

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GOD PREPARES A LEADER

International Sunday School Lesson
For July 27

Memory Selection: "The child Samuel grew on, and increased in favor with the Lord, and also with men."—I Samuel 2:26.

Lesson Text: I Samuel 1:20, 24-28; 3:1, 16-21; 4:1.

The lessons for this quarter jump from character to character in Israel's early history and this week we are considering Samuel, one of the most outstanding prophets and leaders from the time of Moses to his own day.

The books of Samuel were originally placed together as one and were probably arranged in very much their present shape about 800 years B. C. Their subject matter is the record of the history of Israel during the lives of Samuel, and the first two kings, Saul and David, a period of about one hundred years, about eleven centuries before Christ.

Samuel's background is an interesting one. The household of Elkanah was a very unhappy one. He had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah, the Israelites practicing polygamy at that time. Hannah was humiliated by her failure to have a child and Peninnah seems to have been heartless and cruel enough to taunt her about it. The husband seemingly was partial to Hannah, thus increasing the bitter rivalry between the two women.

Women of this day rarely take the time to consider the many blessings which have come to them, particularly because of the Christian religion. Polygamy has been one of the evils ended by this faith. Woman's status has constantly improved, the dignity of her position as wife and mother has been ever increasing and, in every way, Christianity has been a peculiar blessing to her. Quite naturally, then, women have often been the mainstay of our moral and religious principles.

Once, especially depressed by the absence of a child, Hannah went to the temple, and before the old priest, Eli, made a solemn vow to Jehovah. She promised to dedicate her son to the service of Jehovah, if permitted to bring him into the world, and that she should become a Nazarite, a man exclusively giving his life to holy duties, recognized and set apart from the material affairs of human life. Eli prophetically promised that her prayer would be answered.

"Hannah prayed for a child from God," says A. C. Dixon, "that she might give him to God. Praying for gifts that we may give them back to God has in it a high and noble motive. Do you pray for money that you may give it back to God? If so, wealth will never be your ruin. Do you pray for success in your life work that you may lay it at the feet of Jesus? If so, the largest possible success will be a blessing."

Hannah did not forget her promise when she became the happy mother of a man-child. "Noble in spirit of endurance in time of trial," observes Prof. W. F. Blunkie. "Hannah is still more noble in the spirit of self-denial in the time of prosperity. It was no common grace that could so completely sacrifice all her personal feelings and so thoroughly honor God."

She carried her young son to the temple and formally dedicated him to the service of Jehovah, leaving him there, although during the subsequent years this Hebrew mother by many little acts, indicated the love and yearning in her heart.

The call of the young boy, at the tender age of twelve, is both interesting and inspiring. While ministering to the old priest and performing the duties connected with the care of the temple, the youth, in a dream, heard the voice of the Lord. Thinking it to be the call of Eli, Samuel answered, "Here am I." After this had occurred the third time, Eli realized that Jehovah was speaking to the lad and advised him to listen. Thus, the visions came to Samuel, rather than to the high priest Eli. Asked what Jehovah had said to him, Samuel answered frankly and told him everything—even the prophecy about the downfall of the priest himself and his household.

While there was much in Eli's life which was pathetic, Samuel was fortunate to have had him for a teacher. Eli served faithfully as a judge, but he failed to train his sons properly to succeed him and they proved faithless and corrupt. For this dereliction, Eli and his household were condemned but the humble submission of the old priest to the punishment of God seems considerable credit as to his ultimate harm.

It is interesting to note that God took Samuel at birth, or even before, and worked with him until he was old, in order to get the prophet. He wanted, and if there is any one word around which Samuel's life revolves, that word is "guidance." His hand was in God's hand, from the cradle to the grave. Samson has rightly said, "The best way to train a child in the (Continued on Page 28.)"

It's FUN to be NEW



This is Janie's favorite dress. Her mother made it especially for her to wear to Sunday School, and Janie is pleased as any little girl to show it to you.

Not long ago, on the way home from church, Janie heard her daddy say, "I feel like a new man. I've put off the old and put on the new."

Janie looked, but she didn't see anything new—the same neat suit—the same Sunday tie. His shirt was even a little rough around the collar. "Daddy, where's something new?"

Her father chuckled. "Honey, it's all inside, but it's bursting out the seams of my everyday life. You don't have to have new clothes to be a new man. You just stop worrying and have faith. You pray, then go around smiling. That's what's new about your daddy—his faith."

"And I've found it all just since we began going to church every Sunday."



THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verse
Sunday	I Samuel 16	4-7
Monday	Psalms 33	1-6
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 1	1-11
Wednesday	Matthew 13	16-17
Thursday	Matthew 13	44-52
Friday	II Cor. 13	14-18
Saturday	Revelation 21	1-17

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
James F. Burke, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 8:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Bennie Crawford, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
No Pastor At Present
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 8:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 8:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wolf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday school at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go