

Bible background

1 Samuel 1:24-28; 2:18-21; 3

Aim of lesson

To show that God is pleased when children serve him.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children if they ever help their mother or father at home. Ask what they do.
2. Tell how Hannah's baby Samuel had grown into a young boy. To thank God for giving her a child, Hannah lent him back to God. She took Samuel to the temple, the place where everyone went to worship God, and Samuel served God there. Get the class to imagine how Hannah would have felt, leaving Samuel behind; but she knew that God would look after Samuel even better than she could. Similarly, Samuel might have felt lonely in the Temple, away from his home and friends, but he had Eli to look after him, and he too trusted in God.
3. Ask for ideas about what he might have done. Ask them to show how he might have swept the floor, polished the lamps, set the table for the meals in his new home with Eli, and made his bed. If the children ask about what Samuel and Eli would eat, you may like to take the opportunity to introduce the idea of sacrifices. Tell how the people came to the priest at the house of God with something to offer God. They brought the first corn that grew in their fields, the first grapes that ripened in the sun and they brought sheep from the flock. Eli and his family, including Samuel, would eat some of this.
4. Discuss and colour the activity sheet here or at the end. The children can draw what Samuel's mother had brought him.
5. Tell how God was pleased, and that he is pleased when children serve him today. They can serve him by obeying their parents and being helpful and kind.
6. Tell the children of the night God called Samuel. Get the children to act the events described in 1 Samuel 3, and encourage them to imagine what Samuel and Eli were thinking as it emerged that God was calling Samuel. The message from God to Samuel should be short and simple: God was going to punish Eli's sons because they were wicked and did not care about God. Think about why Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. He will have realised how hurt and sad the old man would be. It is good for us to think about what we say and if it can make other people sad.
7. Sing the song 'What Shall We Do To Serve Our God?' stopping to discuss and ask for ideas after each of the verses.

Alternative activities

1. Introduce some ideas for role play on the theme of Hannah caring for baby Samuel. Props such as a doll & some clothes, cooking utensils, pretend food, a bowl, spoon and cup to feed the baby and a bed (a cardboard box with a towel will do). The children could also pretend to be Samuel working for Eli. Provide a broom, dust pan & brush, dusters etc and let the children do some cleaning. They can also lay tables, serve food and pretend to light some lamps (but be sure to stress the dangers of touching lamps and candles, playing with matches etc)
2. Cut some coat shapes out of paper or card and then let the children print or stick patterns on them.
3. Ask the children to draw a picture of something they can do to help an adult. Write a suitable sentence to accompany each picture, e.g. I can helpto.....

Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the children to know that God is pleased with them when they do things to serve him

Prayer

Ask who would like to tell God that we would like to be his servants and please him.

Verse

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.' Colossians 3:23.

Song

What Shall We Do To Serve Our God?

(Tune: **What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?**)

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The first two staves contain the main melody, and the last two staves are labeled 'Chorus'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Chords are indicated by 'Dm' and 'C' above the notes.

Mime/Actions

- v.1 What shall we do to serve our God? (*three times - hands upturned*)
Early in the morning.
- v.2 Jump out of the bed as soon as we're told to (*three times - jump*)
Early in the morning.
- v.3 Brush our teeth until they sparkle (*three times - brush teeth*)
Early in the morning.
- Chorus: God is glad when we serve him (*three times - clap*)
Early in the morning.
- v.4 What shall we do to serve our God? (*three times - hands upturned*)
In the afternoon.
- v.5 Put away the toys as soon as we're told to (*three times - pick up and put away*)
In the afternoon.
- v.6 Always remember 'Please' and 'Thank you' (*three times - nod head*)
In the afternoon.
- Chorus: God is glad when we serve him (*three times - clap*)
In the afternoon.
- v.7 What shall we do to serve our God? (*three times - hands upturned*)
When it is the evening.
- v.8 Thank him for everything that he gives us (*three times - hands together*)
When it is the evening.
- v.9 Jump into bed as soon as we're told to (*three times - jump*)
When it is the evening.
- Chorus: God is glad when we serve him (*three times - clap*)
When it is the evening.

Music: *Traditional.*