

LESSON 1

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL



OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God gives direction to those who listen to His word.
2. To learn to seek God's direction for us.

MEMORY VERSE

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

(Psalm 1:1-2)

PRAYER

1. We thank You, God, for allowing us to gather here once again for another RE lesson.
2. Today, we ask You to help us understand when Samuel received instruction from You, and to learn how to seek Your plan for us.
3. Lord, please grant us hearts willing to follow Your teachings.
4. May You help us also recognize that Your ways are always the best ways.



Overview

1. God's Calling

- a. The word of the LORD was rare (v. 1-3)
- b. God calls Samuel (v. 3-8)

2. Samuel's First Prophecy

- a. God reveals His word to Samuel (v. 10-14)
- b. Samuel's prophecy concerning Eli (v. 15-18)
- c. The Lord is with Samuel (v. 19)

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Bible

4. Life Application—What Does the Bible Say?

5. Activity—God's Way Is the Best Way; Memory Verse Puzzle



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Samuel: Priest, Judge, and Prophet

As soon as Samuel was weaned, his mother Hannah brought him to Eli so that Samuel could minister before the Lord, as she had promised. Hannah also made her son priestly garments and brought them each year when they visited, as Samuel served. God's plan was much more than what Hannah could ever have imagined, though. He was the last judge of Israel (1 Sam 7:15), a prophet who proclaimed God's word to the people, and the one who anointed the first two kings of Israel.

Eli's Wicked Sons

Eli's two sons were “corrupt; they did not know the LORD” (1 Sam 2:12). As priests, they took more than their rightful share from sacrifices and demanded that the meat be given to them before the fat had been burnt as an offering to God. Not only did they disrespect the offerings the people made to God, but they also dishonored God Himself before the people (1 Sam 2:17). Their sins were so great that God told Samuel that they could never be atoned (1 Sam 3:14).



Reaching Out to Your Students

While students at this age do not always face apparent dilemmas in faith, their challenge is to identify themselves as Christians, and to choose actively to live a godly life. For example, when it comes to choosing friends, your students may not be aware that choosing the wrong friends can be detrimental to their faith. We should instill in their hearts the fact that they are children of God, and therefore should always instinctively seek God's direction in whatever they do. Teach them to "apply [their] heart to instruction, and [their] ears to words of knowledge" (Prov 23:12).

Your students may wonder if it is possible to know always what God wants for us. In today's lesson, emphasize the point that God speaks to us directly through the Bible, as clearly as when He spoke to Samuel. Our instructions are contained within the Bible, and the Holy Spirit helps us to discern between right and wrong. Teach your students to ask, "What does the Lord want me to do?" in every decision they make.



Opener

5 Minutes

In today's lesson, we're going to learn about how God gives us direction, just as He spoke to Samuel and gave Him direction. You may wonder, "How does God speak to us today? How do I know that His directions are best?" Let's look at a few verses and see what the Bible tells us.

Isaiah 40:8 – "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

- What happens to beautiful flowers after a long period of time?
Flowers lose their beauty and eventually die. God's word stands forever, even though the world around us is in a constant state of change. Not only did His word instruct the people in the past, it remains today to give us direction in the present and in the future.

Isaiah 46:9b-10a – "I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning."

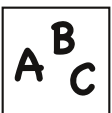
- We often read stories in the Bible, and through these stories, we learn about God and how His word worked in many people's lives in the past.
- That's not all! The Bible also tells us about the future. The fact that God knows the future means that He can guide our steps and lead us to where He knows is best for us.

1 Peter 2:2 – "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

- Why do babies need to drink milk?
The Bible is like babies' milk. It is full of nutrients that help us to grow as Christians. We need the word of God to give us the knowledge and wisdom we need to become stronger in our faith. We need to desire His word in the same way a baby desires milk.

Psalms 119:105 – "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

- If we are walking when it's pitch black, we may get lost or even hurt in the darkness. Our eyes need light to see what's in front of us.
- As Christians, the word of God is our light; walking without it means we are walking in darkness, which hinders us from finding the correct path towards God. Therefore, we should never underestimate the power of the Bible. This holy book gives us the most important directions in life!



Vocabulary

Nazirite: a person who has vowed to abstain from wine, from cutting his hair, and from contact with dead bodies
atone: to give compensation for, normally of sin



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students, and let them complete it as you progress through the lesson. The answers are provided at the end of the section. Complete Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 after you have covered the entire story.

Today, we are going to learn about Samuel the prophet. What do you know about Samuel? [Let students answer.] Who was his mother, and what did she offer in exchange for a son? (Hannah; she vowed that if the Lord would give her a son, then he would be a Nazirite and serve the Lord all the days of his life.) How many kings did he anoint, and who were they? (Two: Saul and David.)

GOD'S CALLING

The Word of God Was Rare

Let's open our Bibles to 1 Samuel 3, and read verses 1-3. When Samuel was still young, he ministered with Eli the priest. As the days went by, Eli was also getting old, and his eyes began to grow so dim that he could not see. Not only was he physically blind, he was also spiritually blind. He did not do a good job cultivating himself with God's word, and therefore the relationship between God and the Israelites also began to weaken.

God Calls Samuel

Let's continue reading verses 3-9.

One night, when Samuel was lying down, God called Samuel. Samuel had never been called by the LORD before, so he thought that Eli had called him, and he proceeded to run to Eli. But his teacher had not called him, so he went back to bed, thinking he was mistaken. This happened a second time, and a third time, and each time Samuel ran to Eli, saying, "Here I am!"

If you call a person's name for their attention, and they don't respond, what do you normally do? That's right, you normally call their name a second time, or maybe even a third or a fourth time. In very much the same way, God called Samuel again and again, until finally, the third time, Eli realized what was happening.

SAMUEL'S FIRST PROPHECY

God Reveals His Words to Samuel

Now, let's continue our story by reading verses 10-14 together. Once Samuel returned to his bed, God once again called him, as Eli said He would. This time, Samuel knew how to answer the Lord; as Eli had instructed, Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant hears." What did God then say to Samuel? Let's find out! Let's read verses 11-14 together.

Now before we go on, does anyone know what "iniquity" means? [Allow students to answer if they can.] Iniquity is another, more formal and serious word for sin. How about "atone"? [Again, allow students to answer if they can.] To atone for something means to give compensation, or to give something up for what you have done. For example, the Israelites would burn offerings in order to pay for, or atone for, their sins. On the other hand, today we atone for our sins by spending time in prayer and repenting. Back then, though, the Israelites had no such thing as direct communication with God or the Holy Spirit. They had to atone for their sins through sacrifices, and they could only make sacrifices with the help of the Levites, the priests of God's temple.

Eli, as we learned before, had become spiritually blind as he grew older. From what we just read, we know that he failed as a father. He had two wicked sons who were supposed to be holy priests for God, just like their father Eli. But they did not acknowledge this privilege and mistreated the offering of God with disrespect. Their sin of dishonoring God before the people was so great that they simply could not be forgiven. God told Samuel that He would judge them, as well as Eli, who failed to discipline his sons, according to their sins.

Samuel's Prophecy Regarding Eli

Let's continue to read verses 15-18 to read more about Samuel's very first prophecy.

After God revealed His word to Samuel, Samuel remained in bed until the next morning. He was that scared of telling Eli his vision! But Eli, knowing that God had spoken to Samuel, asked him what God had told him. So, bravely, Samuel told Eli everything, and Eli accepted the prophecy, knowing that he had sinned against God.

The Lord Remains With Samuel

This night marked the turning point in Samuel's life. When he lay down to sleep, he was merely an apprentice of Eli. The next day, though, he was already a chosen priest and prophet of God. Where Eli had failed as a priest, Samuel not only continued in Eli's position, but also became one of the greatest prophets, respected and honored all his life. During his lifetime, God let "none of his words fall to the ground," which means that every single prophecy he spoke was fulfilled. The Lord remained with Samuel from his childhood until his death. Since the Lord was with him, Samuel remained faithful and never failed as a priest, a Nazirite, a prophet, and a judge.

CONCLUSION

Today, we might think that God only speaks to important people, or that He would never reveal His word to us. It is true that dreams and visions from God are rare. Many of our church members have experienced them, while even more have never, and no one can guarantee that you will ever hear God's voice in your lifetime. But, as we learned at the beginning of this lesson, God has already given us His wisdom and His knowledge through the Bible. He has spoken to us through its words. That means if we truly want to seek after Him, we have to study the Bible in order to know His ways.

Let's turn to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and read it together. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The Bible is a book with many answers. If we have any doubts or concerns about a certain decision, or anything in our life, there are always two things we can do: First, pray for God's direction, and second, find out what God has instructed us through the Bible. While God may not answer our prayers right away, we can at least know that the correct decision we make will never contradict the Bible.

Samuel was a faithful servant of God since his youth, and

he never failed to follow God's word. Likewise, even though we are still young, God will not neglect a young heart that has the desire to follow Him. God gives direction to anyone who seeks after Him. All we need to do is ask with a pure heart and read the Bible!

FOR TEACHERS

Review the answers to Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 (provided below), and hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 Answer Key**Part I**

1. Eli; see
2. here I am
3. servant

Part II

1. offering
2. tingle; Eli; restrain
3. afraid

Short Answer

He called him four times. He finally answered on the fourth.

True or False

1. True
2. True
3. True



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible

"No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

God Himself wrote the Bible through the hands of about forty people who had been empowered by His Spirit. It is through the Bible that God speaks to us today. In the True Jesus Church, we believe that the Bible carries divine authority. We believe that the Bible is our word of life, food for the soul, and a weapon against evil. Therefore, in order for us to truly understand God's direction, we must trust and obey everything that is contained within. It is a reference book for all Christians, young and old.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **How many times did God call Samuel in total?** Four times (vv. 4, 6, 8, 10).
2. **What did Eli tell Samuel to do after the third time God called Samuel?** He told Samuel to answer the Lord (vv. 8-9).
3. **Why did God punish Eli?** Eli knew that his two sons had mistreated the offering of God, but he failed to correct them.
4. **How was it that none of Samuel's words "fell to the ground"?** All the prophecies delivered through him were fulfilled.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Nazirite, Hannah
2. prophecy
3. B
4. A
5. Through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.
6. He sought after God and listened to His direction.
7. As long as the decision we are making does not go against the teachings of the Bible and is according to the will of God, it is pleasing in God's eyes.
8. He knows the future and therefore knows which path is best for us.



Life Application

10 Minutes

What Does the Bible Say?

[Instructions and answers are provided below. Let students compare the two answers for each scenario and share the difference between their two answers, if there is one.]

Read the scenarios below and answer the following questions. After you have finished, your teacher will give you a reference verses for each scenario. Write down one of the verses and answer the question again using a reference to the verse.

- 1. This morning, your little sister accidentally spilled orange juice all over your shirt, which caused you to be late to school. You were very angry with her and thought that she deserved a bad look from you for the rest of the week.**

Q: When you see your sister later that day, would you give her a bad look? Why?

What does the Bible say? Read: James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-27; Colossians 3:12-13

Q: When you see your sister later that day, would you give her a bad look? Why?

- 2. It is your birthday today, and your classmates are celebrating with you. After you cut the cake, your friend Sammy took the plate with the biggest slice. Since it is customary for the birthday person always to get the biggest slice, your classmates all rebuked Sammy for taking your slice. Sammy, with tears in her eyes, confessed that she did not have lunch earlier because she forgot to bring the lunchbox her mom had prepared for her.**

Q: Would you take the plate away from Sammy?

What does the Bible say? Read: Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; Matthew 7:12

Q: Would you take the plate away from Sammy?

[Guide students into a discussion on how the Bible teaches us how to act in many different kinds of situations, and that if we are unsure of what to do in a certain situation, we can always turn to the Bible for help. This also shows the importance of reading the Bible daily so that the word of God is always in our hearts.]



Activity

1. God's Way Is the Best Way / 2. Memory Verse Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

1. God's Way Is the Best Way

Materials

- Activity #1 Worksheet

Instructions

Hand out the worksheet to each student and ask them to fill in the tables. Provide guidance for the students, if needed. After they have completed the worksheet, ask students to volunteer answers and emphasize that both Abraham and Daniel's three friends chose to follow God's way wholeheartedly and without doubt.

2. Memory Verse Puzzle

_____ is _____ who _____ not in the _____ of the _____, nor _____
 in the _____ of _____, nor _____ in the _____ of the _____; but _____
 is in the _____ of the _____, and in _____ he _____ and _____.

(_____ 1:1-2)

Instructions

1. Go over the memory verse with the students several times to ensure they have memorized it.
2. Write the verse on the board, leaving blank spaces for the missing words.
3. Print and cut out the missing words.
4. Mix up the words and put them in a container or basket.
5. One at a time, ask a student to come up, pick out a word, and place it in the correct blank space.
6. Repeat until all the words have been placed correctly.
7. Review the memory verse with the students once again. You may ask the students to close their eyes and recite the verse to help them remember it.

Making Good Decisions

In our daily lives, we are constantly making decisions. While you may not notice, some of them are in fact directly related to our relationship with God. Let's read the following examples and see how these decisions relate to our faith. Have you ever encountered similar situations before?

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2)

1. Why are we blessed when we do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly? Since God is righteous, His counsel is our godly standard. So, walking in the counsel of the ungodly means not walking on the path that God has instructed us. If we walk on the path He has instructed us, though, we will be blessed.

Example #1: At school, Jason's friends have been using bad words when they talk. Jason does not want to be friendless, but at the same time he no longer feels comfortable with these friends who use disrespectful words from time to time. Jason turns to God and prays that he will not be affected by these friends but rather be a good Christian model for them. He also thanks God for his spiritual friends from church.

Jason is blessed by God. Do you know why? *Allow students to answer: He refused to walk in the counsel of the ungodly.*

2. Why are we blessed when we do not stand in the path of sinners? The path of sinners is a path that leads to destruction. The further we walk on this path, the darker it gets. One sin leads to another, so let's not fall into this trap so that we can live in the light of God!

Example #2: Jason really doesn't want to go to school today because he forgot to study for his exam. He has always been a good student, and he doesn't want this one mistake to affect his overall grade. He thought about telling his parents that he feels very sick and therefore cannot make it to school today. However, he quickly abandons this thought because he knows that this would cause unnecessary worries for his parents, teachers, and friends. He would have to lie to his parents, and then to his teachers and friends. They would be more disappointed to know that he is a liar than to find out that he forgot to study. More importantly, he knows that God will be very disappointed because of his dishonesty. So Jason decides that he is going to do his best on the exam and accept the grade that he receives without complaining or making excuses. If his teacher asks him why he did so poorly, he will tell the truth and say that he forgot to study.

Jason is blessed by God. Do you know why? *He refused to stand in the path of sinners.*

3. Why are we blessed when we do not sit in the seat of the scornful? People who are scornful do not like to take advice or suggestions from others. They show little respect and are not humble.

Example #3: After Sabbath service, one of the RE teachers came to Jason and Christine and told them that they should not be wearing sandals to church because church is a holy place for worship. Offended, Christine complained to Jason, saying, "Don't worry about what the RE teacher just said... we're fine! She's just being traditional. Everyone wears sandals nowadays. My friends and I always wear them to school. I don't think we have to change just because she told us to." Instead of agreeing with Christine, Jason told her that he thinks the teacher is right. The church is the house of God, and we should be respectful by dressing appropriately.

Jason is blessed by God. Do you know why? *He refused to sit in the seat of the scornful.*

4. Instead, we are blessed when we delight ourselves in the law of the Lord and meditate in His Law day and night. Now, can you give an example of how we may be blessed according to our memory verse today?

Example #4: [Give students a few minutes to write about one thing that they can do in their daily lives to please God.]

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."

When we are determined to be a follower of God, it should not feel like an obligation. Instead, we should feel happy that we are doing what pleases God and thankful for God's promised blessings.

Last but not least, let's not forget to meditate in the word of God day and night. Just like with our school studies, our spiritual knowledge will not increase if we do not spend time to examine the Bible. God knows our heart, and He will bless us with the wisdom to understand His word if we eagerly draw closer to Him.

Wow! Look at all the choices we can make to live a godly life! We have to make choices every day. Some choices that we make will lead us astray. God will be most displeased when we deliberately choose to disobey Him. He would also be sad when we make choices out of laziness or thoughtlessness. God wants us to think carefully about all our decisions, and then make choices that we know will be pleasing to Him. When we do right, He will bless us.

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

Instructions: Fill in the blanks using the words below. One of the words may be used twice.

tingle	Here I am	afraid	restrain
offering	Eli	servant	see

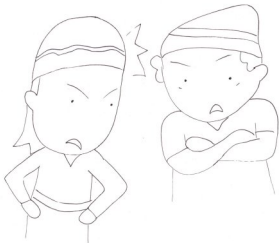
Part I: God's Calling

1. _____ the priest was old, and his eyes began to grow so dim that he could not _____.
2. The first three times God called, Samuel answered, " _____ _____, for you called me."
3. Eli perceived that it was God who had been calling Samuel, and therefore told him to answer the Lord by saying, "Speak, for Your _____ hears."



Part II: Samuel's First Prophecy

1. Eli had two wicked sons who mistreated the _____ of God.
2. The Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will _____. In that day I will perform against _____ that I have spoken concerning his house [...] because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not _____ them."
3. Samuel was _____ to tell Eli what the Lord had spoken to him.



Instructions: Complete the following questions.

Short Answer

How many times in total did God called Samuel? When did Samuel finally answer Him?

True or False

1. _____ Samuel is a prophet.
2. _____ Samuel is a priest.
3. _____ Samuel is a judge.



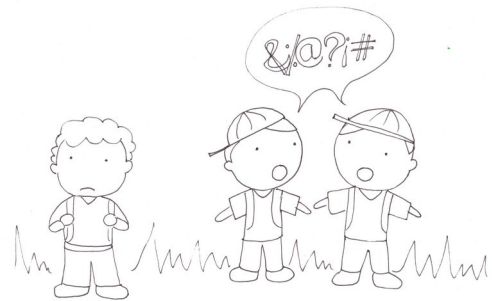
MAKING GOOD DECISIONS

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1. Why are we blessed when we do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly?

Example #1: At school, Jason's friends have been using bad words when they talk. Jason does not want to be friendless, but at the same time he no longer feels comfortable with these friends who use disrespectful words from time to time. Jason turns to God and prays that he will not be affected by these friends but rather be a good Christian model for them. He also thanks God for his spiritual friends from church.



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2. Why are we blessed when we do not stand in the path of sinners?

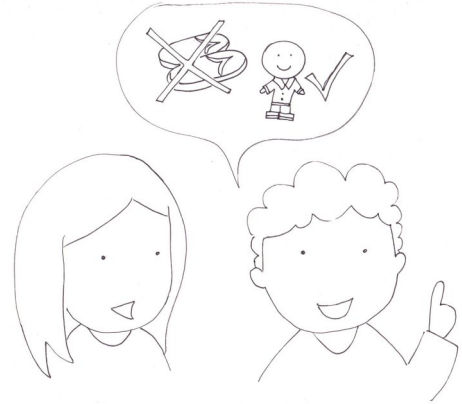


Example #2: Jason really doesn't want to go to school today because he forgot to study for his exam. He has always been a good student, and he doesn't want this one mistake to affect his overall grade. He thought about telling his parents that he feels very sick and therefore cannot make it to school today. However, he quickly abandons this thought because he knows that this would cause unnecessary worries for his parents, teachers, and friends. He would have to lie to his parents, and then to his teachers and friends. They would be more disappointed to know that he is a liar than to find out that he forgot to study. More importantly, he knows that God will be very disappointed because of his dishonesty. So Jason decides that he is going to do his best on the exam and accept the grade that he receives without complaining or making excuses. If his teacher asks him why he did so poorly, he will tell the truth and say that he forgot to study.

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3. Why are we blessed when we do not sit in the seat of the scornful?

Example #3: After Sabbath service, one of the RE teachers came to Jason and Christine and told them that they should not be wearing sandals to church because church is a holy place for worship. Offended, Christine complained to Jason, saying, "Don't worry about what the RE teacher just said... we're fine! She's just being traditional. Everyone wears sandals nowadays. My friends and I always wear them to school. I don't think we have to change just because she told us to." Instead of agreeing with Christine, Jason told her that he thinks the teacher is right. The church is the house of God, and we should be respectful by dressing appropriately.



Jason is blessed by God. Do you know why?

4. Instead, we are blessed when we delight ourselves in the law of the Lord and meditate in His Law day and night. Now, can you give an example of how we may be blessed according to our memory verse today?

What can I do in
my daily life to
please God?

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read the scenarios below and answer the following questions. After you have finished, your teacher will give you a reference verse for each scenario. Write down the verse and answer the question again using a reference to the verse.

1. **This morning, your little sister accidentally spilled orange juice all over your shirt, which caused you to be late to school. You were very angry with her and thought that she deserved a bad look from you for the rest of the week.**

Q: When you see your sister later that day, would you give her a bad look? Why?



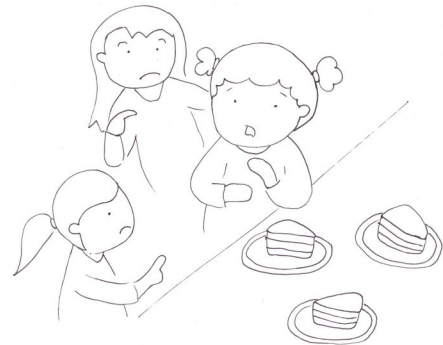
What does the Bible say?

Read: James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-27; Colossians 3:12-13

Q: When you see your sister later that day, would you give her a bad look? Why?

2. **It is your birthday today, and your classmates are celebrating with you. After you cut the cake, your friend Sammy took the plate with the biggest slice. Since it is customary for the birthday person always to get the biggest slice, your classmates all rebuked Sammy for taking your slice. Sammy, with tears in her eyes, confessed that she did not have lunch earlier because she forgot to bring the lunchbox her mom had prepared for her.**

Q: Would you take the plate away from Sammy?



What does the Bible say?

Read: Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; Matthew 7:12

Q: Would you take the plate away from Sammy?

GOD'S WAY IS THE BEST WAY

Read the Bible passages and fill in the tables below.

Abraham Sacrifices Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18)

Story:

God's Direction:

Result:

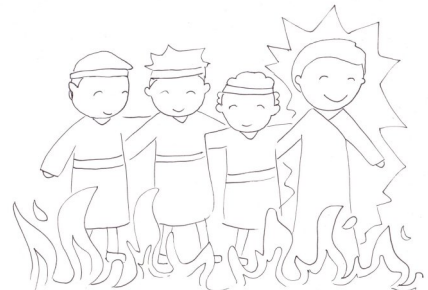


Daniel's Three Friends and the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:13-30)

Story:

God's Direction:

Result:



E2 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 1—God Speaks to Samuel

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Philippians 4:13)**

Fill In the Blank

1. Samuel was a _____ from his birth because his mother, _____, had committed Samuel to a vow and consecrated him to the Lord before he was even born.
2. God's calling marks a turning point in the life of Samuel as a prophet because the Lord had asked him to speak a _____ concerning Eli and his house.

Multiple Choice

3. _____ : After God spoke to Samuel, what did he do?
 - a. Immediately went to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him.
 - b. Waited until the morning when Eli approached him before speaking.
 - c. Kept God's words a secret out of fear.
4. _____ : Eli's two sons sinned against God by doing what?
 - a. Mistreating the offering of God.
 - b. Not obeying their father, Eli.
 - c. Being mean to Samuel.

Short Answer

5. How does God speak to us today, apart from dreams and visions?
6. Give one reason why Samuel is a successful servant of God.
7. How do we know if a decision we make will be pleasing in God's eyes?
8. Why is God's direction always the best?