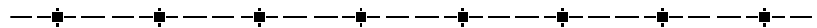


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Father Fails to Discipline

Eli

Last week we learned about Samson. He was a Nazarite. That meant he was set aside for the Lord. He was not to drink alcohol nor cut his hair. When he grew up, Samson made bad choices. But God used him to deliver Israel from their enemies.

I Samuel 2-3

Read the Bible

READ: I Samuel 3:11-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

A Father Fails to Discipline

I Samuel 3:11-18

Memory Verse:

God's saving grace has appeared to all people.... We must control ourselves. We must do what is right. We must lead godly lives in today's world.
(Titus 2:11-12 NIV)

Begin With Prayer

Eli the priest had two sons. (Eli was the same priest that Samuel went to live with in the temple.) But the Bible says that they did not know the Lord. The priests were the ones who offered sacrifice on behalf of the people. But the sons of Eli would take some of the meat of the animal that was being sacrificed for themselves. They would send their servants to ask the people who were sacrificing to give them meat. As priests they were supposed to wait until the fat had been burned. But, if someone told them to wait until the fat had been burned they would tell them that they would take the meat by force. This was very wrong. (I Samuel 2:12-17)

The Bible tells us that we are supposed to do what is right. (Titus 2:11) Eli knew that his sons were doing wrong. It made him sad but he did not stop them. (I Samuel 3:12-13) This made God very sad. The sacrifice made by the priest was special to God. The way the sons of Eli acted showed great disrespect for God. Eli was the priest. He was not only supposed to say something to his sons, he should have stopped them. But Eli did not stop them. So, God had to punish them. (I Samuel 3:14) God told Samuel that He was going to punish Eli and his sons. (I Samuel 3:11-14)

Have you ever been punished for doing something wrong? How did you feel? Do you remember other people in the stories we have studied who did wrong? (Adam and Eve ate the fruit, Joseph's brothers, Samson made bad choices, etc.)

Samuel was faithful to God and gave Eli the message. (I Samuel 3:18) Samuel could have chosen not to give Eli the message. He could have made up an excuse not to tell Eli the truth. Samuel told the truth. Sometimes it is not easy to tell the truth, if we have done something bad or if we have had an accident and have broken something. But, God wants

Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Eli was a priest.
2. Learn Eli's sons disrespected God.
3. Recognize that Eli should have stopped his sons.
4. Understand that God had to punish Eli and his sons.

Eli—Bible Facts

1. Eli was a priest.
2. Eli's sons sinned against God.
3. Eli's sons disrespected God.
4. Eli allowed the sin to continue.
5. God told Samuel that He would punish Eli and his sons.

us to tell the truth. (Colossians 3:9)

The Bible tells us that we must control ourselves. We should not give in to sin and to the desire to sin. (Titus 2:12) Sometimes controlling ourselves can be hard. But we can ask God to help us. He will help us. Eli and his sons knew what was right. They sinned against God by their actions. Eli sinned because he did not take action. Sometimes we sin because of what we do or say. Sometimes we sin because of what we do not do or do not say. Both are disobedience to God. (Acts 5:29)

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned. (Romans 3:23) But God has given us His grace. He sent Jesus to save us from sin. (John 3:16) God loved us even when He knew that we would choose to sin. (Romans 5:8)

Eli the priest knew his sons chose to sin. He knew that God would punish them. When Samuel told him all that God had said, he accepted the judgment from God. (I Samuel 3:18) God wants us to repent and be sorry for our sins. He wants us to stop sinning. He sent Jesus to help us do that.

Review questions

1. Who was Eli? (Eli was a priest.)
2. What did Eli's sons do? (Eli's sons disrespected God.)
3. What did Eli do to his sons? (Eli talked to his sons.)
4. What should Eli have done? (Eli should have stopped his sons.)
5. What did God do? (God told Samuel that He would punish Eli and his sons.)

Do you know Jesus?

God wants us to know Him. He sent Jesus so that we can have a personal relationship with Him. When we tell God that we are sorry for our sins, He forgives us. (I John 1:9) God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place (for our sins). God wants us to live with Him in Heaven forever. (John 3:16) Have you invited Jesus into your heart? Would you like Him to be a part of your life? All you have to do is ask.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that He can help us do God's will.
3. Ask God to help you obey.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to do God's will.

Application

Eli was a priest. But, Eli's sons disrespected God. When Eli heard that his sons were disrespecting God he talked to them. But Eli should have stopped his sons. Because Eli did not stop his sons, God had to punish Eli and his sons. The Bible says that God's grace is available to all. "It teaches us to say no to godless ways and sinful longings. We must control ourselves. We must do what is right. We must lead godly lives in today's world." (Titus 2:11-12 NIV)

Planning for the next week:

Saul (A King is Chosen to Lead God's Children) — I Samuel 10-16

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Samuel 3:11-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Decorate your room with hearts. Talk about how God loves us even when we choose to do wrong.)

Eli the priest had two sons. But the Bible says that they did not know the Lord. The priests were the ones who offered the sacrifice on behalf of the people. But the sons of Eli would take some of the meat of the animal that was being sacrificed for themselves. (I Samuel 2:12-17)

The Bible tells us that we must control ourselves. We should not do bad things (sin). (Titus 2:12) Sometimes that can be hard. But we can ask God to help us. He will help us.

Eli and his sons knew what was right. They sinned (did bad things) against God by what they did. Eli sinned because he did not do what he was supposed to do. Sometimes we sin because of what we do or say. Sometimes we sin because of what we do not do or do not say. Either way it was disobedience to God. (Acts 5:29)

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned. (Romans 3:23) But God sent Jesus to save us from sin. (John 3:16) God loved us even when He knew that we would choose to sin. (Romans 5:8)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God's will.
3. Ask God to help us know what He wants.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to make good choices.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn that God loves them. Consider this: Reward good behavior. Watch the children as they interact during class. Bring or create stickers that say, "I took turns," "I shared," "I was helpful," "I listened to the story," etc. Make sure every child gets a sticker. Tell them the reason they are getting a sticker. Tell the children, "God loves you all the time." If a child is having a hard time, find a reason to give them a sticker. ("I came to Bible study.")

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity — Bring blue, purple, and red construction paper. Write the verse on the paper. Tell the children the robes worn by the priests were made of these colors. Bring a picture of the priest's garments. Practice the verse.

Test your memory — Write ten questions about the story. As you tell the story, ask the questions. Ask the children to retell the story using the questions.

Taste activity — Bring heart-shaped cookies. Talk about how God loves us.

Think about it — Eli's sons disrespected God. When Eli heard that his sons were disrespecting God, he talked to them. Eli should have stopped his sons. Talk about the reason it was important for Eli's sons to respect God.

The Bible tells us that we are supposed to do what is right. (Titus 2:11) Talk about the reasons doing right is important for a believer. (testimony, obedience, be light, share Christ, etc.)

Talk about the sacrifices and the role of the priest.

Touch activity — Bring pictures of the priests offering sacrifices.

Decorate your room with hearts. Talk about God's love for us.

Bring or create stickers that say, "I took turns," "I shared," "I was helpful," "I listened to the story," etc. Make sure every child gets a sticker. Tell them the reason they are getting a sticker. Tell the children, "God loves you all the time." If a child is having a hard time, find a reason to give them a sticker. ("I came to Bible study.")

Run and play — Play a relay game. Select four leaders who will tell the children to run to one of four locations. Label the locations: "What I Do," "What I Say," "What I Don't Do," "What I Don't Say." Have the children form four lines. Tell the children that they must do what the leader asks them to do. Have the children run races to the locations. The leaders may ask the children to race to the same location or to a different location and back. When they come back to the line, they must touch the hand of the next runner.

Listen — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to respect and obey Him.

Sing — Sing "Obedience Is," or other songs based on Scripture.

Memory Verse

God's saving grace
has appeared
to all people....

We must control
ourselves.

We must do
what is right.

We must lead
godly lives
in today's world.

Titus 2:12 NIV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

eli

was a

priest.

Word Puzzle

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

EII

SONS

SIN

DISRESPECT

GOD

KNEW

STOP

SAMUEL

PUNISH

Word Puzzle

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

EII

SONS

SIN

DISRESPECT

GOD

KNEW

STOP

SAMUEL

PUNISH

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

OBEY

RIGHT

CONTROL

GODLY

DO

SAY

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

C I F K G T S P M V W L

P D B M A C O N T R O L

W C X V Y F K Z P J B T

O B E Y N E M I E S C H

M N J B C F H R I G H T

B R P A G O D L Y U K L

S A Y S Q N P R B E C J

R F G K N G T L C W D O

OBEY

RIGHT

CONTROL

GODLY

DO

SAY

Anagram

1. LSEAUM-

2. LODT-

3. DHARE-

4. IEL-

5. ONSS-

6. EIIACCRSF-

7. TDCIESPRES-

8. NSUHPI-

Anagram

1. LSEAUM– SAMUEL
2. LODT– TOLD
3. DHARE– HEARD
4. IEL– ELI
5. ONSS– SONS
6. EIIACRSF– SACRIFICE
7. TDCIESPRES– DISRESPECT
8. NSUHPI– PUNISH