



Samuel as a Boy

11



Hear the Word of the Lord.



Hannah had wanted a baby for a long time. Hannah prayed, "Dear God, please give me a son. If You do, I will give him back to You."

At last God gave Hannah a son. She named him Samuel. A few years later Hannah took Samuel to the tabernacle, the tent-church. She told Eli, the priest, "God gave this child to me. Now I am giving him back to God. He will serve God all his life." So Samuel stayed with Eli and learned about God's Word. Each year Hannah would go to the tabernacle to bring a new robe for Samuel.

One night when Samuel was 12 years old, he heard someone call him. Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." But Eli said, "I did not call you." So Samuel went back to bed.

Then he heard someone call him again. He went to Eli and again Eli told him, "Go to bed. I did not call you." Samuel went back to bed again. Then he heard someone call him a third time.

Now Eli understood. God was calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel, "If you hear your name again, say, 'Speak, Lord; I am listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed. He heard God call. Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, I am listening." Then God told Samuel how He would lead the people of Israel.

God's words were true. When Samuel grew up, he became God's prophet and priest. When Samuel spoke, the people listened to his message from God.

Parents: Sit down with your child on his or her bed. Say that Samuel listened as God spoke. We listen to God's Word in the Bible. God listens to our words when we pray. Say a prayer that God will bless your child.