



K-1st Lesson

Review

Okay! Let's start with a quick review of what we've been learning.

Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we learned about Ruth, who lived during the time of the judges. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, were in trouble because they had no husbands to care for them. They were poor and needed food. But God is sovereign; he's in control of everything. God arranged for Ruth to work in Boaz's field. Boaz was their redeemer. He was able to buy Naomi's land, marry Ruth, and take care of both women.

In our lesson today, we'll hear about a young man who heard someone calling his name. But it turned out not to be who he thought it was. We're going to play a quick game to get us started. I need a volunteer. Who thinks they can guess who is calling their name without seeing who it is? Choose a volunteer to come to the front. Put a blindfold on him and have him sit in a chair facing the wall.

Now I will point to someone, and all you have to do is say (volunteer's) name three times, but don't say anything else. We all have to be very

quiet so he can figure out who is calling him. Ready? Point to a student to call out the name of the blindfolded volunteer three times. Remove the blindfold and ask the volunteer to guess who it was. Then reveal the person who did the calling.

It can be hard to tell who is speaking when we can't see them. Let's find out what the young man in our lesson did when he heard someone calling his name in the middle of the night.

Samuel's Birth

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Our lesson begins near the end of the time of the judges, about 300 years after God helped Joshua and the Israelites get the promised land.

? Refer to Lessons 71 and 72 Flip Charts. We talked about two of the judges already who helped fight enemies. Do you remember who they were? Gideon and Samson.

Right. The judge who was leading Israel at this time was a priest named Eli. He served in the tabernacle of the Lord in a town called Shiloh. This was the place where people came to worship the God of Israel. They came to offer sacrifices to God and to celebrate feasts every year.

At one of these feasts, Eli, the priest, saw a woman who was praying. Her name was Hannah. She was deeply troubled and sad because she had no children and wanted a son very badly. She cried and promised the Lord that if he gave her a son, she would give him back to God to be his servant. God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. Hannah named him Samuel.

When Samuel was still a young boy, Hannah kept her promise to give her son back to the

Lord. She brought Samuel to the tabernacle and left him with Eli so he could stay and serve God as Eli's helper.

It must have been hard for Hannah to give up her son like that. But she visited every year and brought him new clothes, and God also blessed Hannah with other sons and daughters.

Eli, the priest, was glad to have Samuel there because he was a great help. But Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were not helpful at all; they were wicked men. As priests, they were supposed to love and serve God, but they were greedy and selfish. They stole offerings that were supposed to be for God! God was not pleased with Hophni and Phinehas, and neither was their father, Eli.

Eli knew his sons were doing evil things and leading the people into sin. Eli tried to tell them to stop sinning, or God would have to punish them. But Hophni and Phinehas would not listen to their father's warning.

Samuel, however, was obedient. God knew he would make Samuel a judge, a priest, and a prophet someday. Let's see how it all began.

Samuel's Calling

God first spoke to Samuel when he was a young man, probably a young teenager. He was still living with Eli and serving in the tabernacle. Let's find out how the Lord got his attention.

? Who has the Bible? Will you please bring it up? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We will be acting out what happened in 1 Samuel chapter

3. I need two volunteers for a skit. Choose students to be Eli and Samuel. Set up the scene as directed.

God Calls Samuel Skit (Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-18)

As you read the skit, have an assistant direct the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished with the skit, continue the lesson.

God's Judgment

So, Samuel received his first message from the Lord, and Eli believed it. But how would this punishment, or judgment, come on Israel and Eli's family?

The Bible tells us the Israelites were fighting against the Philistines. The Israelites asked Eli's sons to take the ark of the covenant into battle. They wanted to use it like a good luck charm, hoping it would help them win. But that wasn't God's plan. The Israelites lost the battle—30,000 soldiers died, Hophni and Phineas were killed, and the Philistines stole the ark of the covenant.

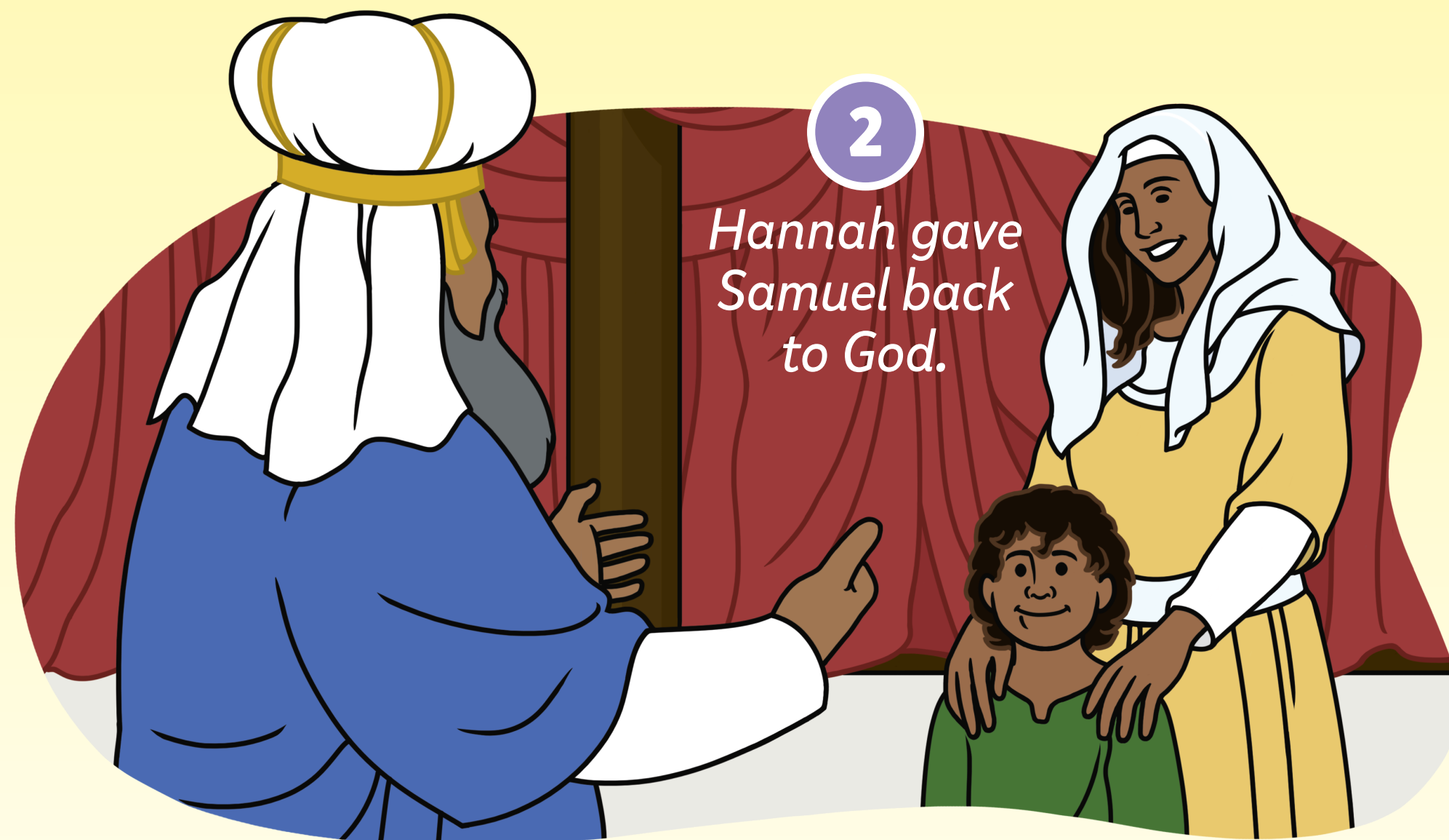
God judged the people of Israel for their sin, letting them lose against the Philistines. God also judged Eli's sons, who were doing wicked things and leading the people into sin. After the battle, Eli heard that his sons had been killed and the ark was captured. He was so shocked at the news that he fell over and died!

God's message to Samuel happened like he said it would. People now knew that Samuel was God's new prophet. Samuel was chosen by God to be not only a prophet, but also a priest and the last judge of Israel. He was the only man to be all three—prophet, priest, and judge.



1

God gave
Hannah
a son.



2

Hannah gave
Samuel back
to God.



3

Speak, Lord,
for your servant
hears.