

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

18

SAMUEL-ISRAEL'S LAST JUDGE

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



18

SAMUEL-ISRAEL'S LAST JUDGE

Memory Verse:

Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.
(Romans 12:11 CEV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Samuel was

#2 - Discover what faith led Samuel to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

1 Samuel 2:18-12:25



18

SAMUEL-ISRAEL'S LAST JUDGE

1 Samuel 2:18-12:25

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Samuel

His Heroic Feat: Serves God Faithfully

Serving God faithfully may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Think back to our last lesson. Our heroine wanted a baby, so she prayed to God. Who was she and what happened? (Her name was Hannah. God gave her the baby she asked for.) What did Hannah do with her son? (She offered him back to God. She took him to live and grow up in the temple.)

Samuel grew up with Eli the priest and his two sons. Eli's sons were very disobedient, "But the boy Samuel served the Lord." (1 Samuel 2:18 NIV) Every year when Samuel's parents, Elkanah and Hannah, came to offer their sacrifice, Hannah would bring Samuel a little robe to use as he served in the house of the Lord.

"In those days, the LORD hardly ever spoke directly to people, and he did not appear to them in dreams very often. But one night, Eli was asleep in his room, and Samuel was sleeping on a mat near the sacred chest in the LORD's house." (1 Samuel 3:2-3 CEV) Neither of them had been asleep very long when the Lord called out, "Samuel." Samuel got up and ran to Eli's room, thinking Eli had called him. "Here I am," he said. Eli told the boy that he hadn't called him, so Samuel went back to bed. The Lord called out to Samuel again. Again Samuel ran to Eli's room and again Eli sent Samuel back to bed. You see, "The LORD had not spoken to Samuel before, and Samuel did not recognize the voice." (1 Samuel 3:7 CEV) But by this time Eli understood what was going on. The Lord spoke to Samuel a third time and Samuel ran to Eli again. "So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down. If someone calls out to you again, say, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place." (1 Samuel 3:9 NIV) Then, the Lord came to where Samuel was and called out to Samuel as He had done before. Samuel answered as Eli had told him to. God had the message of a prophet for young Samuel. God told Samuel that He would punish Eli and his sons for his sons' disobedience. After Samuel received the message from God he stayed where he was. He was afraid to tell Eli what God had said, but in the morning, Eli insisted that Samuel tell him everything. Eli said, "He is God. He should do what He thinks is best."

"As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him. He made everything Samuel said come true. So all of the people of Israel recognized that Samuel really was a prophet of the Lord." (1 Samuel 3:19-20 NIV) Samuel served Israel all of his life, not only as a prophet, but also as a judge, like Deborah and Gideon. Even so, there came a day when the people rejected Samuel as their judge. Even worse, "they no longer wanted God as their ruler. They wanted a human superhero they could follow and brag about." (Wiersbe, 128) Instead of wanting to be heroes of the faith, different and set apart, they wanted to be like all the other nations around them.

Because God never forces us to obey, God gave the people what they wanted, but He warned them, through, Samuel, what they were really asking for—the king would take their sons and daughters, their fields and cattle. What a pity, they still wanted to be like everyone else. Samuel anointed Saul to be the first king of the people of Israel. Even as Samuel anointed the new king, he reminded the people that they needed to be faithful to God.

Samuel lived many more years and continued to pray for the people of Israel. He set up schools to teach the next generation how to serve God and he grieved over the decisions the people of Israel and their king were making. Samuel never gave up; he served the Lord faithfully all of his life.

Wiersbe, Warren W. *Life Sentences: What Sentence Will Sum Up Your Life?* Zondervan: 2007. pp. 128-131.

Grand Rapids, Michigan.

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Samuel served God faithfully. You can, too.

Our memory verse says, "Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord." (Romans 12:11 CEV) Samuel had reason to give up, and you may, too. Choose not to give up. Follow the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life and commit to serve Him all the days of your life. Don't settle for being like everyone else!

NEXT WEEK
David Slays Goliath with a
Single Shot

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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One night, after Samuel and Eli had gone to sleep, God spoke to Samuel. Samuel had never heard God speak, so he thought Eli was calling him. He got up, went to Eli's room and said, "Here I am." Eli sent the boy back to bed. This happened three times when Eli realized God was speaking to Samuel. "So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down. If someone calls out to you again, say, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place." (1 Samuel 3:9 NIV) Then, the Lord came to where Samuel was and called out to Samuel again. Samuel answered "Speak, Lord. I'm listening." God shared some news about Eli and his sons. It was bad news, but Samuel shared it with Eli anyway.

"As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him. He made everything Samuel said come true. So all of the people of Israel recognized that Samuel really was a prophet of the Lord." (1 Samuel 3:19-20 NIV) Samuel served Israel all of his life.

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a poster. On each poster make three "road signs." On each print a phrase from the memory verse: i.e. "Never give up," "Follow the Holy Spirit," and "Serve the Lord." Be sure to include the reference at the bottom of each poster.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "What A Mighty God We Serve," "You're Worth of My Praise," "Serve the Lord With Gladness" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Play the telephone game. Talk about Samuel's confusion until He recognized the voice as God's.
- **For more training:** Read 1 Samuel 5. Discuss Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. Talk about the power of God.
- **For more training:** In the book "Life Sentences: What Sentence Will Sum Up Your Life?," Warren Wiersbe encourages us to follow Samuel's example to 1) Obey the Lord, 2) Pray to the Lord, 3) Teach the Lord's Word, and 4) Grieve before the Lord. Discuss each of those in Samuel's life and how they can be applied personally.

Never give up.
Eagerly follow
the Holy Spirit
and
serve the Lord.

Romans 12:11

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Samuel-Israel's Last Judge

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:18-12:25

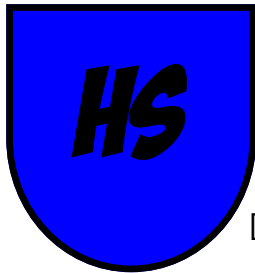
Memory verse:

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(Romans 12:11 CEV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read 1 Samuel 12. Even as the people of Israel were “firing” Samuel, were they displeased with him? As Samuel anointed the new king, what did he remind the people of Israel? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
 Fill in the blanks, using the key, to discover the memory verse.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
 13 22 5 22 9 20 18 5 22 6 11

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
 22 26 20 22 9 15 2 21 12 15 15 12 4 7 19 22 19 12 15 2 8 11 18 9 18 7

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
 26 13 23 8 22 9 5 22 7 19 22 15 12 9 23

— — — — — — — — — —
 9 12 14 26 13 8 Z O Z Z

WORD

SEARCH!

B	D	C	D	F	F	E	N	M	N	G	D	E
D	R	D	E	B	O	R	E	L	T	T	I	L
R	T	O	T	S	S	S	V	I	R	O	R	I
O	B	G	I	A	Y	E	R	S	O	G	O	T
L	T	O	S	M	A	R	E	T	E	O	L	H
E	E	T	I	U	S	N	S	E	D	B	E	E
H	S	D	V	E	S	H	N	N	S	E	H	P
T	T	E	M	L	L	E	E	E	E	Y	T	R
F	R	Y	O	H	G	N	O	D	H	E	F	I
O	S	A	M	U	E	L	S	T	A	D	O	E
E	S	R	I	R	P	E	H	O	I	G	E	S
S	G	P	V	P	D	E	P	G	R	O	S	T
U	T	E	L	A	Y	J	A	O	S	D	U	N
O	N	O	N	E	R	D	L	D	H	C	O	N
H	O	I	R	R	E	L	K	A	N	A	H	M

- Samuel
- Eli the priest
- serve
- house of the Lord
- mom visited
- little robe
- listened to God
- obeyed God
- prayed to God

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Fill in the blanks, using the key, to discover the memory verse.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

N e v e r g i v e u p .
13 22 5 22 9 20 18 5 22 6 11

E a g e r l y f o l l o w t h e H o l y S p i r i t
22 26 20 22 9 15 2 21 12 15 15 12 4 7 19 22 19 12 15 2 8 11 18 9 18 7

a n d s e r v e t h e L o r d .
26 13 23 8 22 9 5 22 7 19 22 15 12 9 23

R o m a n s 1 2 : 1 1
9 12 14 26 13 8 Z O Z Z

