

Family Theme | **God Calls Us to Serve** Date | **March 16, 2025**
Study Text | **1 Samuel 3:1-21**

Read the Word: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Disciple Your Family: Discuss being willing, pure, and courageous as we serve the Lord.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: God Is Looking for a Willing Heart (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

APPLY: Be willing to serve the Lord in response to all He has done for you.

- *Why should we be eager to serve the Lord?*

APPLY: Use the gifts and abilities God has given you to serve Him through the ministries of your church. All service is significant (Matthew 10:42).

- *How could you use your gifts, abilities, and time to serve God through the ministries of your church?*
- *What are some specific ways God has called all of us to serve Him?* (Love your neighbor as yourself; serve sacrificially; go and make disciples; etc.)

APPLY: Talk to your teacher, pastor, or other church leader about serving in your church.

- *How can you get involved in service opportunities? What are some small ways you can begin serving now, even though it might go unnoticed?* (Picking up trash in the church or parking lot; taking out the trash; cleaning the church kitchen; providing snacks for children's ministry; etc.)



Key Truth: God Is Looking for a Pure Heart (1 Samuel 3:11-14)

APPLY: Let loyalty to God and His Word guide all your choices and interactions, no matter the relationship.

- *Scripture instructs us to speak the truth in love as we strive to help others grow in Christlikeness, address false beliefs, and deal with unrighteous behaviors (Ephesians 4:15-16). What does it look like to speak the truth in love?*
- *How should we treat family members who have walked away from God? What does it look like to uphold both truth and grace in our interactions with them?*

APPLY: Understand that God will deal with actions done in full knowledge of their wickedness, without remorse, and in willful defiance of God.

- *What should a person do if guilty of willful, defiant sin?*

APPLY: Live and serve according to God's Word and for God's glory.

- *It's easy to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. But why is service ultimately not about us?*



Key Truth: God Is Looking for a Courageous Heart (1 Samuel 3:15-21)

APPLY: Courageously do what God commands, even when it is difficult or may cost you.

- *What are some courageous things God calls us to do? What costs might accompany those courageous things?*

- *What steps can we take to develop and maintain courage to say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done, even when it is hard?*

APPLY: We can be courageous when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us.

- *How have you seen God work through the young, the weak, or the insignificant to bring about His plan?*
- *What does it look like to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

Read Hannah's story with younger children in their devotional study guide (*Adventure Guide*) and encourage older students to read it in their *Explorer's Guide*. Discuss Hannah's prayer and how God answered it.

- How did God appear to Samuel and what did He tell the young boy?
- What does God's message to Eli teach us about how God feels about disobedience to His Word?
- What are ways you can serve others?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **1 Samuel 12:24**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

Samuel was the last of the judges and the first of the prophets. He anointed both Saul and David as King of Israel.

Everyday Extras:

Talk with your family about how serving requires a change from looking inward to looking outward. Brainstorm ways your family can serve each other, the people at church, your neighbors, and at school and work. Challenge family members to find a way to serve every family member this week. Choose a couple of ways to serve your church and your neighbors and do them together as a family. Look for opportunities to serve when you are out at the grocery store, restaurants, and at school and work.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned Hannah prayed and promised God if He would give her a son, she would give him back to Him. God heard and answered Hannah's prayer. She had a son whom she named Samuel. When he was three, Hannah took Samuel to live with Eli, the priest. God used Eli to help Samuel learn to love and serve Him. **God Can Use Me** too.