

DAY TEN—SAMUEL

To do today: Color ornament #10, read the following story and choose which activities you would like to do.

The Lord Speaks to a Child

At one time when Heli, the high priest, was judge over Israel, there lived a good woman by the name of Anna. For a long time she prayed that God would send her a son and promised to give him the service of the temple if the Lord heard her prayer. The Lord gave her a son whom she called Samuel, which means "Asked of God." When Samuel was still very young, his mother brought him to the high priest Heli and offered him to the service of God in the temple, as she had promised. Samuel was an innocent boy and God loved him very much.

One night while the boy was asleep in the temple, he heard a voice calling him: "Samuel." At once he ran to Heli and said: "Here I am, for you called me." But Heli answered: "I did not call. Go back to sleep." And the voice called Samuel again, and Samuel arose, and went to Heli saying: "Here I am." But Heli sent him back a second time and told him to go to sleep. The voice called Samuel a third time; and he arose and went to Heli to ask what he wanted. Then Heli understood it was the Lord calling, and said to Samuel: "Go, and sleep; and if He calls again: 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went to his place and slept. And the voice called again.

Then the Lord told Samuel that He would punish Heli and his sons because although Heli knew that his sons were doing wicked things, he did not punish them. Samuel slept till morning and then opened the doors of the temple, as he did every day. He was afraid to tell Heli what the Lord had told him. But the high priest called him and asked: "What did the Lord say to you? Do not hide it from me."

Samuel told him everything that the Lord had said and Heli answered: "It is the Lord. He will do what is right." When Heli had ruled as judge for forty years, the Israelites were beaten in battle by their enemies, the Philistines. The Ark of the Covenant was taken and thirty thousand men were slain, among them the two sons of Heli. When Heli heard that the Ark was in the hands of the enemies, he fell backward from his stool and died.

Samuel now became the Judge of Israel. The Lord was with him and heard his prayers for the sinful people. When Samuel was old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. But they thought more of their own gain than they did of serving the Lord. Therefore the people came to Samuel and said: "Give us a king like other nations have and let him rule us." Samuel prayed to the Lord to find out His will. And the Lord told him to appoint a king for them as they had asked.

Other stories you might like to read if time permits:

From: Bible Stories for Children by a Catholic Teacher
"The Story of Joseph", pg. 21

From: Anecdotes and Examples by Rev. Francis Spirago
"The Two Murderers and the Cock" pg. 222

Coordinating Bible Verses: 1 Kings 2:21, 3: 1-20

Now answer the following questions:

1.) What did Anna call the little boy whom God gave to her?

2.) What is the meaning of his name?

3.) Why did Anna bring Samuel to the temple?

4.) Who was the high priest to whom Anna brought Samuel?

5.) What did the Lord tell Samuel?

6.) Why were Heli and his sons to be punished?

7.) Who became judges after Samuel?

8.) Did the people want the sons of Samuel as judges?

Often the voice of God speaks to the heart of man and tells him what is right and what is wrong. Have you ever heard that voice in your heart when you were tempted to do wrong? Every night before going to bed ask yourself what wrong you have done during the day. Then tell God on your knees that you are sorry.

Interesting things for you to do:

- 1.) Write in your character book “ A good conscience is better than riches.”
- 2.) Find a little story or poem about conscience and read it to the class.
- 3.) Dramatize the story of little Samuel listening to the voice of God.

Good things for you to read:

“Content and Rich,” Ideal Catholic Reader, Book IV, page 109.

“A Little Girl and Her Conscience,” Ideal Catholic Reader Book IV, page 62.

“Speak, Little Voice,” Ideal Catholic Reader, Book IV, page 149.

“God Appoints Samuel to Rule Israel,” The Bible Story, page 108.

Can you answer these questions?

- 1.) When should you examine your conscience?
- 2.) How can we make a good examination of conscience?
- 3.) What should we do before we examine our conscience?

