

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
Hannah and Samuel

from 1 Samuel 1:9-27, 3:1-20.

Hannah and Samuel trusted God, and Samuel became a prophet.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Hannah
- Shiloh
- Samuel
- Nazirite
- Eli

Before 1000 BC, Israel was a loose band of 12 tribes led by leaders known as judges. After 1000 BC it was a united nation ruled by powerful monarchs. Samuel is the last great judge before he anoints Saul as the first Israelite king.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 118-122

Spark Bible pages 296-300

Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for calling us all to do your work. Help us to remember that, young or old, we can follow you and help share your words with everyone! Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 God answers our prayers in mysterious ways. Talk about a time when you prayed for something but didn't get the answer you expected.
- 2 Hannah sacrifices her son to the temple. Where else in the Bible do you see parents sacrificing their children to show their faith in God?
- 3 In what ways can you do God's work in your church and community, even if you are young?
- 4 Today, God seems to speak to people in much subtler ways than we read about in the Bible. Have you ever felt like God was talking to you or trying to reassure you?

Eye Spark

When you see people praying at church or at home, remember Hannah's prayers to God and the faith she showed by offering her son to the temple.

Ear Spark

This week, whenever a parent or teacher calls your name, remember how God called Samuel by name to tell him of God's plans for Israel.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a chart where everyone in your family can write down times when they've felt God calling their name. Update your chart once a week and, when you do, discuss how to share God's calling with other family and friends.

For younger kids

Find out what your church's mission statement is—how is God calling members of your congregation to serve God? Think of something you can do at home this week to help your family and to fulfill the church's mission statement.

For older kids

Samuel is just one of many prophets in the Old Testament. Use your Spark Bible to find stories about other prophets called by God. Read a different story each night before bed.

TRY IT

Art

Try some active art as a reminder that God calls everyone into action. Move, intertwine, and work together to spell out the letters of the name of someone in your family. Once it is spelled, shout out "God calls!" Repeat this for everyone in the family. Each person will be called into action as these action art figures are created.

Bible Skills and Games

Samuel heard God calling to him. Play a game of "Telephone" by whispering secret messages and prayers around in a circle. See if you can send a message all the way around your circle without any mistakes. Conclude in prayer hoping to hear God's call in your lives.

Computer Lab

Children like Samuel grow up as part of a community. Write letters and emails, or make phone calls, to people who help your family. Let them know how they have helped you. Thank them for being in your lives. Pray for them at dinner or before bed.

Cooking

Hannah took good care of baby Samuel. Babies don't eat the same kind of food as bigger kids. Have everyone think of their favorite food. Try to find baby foods that match each favorite food. Serve the baby food for a snack. Invite a baby to join you! God helped baby Samuel to grow big like you!

Creative Drama

Have one person play Samuel and another pretend to be Eli in another room. A third person hides and plays the voice of God. The voice calls three times. Each time Samuel runs to Eli and Eli sends him back. The fourth time Samuel listens as the voice tells him something good about himself. Take turns being Samuel so everyone gets their own message.

Music

Play Follow the Leader around your house or yard. Start with the youngest person in your family as the leader. Let each person take a turn being the leader and choosing music to listen to during the game. Talk about how it felt to give directions. Talk about how it felt to follow directions. Think about ways that we follow God in our everyday lives.

Science

Explore your house and neighborhood for sound. Where is the noisiest place? Where is the quietest place? Do the sound levels change at different times of the day? Different times of the year? Is there anything that can be done to reduce sound levels so you can hear something quiet, like God calling to you?

Video

Ask your parents about what they do, and how they knew they were called to do it. Were there other things they once felt called to? Are there things they might want to pursue in the future? Share with them what you feel called to do. Afterwards, watch an inspirational film about someone following a calling, such as "Field of Dreams."

Hannah Prays for a Child



God gave her a son, and she named him Samuel.