Lord.

C. Samuel listened carefully to the Lord (3:11-19).

The message that Samuel heard from the Lord made him afraid. He believed it, but at first he was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had told him, because it was a word against Eli. When Eli insisted that Samuel tell what the Lord had told him, he told it to Eli.

WE: We show our faith in God's Word when we tell his message to someone else. If we laugh at God's Word or deny what God's Word says, we show that we do not believe it. If we obey God's Word, we show that we believe it. Our actions tell whether we believe God's Word or do not believe it. What do your actions tell others about your faith in God's Word?

The Lord was pleased with Samuel's obedience when he told Eli the message that He had given him. As a result He made Samuel important in the eyes of other men.

WE: We will please the Lord when we listen to Him and obey Him. He will cause others to respect us and honor us.

D. The Lord used Samuel to be His prophet (3:20, 21).

The Lord knew Samuel would listen to His voice and would do all that He commanded him. He had proven this when he told Eli His message. Therefore, the Lord used Samuel to give His messages to all Israel and everyone knew that Samuel was now God's prophet.

WE: We will be chosen by God to do His work when we prove that we are faithful to Him. When He speaks to us from the Bible and we tell others what He says, we prove that we are faithful to His message, especially if it is a hard message to tell them. If we are faithful to God, He will choose us to do a special work for Him. Do you want to be like Samuel?

BE (for Action): If you are going to be like Samuel, what must you do? Carefully review the main points of the lesson (Have a good attitude. Be quick to obey. Obey your parents and your leaders. Listen carefully to the God's message in the Bible. Tell God's message to others.). Will you begin doing these things this week? These are the things that made Samuel a great prophet for the Lord.