

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ELI: FAILURES AS A PRIEST AND A PARENT

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

### Objectives

Knowledge of God's Will	Eli failed in his duties as priest and parent by honoring his sons more than God. As a result, the Lord condemned his family and the Israelites' faith declined.
Knowledge of God	God is omniscient and just.
Good Works	Accept discipline with a humble heart. Avoid despising God in our daily lives.

### A. Understanding Eli

1. *His spiritual eyesight was dim:* Someone with poor spiritual eyesight lacks spiritual discernment.
2. *His heart was far from God:* Although Eli was the high priest, God did not reveal Himself to him, as his heart had drifted far from God.

### B. Eli's Failures as a Priest

Because of his lack of faith and spiritual discernment, Eli failed to act as a mediator for the Israelites.

1. *He allowed the priesthood to fall into disrepute:* Eli didn't live up to his role as teacher, judge, or mediator. He also failed to maintain the sanctity of the priesthood by honoring his sons more than God, and by allowing them to continue in their evil ways.
2. *He did not correct his heart before God:* Eli understood that what he did was wrong, but he still didn't take any action to fix the priesthood. He simply accepted his fate, and made no attempts to repair his relationship with God.
3. *He did not train a good successor:* In order for God's work to prosper, it is important to cultivate successors and future pillars for His service. Eli failed to train his sons, and so the Lord stepped in and personally appointed young Samuel as His prophet instead.

### C. Eli's Failures as a Parent

1. *They did not know the Lord:* Hophni and Phinehas may have been priests, but their actions were evil, and they did not know God (1 Sam 2:12).
2. *They treated the Lord's offerings with contempt:* They took the best parts of the offerings for themselves.
3. *They seduced the women at the tabernacle:* They were so steeped in sin that they were no longer sensitive to it, or to Eli's warning.

### D. The Consequences of Eli's Failures

1. *Eli's family:* Because of their disregard for God, God would expel Eli's family from the priesthood and raise up a new priest who would follow His heart and mind (1 Kgs 2:26–27).
2. *The Israelites:* The devout who came to offer sacrifices were instead confronted with corrupt priests, while the wicked and lawless had an excuse to commit greater sins.
3. *God's nation:* Because the sins of the people increased, God did not abide with them, leading to their defeat at the hands of the Philistines, who also captured the ark of the covenant.

### Life Application

1. Do Not Despise Correction
2. Do Not Despise God

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## Lesson 6 Homework Assignment

### Eli: Failures as a Priest and a Parent

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Proverbs 22:6):

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1. How do we spiritually train ourselves so that we do not depart from God in the future?
2. “And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ in those days; there was no \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 Samuel 3:1b)
3. “He who is \_\_\_\_\_ in what is \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ also in \_\_\_\_\_; and he who is \_\_\_\_\_ in what is \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ also in \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(Luke 16:10)
4. In what way did Eli honor his sons above God?
5. What kinds of sins did Eli’s sons commit?
6. What are three reasons we experience discipline from our parents and from God?
7. Share a time when your actions negatively affected others. What did you learn from this experience?