

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 5

Samuel

INTRODUCTION: Most of the great men in the Bible had some time of serious backsliding in their lives. Examples of this would be David, Peter, Samson, Saul, Solomon, and others. However, we have no record in the Bible of Samuel ever backsliding. He is one of the most admirable men in the Bible. Some have called him “the Paul of the Old Testament.” (Stress to the students the importance of not going into sin. Emphasize the danger of glamorizing testimonies of people who have been in sin and were delivered.) It is good to be delivered from deep sin; it is better to be kept from sin.

- I. SAMUEL WAS DEDICATED BEFORE BIRTH. Read I Samuel 1:10-15. This certainly means something. Months before there ever was a Samuel, there was a mother dedicating him to the Lord. Young people should decide now while they’re in their teens that they will have a Christian home. To do this, they should have Christian courtship. No date should close without a prayer. No young people should have dates without reading the Bible together and including Christ in their courtship.
- II. THE WORD SAMUEL MEANS “ASKED OF GOD.” See I Samuel 1:20. In other words, he was an answer to Hannah’s prayer. Hannah was a praying mother. We should have our young people thank God if they have mothers who pray for them.
- III. SAMUEL HAD A DEDICATED FATHER. Review I Samuel 1:21.
- IV. SAMUEL WAS BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE OF GOD. Notice I Samuel 1:22. He was not sent; he was brought. It is so important that our children be brought by their parents to church, not sent. The entire family in church together is God’s plan.
- V. SAMUEL WAS DEDICATED AT BIRTH. See I Samuel 1:24-28. This dedication is not necessarily a ritual or an ordinance, but the sincere heart of a person wanting to dedicate a child. A lady asked the pastor to dedicate her baby at birth. The pastor asked if she was a Christian. She said, “No, but I want my baby dedicated.” Such is folly and foolishness!
- VI. SAMUEL WAS REARED IN THE HOUSE OF GOD. Read I Samuel 2:11. As a little boy, he went to the Temple to live. We should remind our people over and over again of the importance of building their lives around the church. Stress the youth program, the choir program, etc. as important ways of making the church our second home.
- VII. SAMUEL WAS CALLED OF GOD. Tell the story in I Samuel 3:1-8 in detail. This is one of the most interesting stories in the Bible. This story teaches us that children can be saved and called of God at a very early age. Many people are now preaching the Gospel, serving on mission fields, and are in other special services who entered this service after being called as children. It is so important that while we are young we listen to the voice of God and hear His call.
- VIII. SAMUEL ANSWERED WHEN GOD CALLED. Notice in I Samuel 3:10, Samuel said, “Speak; for thy servant heareth.” He was ready to hear. We should always be close enough to God to hear His call and follow His leadership. It is wonderful for a person, after he is grown, to realize the will of God and get back into it. It is more wonderful for a young person to get into the will of God at the first and then stay very sensitive always to God’s call.
- IX. SAMUEL’S LIFE WAS USEFUL. Read I Samuel 7:15-17. Samuel was not a king. He was a very versatile man—prophet, priest, and judge. Actually, he was a circuit rider, and in the transition between the rule of the judges of Israel and the selection of a king for the people, Samuel was the leader.
- X. SAMUEL ANOINTED TWO KINGS. Though Samuel was never king, he anointed Saul and David. He was used of God, not to be the great leader, but to make great leaders. Herein lies the importance of

Sunday school teachers and workers in the church. Some of us may never be great leaders, but who knows the potential wrapped up in those whom we are teaching in our classes this Sunday!

- XI. SAMUEL WAS MISSED BY SAUL. After Samuel's death, Saul realized what he meant to him, but it was too late. Let us not wait until it's too late to appreciate those who have been a blessing to us. (Teach your students to appreciate mothers, fathers, leaders, spiritual helpers, etc.) Most of us wait until after someone is gone to appreciate him fully. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have this appreciation for people while they are alive!