**Bible Story:**

Samuel Obeyed God
(1 Sam. 3:1-10, 15-19)

Bible Phrase: "I will do what the Bible says"
(Ps. 119:44).

Bible Truth: God wants me to obey.

God's Unfolding Story

1. God created everything
2. People disobeyed God.
3. **God chose a special people.**
4. God sent Jesus to help us.
5. Jesus began the Church.
6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

Suggested Schedule

Arrival

Centers – 25 minutes

Clean-up Time – 5 minutes

Bible Story Time – 15 minutes

Craft Time – 10 minutes

Snack Time – 10 minutes

Game Time and Dismissal

**Unfolding God's Story for Teachers**

Samuel served the Lord during a time when "the word of the Lord was rare and the prophetic visions were not widespread" (1 Sam. 3:1). One commentator suggests Samuel did not immediately know God's voice because it was so rare.

Perhaps because of Israel's spiritual decline, there was no one through whom God could speak. Young Samuel interrupted Eli's sleep three times before the aging priest realized it might be God talking to Samuel.

Samuel had been dedicated to God before he was conceived. Perhaps God used Hannah's desperation of barrenness to produce a child to rescue a barren nation. The Bible states, "Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men" (1 Sam. 2:26). Samuel was different. Samuel listened and obeyed, unlike Eli and his sons. Samuel heard God's voice and became the prophetic voice of God to His people.

Have you heard a word from God? Has He called your name and asked you to do something for Him? Perhaps the noise and the busyness of your life have muffled the voice of God. We can get so busy doing the work of the Lord that we fail to hear the Lord when He speaks. We are called to be still and know He is God. Are you taking time to be still? In that stillness, are you willing to say as did Samuel, "Speak Lord, for your servant hears"? After hearing, are you willing to obey?

The Word of the Lord was rare in those days because God's people were living far from Him.

They neither were passing on the stories, nor were they living in obedience. We have the opportunity to tell the stories to the preschoolers we teach and live in obedience to His Word. Let it not be said the Word of the Lord was rare in our own lives.

Lesson Plan**Arrival**

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her center time.

Center Time



Home Living Center

Role Play Home Activities

Supplies:

- Doll bed, small rocking chair, sink and stove unit, small table and chairs, plastic dishes, child pots and pans
- Doll items such as blanket, clothes, bottles

What to Do:

Arrange furniture in a corner of the room. Organize the dishes and other accessories. Children naturally are drawn to this center. Encourage preschoolers to keep home living items in the center.

Link to Bible Story:

As children play, look for opportunities to share the Bible phrase or the the Bible Story.

Block Center

Build with Blocks

Supplies:

- Wooden blocks

What to Do:

Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow. Encourage preschoolers to work together to build and construct.

Link to Bible Story:

As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible phrase or briefly tell the Bible Story.

Bible Learning Center

Paint Samuel's Blanket

Supplies:

- Copies of Samuel's Blanket (Reproducible)
- Four or five colors of Dot Painters or water colors

What to Do:

Give each child a copy of Samuel's Blanket. Demonstrate how to use the dot painters by gently pressing the sponge top onto the paper. Encourage children to be creative with the colors and their designs as they decorate Samuel's blanket.

Link to Bible Story:

Briefly tell the Bible Story. Express that Samuel lived in the tabernacle with Eli the priest. One night as Samuel was sleeping, he heard a voice. He thought it was Eli, but Eli told him God was speaking and that Samuel should listen and obey God's voice.

Art Center

Make a Night Time Picture

Supplies:

- Black construction paper
- White and yellow chalk or crayons
- Self-adhesive stars or cut-out stars

What to Do:

Invite children to make a night time picture with the chalk or crayons and stars.

Link to Bible Story:

Express that during the night while Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call his name. He thought it was Eli the priest, but Eli had not called Samuel. He told Samuel to listen because God was speaking to him.

Puzzle Center

Work Puzzles

Supplies:

- Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.

What to Do:

Invite preschoolers to work puzzles. Encourage children to finish a puzzle before leaving the center. Give guidance rather then doing the puzzle for the child.

Link to Bible Story:

As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible phrase or briefly tell the Bible Story.

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.

Bible Story Time

Supplies:

- Bible
- Teaching Picture – “Samuel Obeyed God” (Reproducible)
- God’s Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

Introduction

Show children God’s Unfolding Story Cube, and recite God’s Unfolding Story using the pictures. (Refer to page 1.) Explain to the children they will hear a story today from **God chose a special people.** (Point to that section of the cube.)

Ask children what they think it means to obey. Help boys and girls understand



that obey means “to do what someone tells you to do.” That person may be your parent, teacher, grandparent or another person who is responsible for you. Most importantly, we are to obey God. Today’s Bible story is about Samuel. Last week, we learned that Samuel went to live at the tabernacle with Eli the priest. Samuel served God at the tabernacle. One night, God spoke to Samuel. Listen to hear if Samuel obeyed God.

Bible Story

**“Samuel Obeyed God”
(1 Sam. 3:1-10, 15-19)**

Samuel lived at the tabernacle with Eli the priest. He helped Eli take care of the tabernacle. Eli taught Samuel about God. One night as Samuel slept, He heard a voice calling, “Samuel, Samuel.” Samuel got up and went to Eli, saying, “Here I am.” Eli said he had not called, so Samuel went back to bed.

A second time Samuel heard, “Samuel, Samuel.” He got up and went to Eli, but again Eli said, “I have not called you.”

A third time Samuel heard his name, and for the third time he went to Eli.

This time Eli told Samuel if he heard the voice again to say, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.”

So Samuel went back to bed and again he heard his name, “Samuel, Samuel.” Samuel spoke the words Eli told him to say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.”

The voice was God’s. God told Samuel some important words that Eli needed to hear. The words would not be good news to Eli. The people had not obeyed God’s law.

Eli knew God had spoken to Samuel. He asked Samuel to tell him what God said. Samuel obeyed God and told Eli the sad news.

Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture Samuel Obeyed God. Ask: “Who was calling Samuel in the night?” “What did God want Samuel to do?” “Did Samuel obey God?”
2. Show children the Bible phrase on the teaching picture. Say the phrase together. Express to children that we are obeying God when we do what the Bible says.

Craft Time

Make a Bible Story Picture Book

Supplies:

- Copies of "The Story of Samuel" (Reproducible)
- Washable markers or crayons
- Stapler
- Child's scissors

What to Do:

Ask children to color the pictures in their books. Assist in cutting apart the pages if necessary. Encourage children to put their books together in numerical order. Staple the books for the children.

Link to Bible Story:

Use the book to tell the story of Samuel's early life. Comment that as Samuel grew, he continued to obey God.

Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Game Time/Dismissal

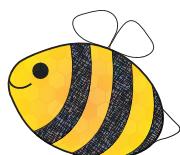
Supplies:

- No supplies needed

What to Do:

Invite children to sit in a circle. Tell children you will whisper an action to the person sitting next to you. That person will whisper the action to the next person. When the last person in the circle has heard the whisper, everyone will say the action and then do the action. Some actions to whisper might be: clap your hands; pat your head; stand up; jump; touch toes; hop; sit down. Talk about what part of the body we use to listen.

Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of your church.





Resources and Supplies

Old Testament Unit 9: Samuel
Lesson 3: Samuel Obeyed God

Standard Art Supplies

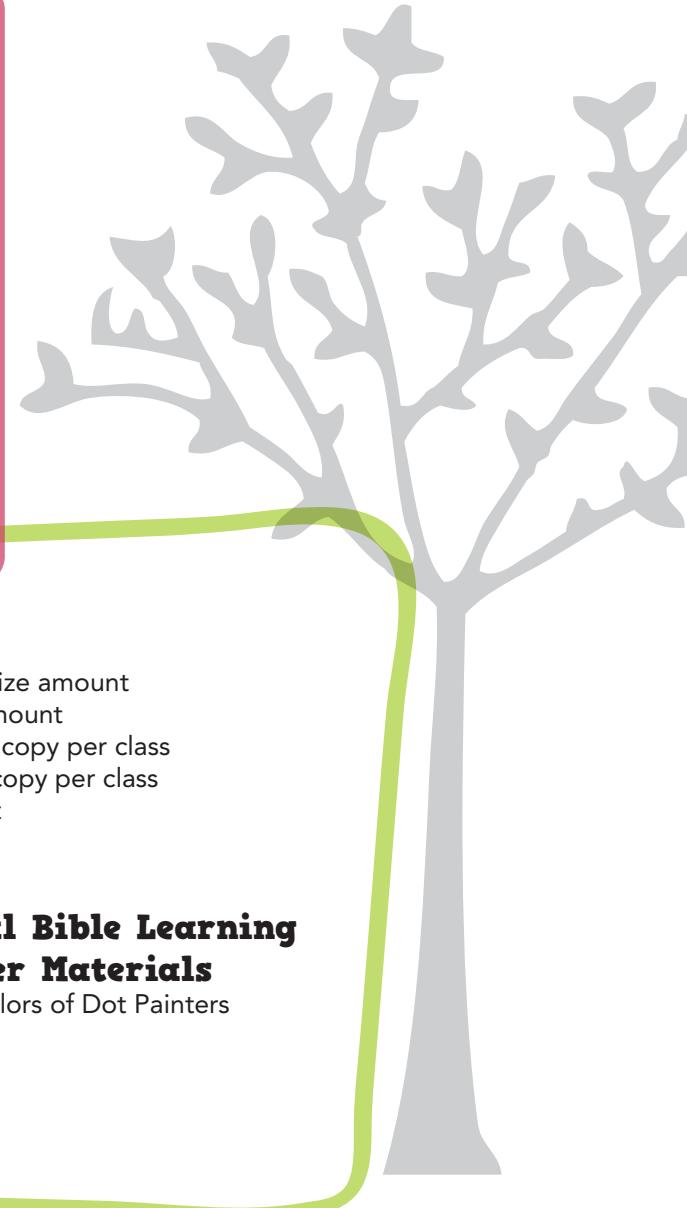
(Supplies that are generally in the room)

- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Child Scissors
- Playdough and accessories
- Drawing paper
- Easel (optional)
- Glue/glue sticks
- Tempera paint – four colors
- Tape/masking tape
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Teacher scissors
- Stapler/staples
- Permanent markers
- Water colors
- Paint brushes
- Yarn

Standard Equipment

(Supplies that are generally in the room)

- Bible
- Small Beanbag for Bible Story Time
- Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles
- Set of wooden blocks
- Small cars and trucks
- Doll bed
- Doll baby – soft plastic
- Stove/sink unit
- Play dishes/pots and pans
- Small table and chairs
- Small carpet for block area
- Play food items
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, Bible Learning Center
- CD player/Children's Worship CD's



Reproducibles

- Activity Sheet "Samuel's Blanket" – Class size amount
- "The Story of Samuel" – Class size amount
- Teaching Picture – "Samuel Obeyed God" – 1 copy per class
- God's Unfolding Story Cube – Cardstock - 1 copy per class
- Parent Page – Class size amount

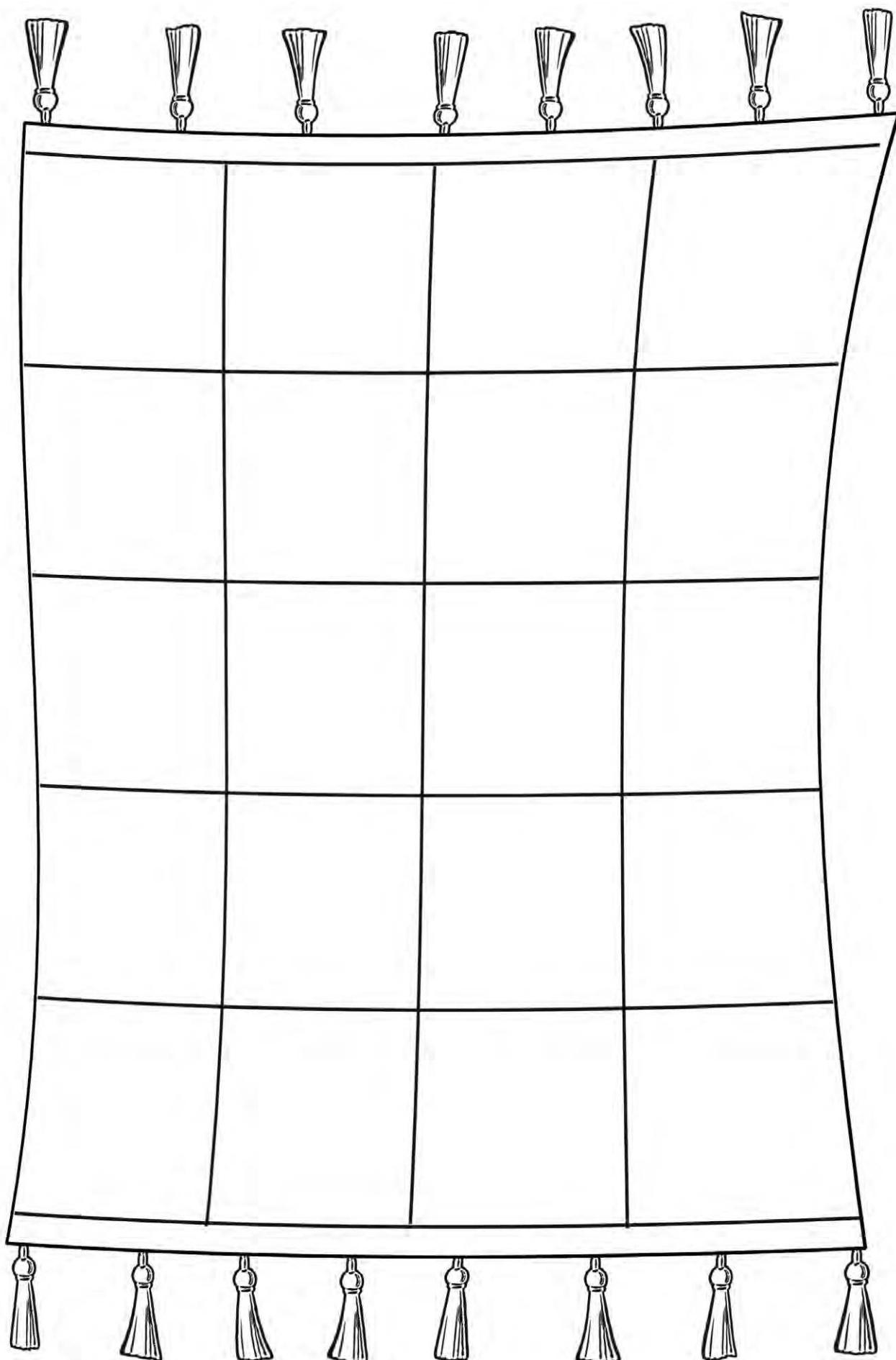
Additional Art Materials

- Black construction paper – 1 per child
- White and yellow chalk
- Self-adhesive stars or cut out stars

Additional Bible Learning Center Materials

- 4 or 5 colors of Dot Painters



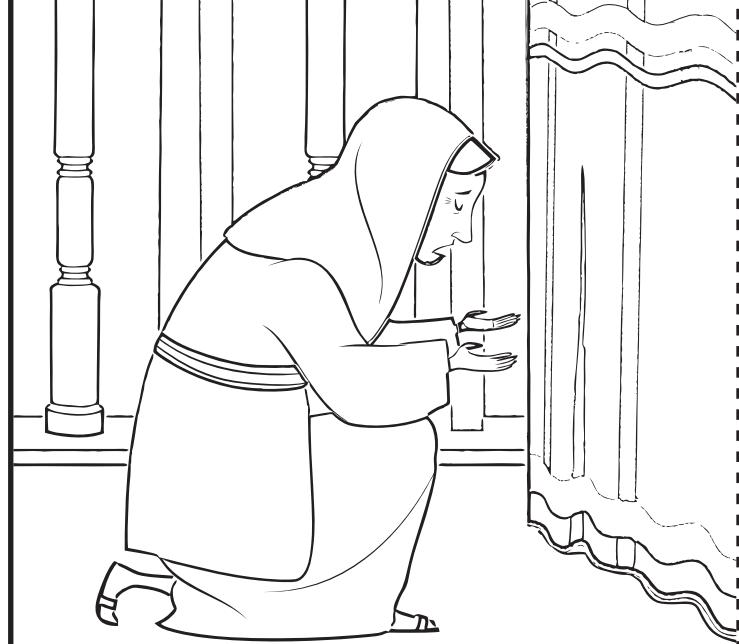


The Story of Samuel



Samuel served God at the tabernacle.

1



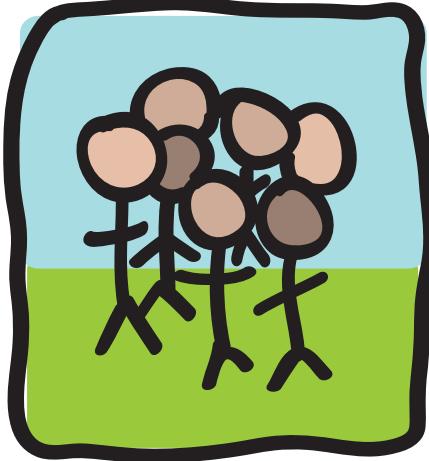
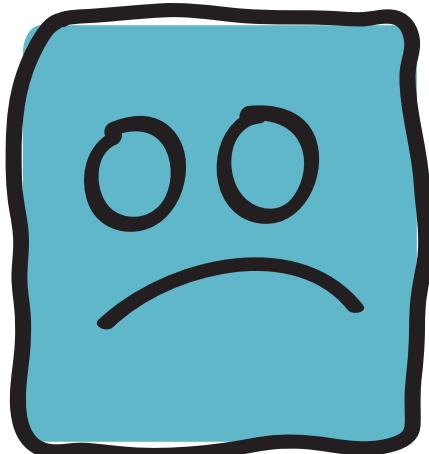
**Hannah prayed for a baby.
Baby Samuel was born.**

2



Samuel obeyed God.

4



God's Unfolding Story Cube
Instructions: Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.



I will do what the Bible says. Psalm 119:44