

LESSON



Samuel Listens to God

SERVICE

We are God's little helpers.

References

1 Samuel 3:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 581, 582.

Memory Verse

"Little Samuel was helping the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:1, TLB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that they can be helpers.

Feel happy to help God.

Respond by helping at home and in Sabbath School.

The Message



We are God's little helpers.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Samuel is a child. He lives with Eli in the tabernacle and helps him. One night while in bed, Samuel hears a voice calling him. He gets up and goes to Eli and asks him what he wants. Eli says he didn't call Samuel and sends him back to bed. This happens a second time. When it happens the third time, Eli tells Samuel to answer the voice and say, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening." Samuel does as Eli says and receives a message from God. All during the rest of his life Samuel receives mes-

sages from God to share with others.

This is a lesson about service.

God called Samuel to help Him. Samuel said, "Yes," and he did what God asked. Samuel followed God's instructions to help others. When we follow God's instructions and help others, we are serving the Lord.

Teacher Enrichment

"Though Samuel's youth was passed at the tabernacle devoted to the worship of God, he was not free from evil

ONE



influences or sinful example. . . . It was his constant endeavor to become what God would have him. This is the privilege of every youth. God is pleased when even little children give themselves to His service. . . .

“While he was yet a child, a linen ephod was placed upon him as a token of his consecration to the work of the sanctuary. Young as he was when brought to minister in the tabernacle, Samuel had even then duties to perform in the service of God, according to his capacity. These . . . [he] performed to the best of his ability, and with a willing

heart. His religion was carried into every duty of life. He regarded himself as God’s servant, and his work as God’s work” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 573).

Room Decorations

Prepare an indoor tabernacle scene, including a window with curtains with some small white Christmas lights in the back for stars; a table; a mat or bath towel for a bed; a lamp or a candle; some baskets and cleaning supplies. Have a large church made from a big appliance box, or a child-sized church door.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Imitation Game</i> <i>B. Toy Corner</i> <i>C. Book Basket</i> <i>D. Home Center</i> <i>E. Help Center</i> <i>F. Listening Game</i> <i>G. Hiding Game</i> <i>H. Rocking Chairs</i>	boxes, toys listening and/or helping board books towels or small sheets dishtowels, plastic dishes, clothes, toys bell adult-size rocking chairs
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	toy musical instruments basket or other container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, pull-toy (optional), small gift (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<i>A. Memory Verse</i> <i>B. Samuel Lived in the Tabernacle</i> <i>C. Samuel Helped Make His Bed</i> <i>D. Samuel Helped Clean the Tabernacle</i> <i>E. Samuel Helped With Wood</i> <i>F. Samuel Helped With the Bread</i> <i>G. Samuel's Bedtime</i> <i>H. Samuel Hears Someone Call</i> <i>I. I Can Listen</i> <i>J. I Can Help at Sabbath School</i> <i>K. I Can Help at Home</i> <i>L. I Am Jesus' Helper</i>	Bible "books" church door prop, Bible-times costumes mats or bath towels dust rags or washcloths, small brooms wooden sticks, basket plastic or pretend bread, small paper or plastic plates, table star on a stick (optional), flashlight and colander (optional) Bible-times adult costume, mats or bath towels toys, basket, rattles or toy stuffed animals child-size brooms and mops, clothes, clothes hamper or basket, washcloths, water

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Samuel's New Robe</i>	photocopies of Samuel robe pattern (see p. 70), construction paper, safety scissors, fabric or paper scraps, glue, markers
	Week 2	<i>Welcome Cards</i>	colored paper, safety scissors, glue, ribbons, stickers
	Week 3	<i>Running Samuel</i>	photocopies of Samuel pattern (see p. 71), crayons, safety scissors, two 4" x 6" (10 cm. x 15 cm.) rectangles of paper or fabric, or small brown envelopes, glue
	Week 4	<i>God's Little Helper</i>	plastic or paper cups, craft sticks, boy and girl silhouette patterns (see p. 71), glue, crayons
	Week 5	<i>Candleholders</i>	small jars or cans, votive candles, colored tissue paper or glitter, glue, and markers (see p. 72)
Snack Center (Optional)			crackers, fruit, or juice

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Bryan was 2 and was fascinated by

our little aquarium. He loved to watch the fish, and *loved* to help feed them. One morning he began to complain about his tummy hurting. "My tummy hurts, Mommy," he said over and over. We took him to the doctor. After medication for two days, he still didn't feel better. Eventually *six* doctors at the hospital examined him and decided he had a virus. Upon further review, we found out that Bryan had tasted some of the fish water. He soon recovered to his full, active self. How we hurt for him in the meantime!

Share a time when your child's "help-

fulness” created a problem. What is your normal reaction when he or she tries to help? Are you encouraging or discouraging helpfulness?

Week 2

“I want to help you make bread,” Carson squealed. *Oh, no*, I thought. *I just want to get this done quickly.* But in the back of my mind I knew I should let him help. So I did. After wiping up flour on the floor, the chair that he stood on, and the counter, I was glad I had let him help. “While they are still young, the mother should give them some simple task to do each day. It will take longer for her to teach them how than it would to do it herself; but let her remember that she is to lay for their character building the foundation of helpfulness” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 122).

“Give your little children something to do, and let them have the happiness of supposing they help you” (*Child Guidance*, p. 119).

What simple tasks can you give your child to do at this age?

Week 3

I thanked my daughter-in-law for the nice meal and offered to do the dishes. She laughed and said, “He won’t let you.” She smiled and nodded at my all-grown-up son. He carried the dishes to the sink and carefully washed, dried, and put them all away. Could this be the same child to whom I had spoken again and again? “Please pick up your toys.” “Take your shoes to your room.” “Put the books back on the bookshelf.” Now he was a capable adult. Someone who could cook a meal, clean up after himself, and do laundry. I smiled and said a prayer of thanks to God for seeing me through those days that I thought would never end.

When you feel overwhelmed, be encouraged that there really is “a light at the end of the tunnel.” Our God will be with you every step of the way.

What things are you facing that seem like they’ll never end? What ways do you cope with those challenges?

Week 4

Contemplate this thought for a moment: “Motherhood defends her cradle with hands made iron by love, to save a life more worthy than her own” (Calvin Miller, *The Divine Symphony* [Bethany House Publishing, 2000]). Think about Hannah’s strength and sacrifice. She gave her young son to serve in God’s house. It must have taken great courage to send away the child she had desperately wanted.

What strengths has God given you that help you prepare your children for service?

Week 5 (or optional)

Our 2-year-old daughter was a copycat. We knew that, but sometimes we forgot. During our supper one evening we were talking about our day. “I had a miserable day,” I complained to my husband. “And it didn’t help to have Mrs. G stop by for two hours.”

“I’m sorry, honey,” my husband responded. “Let’s have a quiet, relaxing evening.”

The next day Mrs. G stopped by again. You guessed it. Our toddler met her at the door and said, “My mommy doesn’t want you to come here.”

What an embarrassing lesson for me! And what a time I had trying to explain to Mrs. G.

Tell about a time your child heard and repeated something unpleasant you said. How did you deal with it? What changes did you make to avoid similar incidents in the future?

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Imitation Game

Adult asks: "**Can you do this?**" (Spread arms, jump, move head, make different sounds, and so on.) Children imitate adult's actions.

B. Toy Corner

Make a train with several boxes. Children play with toys and then put them away in the "pickup" train.

C. Book Basket

Have a basket or a box with some board books about listening and/or helping. Parents or other adults should assist

in telling the stories and looking at the pictures with the children.

D. Home Center

Put some towels or crib sheets on the floor. Make pretend beds with them. Help children roll and unroll them.

E. Help Center

Have children help dry plastic dishes, fold clothes, and put toys away.

F. Listening Game

Play a listening game such as Simon says. Children are to listen and follow directions (sit down, stand up, close your eyes, and so on).

G. Hiding Game

Have a child and an adult find a corner in which to hide. Give them a bell to ring. Other children listen to the bell and look for them. Repeat with other children hiding and ringing the bell.

H. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, invite parents to sit and rock their child.

3 GETTING STARTED

You Need:
 toy musical instruments

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's shake hands as a special way to say good morning.** Walk around and shake hands with each child while you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 1).

Good morning,
 Good morning,
 Good morning, we say;
 We're happy, so happy
 To see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Jesus is so happy that we came to Sabbath School. He loves us very much. It's so nice to see each other. It's so nice to be in Sabbath School. Are you glad that it's Sabbath? Let's sing with our instruments.** Distribute musical instruments such as bells, drums, sticks, cymbals, etc. Sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 5) or "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 235).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
 I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
 I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
 On this bright Sabbath morning.
 —Edith Smith Casebeer

Sabbath is a happy day,
 Happy day, happy day,
 Sabbath is a happy day,
 I love every Sabbath.
 —Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to learn about a boy named Samuel and how he helped God. Let's pray and ask God to help us be good helpers for Him.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer, use this adaptation of the fourth verse of the song "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
 I have eyes that close for prayer,
 I have hands that fold in prayer.
 Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer and have children repeat your words. Then sing "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
 Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Greet each visitor and sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 25) or "We Have a Visitor" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 24).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?
 We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!
We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!

—Janet Sage

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D. Offering

You Need:

- offering basket or other container

Say: **Some families don't know that Jesus loves them. Our offering money helps other families learn that Jesus loves them.** Place

on the floor a basket or container in which the children may place their money while singing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring
On this Sabbath day.
Bless our gift, dear Jesus.
May it help someone, we pray.
Amen.

—Norma June Bell

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, we want other families to know You love them. Please use our money to do that. Amen.

E. Birthdays

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Who has had a birthday?** Lead the birthday child up front while singing. (Or pull an animal pull-toy around the room while you sing. Stop at and circle in front of the birthday child.) Sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will
sing,

To wish you happy birthday.
—Mildred Adair

Assist child in dropping coins into an artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 37).

(Child's name) has a birthday,
we're
so glad.

We will see how many (he/she) has had.
As we count the money we are told,
(count)

Yes, the money says (he's/she's) (age)
years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 38) or "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 39).

Just (age) years old today,
Just (age) years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
(Child's name)'s (age) years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

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Happy birthday, happy birthday,
Happy birthday to you;
Jesus loves you, dear (child's name),
Happy birthday to you!

—Janet Sage

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Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

You Need:

- artificial birthday cake
- candles
- matches
- pull-toy (optional)
- small gift (optional)



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- Bible "book" for each child (see activity for instructions)

Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus, more pictures of different scenes if possible.

Say: **It's time to read our Bible words. Let's look inside our Bible books** (open your Bible book). **In our Bible we read**

that God loves us. Can you find the picture of Jesus in your Bible? While the children are looking at their Bible books, sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 27) or "I Open My Bible Carefully" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 28).

I open my Bible book and read,
He loves me, He loves me.
—Johnie B. Wood

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I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love;
I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love.
—Janet Sage

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Say: **Yes, the Bible tells us that God loves us very much. The Bible also tells the story of a little boy who was God's little helper. His name was Samuel. He helped at church and at home. One thing Samuel may have done was to help keep the lamps clean. Say our memory verse with me: "Little Samuel was helping the Lord."**

Teach the memory verse song to the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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B. Samuel Lived in the Tabernacle

You Need:

- church door prop
- Bible-times costume for each child (men's striped shirts with sashes tied around the waist; add headband if desired)

Stand in front of the church door and say: **Little Samuel lived in the tabernacle with Priest Eli. Little Samuel was Eli's helper. Little Samuel was God's helper. And every year Samuel's mother made him a nice robe to wear as he helped in the tabernacle. Let's dress up in a robe like Samuel's so we can**

be ready to help as Samuel helped Priest Eli. Let's sing about being Jesus' helpers while we dress like Samuel. As adult helpers "dress" the children in Bible-times costumes, sing "Who Is Jesus' Helper?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 298).

Who is Jesus' helper? Doing all he can?
Samuel was a helper, tiny tho' he was.
—Dorothy Robison. Adapted.

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C. Samuel Helped Make His Bed

You Need:

- mat or bath towel for each child

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” Little Samuel helped make up his bed in the tabernacle. Can**

you roll up your bed like Samuel did? Let’s sing while we roll up our beds. Show how to roll the mats or bath towels and sing “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He rolled up his bed each day.
Samuel was a helper.

—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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D. Samuel Helped Clean the Tabernacle

You Need:

- dust rags or washcloths
- several child-size brooms

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” Little Samuel was a helper. He helped keep things clean. He helped dust the furniture. Let’s dust our chairs like little Samuel did while we sing.**

Give each child a dust rag or washcloth to wipe off their chair. Sing “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He dusted all the furniture.
Samuel was a helper.

—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Say: **Little Samuel also helped by sweeping the floor. Who wants to sweep the floor like little Samuel?**

Have children take turns sweeping the floor with a little broom while the group sings “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He would sweep the dusty floor.
Samuel was a helper.

—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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E. Samuel Helped With Wood

You Need:

- wooden sticks
- basket

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” Little Samuel gathered wood for the fire used to cook food and keep the tabernacle warm. Let’s fill our wood basket with**

your wood sticks. Have the children bring wood sticks and put them in a basket while you sing “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
 Samuel was a helper;
 He carried wood for a fire.
 Samuel was a helper.
 —Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
 Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
 Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
 Helping the Lord.

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F. Samuel Helped With the Bread

You Need:

- plastic or pretend bread (real bread slices optional)
- small paper or plastic plates
- table

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” Little Samuel liked to help with the bread. Little Samuel helped put bread on the table. Let’s sing while we help with the bread.** Give each child a piece of plastic or pretend bread to put on a plate. Ask them to put the plates on a table while singing “I Will Be a Helper”

(*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
 Samuel was a helper;
 He prepared and helped with bread.
 Samuel was a helper.
 —Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
 Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
 Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
 Helping the Lord.

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G. Samuel’s Bedtime

You Need:

- star on a stick (optional)
- flashlight and colander (optional)

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” Samuel worked hard helping Priest Eli and God. Every night before he went to sleep, he prayed. He was so happy that he had been God’s**

little helper that day!

The stars twinkled at Samuel’s bedtime, so let’s sing about them. Turn on the “stars” in the window as you dim the room lights. Variations: Give the children a star on a stick to hold, or dim the room lights and turn on a flashlight under an inverted colander to make “stars” on the ceiling. Sing “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 175).

Twinkle, twinkle, little star;
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky!
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

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H. Samuel Hears Someone Call

You Need:

- adult dressed as Eli
- mat or bath towel for each child

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” He helped all day. It’s time for Samuel to go to bed. Eli is going to bed too.**

Have an adult playing

Eli’s part lie down on a mat and pretend to sleep. **Shh! Let’s be quiet now. Eli is sleeping. It’s time for Samuel to go to bed. Let’s sleep like Samuel.** Let the children unroll the mats and lie down on them.

While Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call him: “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel got up fast and ran over to Eli’s bed. Let’s go like Samuel. The “Samuels” get up and go to Eli’s bed. **Samuel said: “Here I am;**

may I help you?” Have the children repeat the question.

Eli (*adult playing this part*): **I didn’t call you. Go back to sleep.** Have the children lie down again.

Now Samuel is sleeping again. But he hears someone call him: “Samuel, Samuel!”

The children jump up and go to Eli again. **Did you call me?** Have children repeat the question.

Eli says: **No, I didn’t call you. Go to sleep.** Children lie down again. **And then, what do you hear?** Call softly, **“Samuel, Samuel!” What did Samuel do? Yes, he got out of bed. Let’s go like Samuel to see what Eli needs.** Children go to Eli.

Eli says: **I didn’t call you. Go back to bed, and when you hear someone call you again, say: “Speak, Lord, for I am listening.”**

Samuel did as Eli said. And when God spoke to little Samuel, Samuel listened carefully. God gave Samuel a special message for Priest Eli. That was the first message of many that God gave to Samuel. And Samuel became God’s helper for the rest of his life.

I. I Can Listen

Say: **A very good way to be God's little helper at home is by listening and being obedient. Listen carefully when your mommy or daddy calls you. Go quickly to them. Let's practice. Come stand by me. When we sing about being called, you can run back to Mommy or Daddy.** Have the parents sing "Coming, Mother" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 266).

(Child's name), (Child's name)!
Please come here to me.
(Child's name), (Child's name),
Wherever you may be.
Coming, Mother,
As Jesus wants me to.
Coming, Mother,
I'm coming now to you.

—Marilyn Scholes

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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J. I Can Help at Sabbath School

You Need:

- toys
- basket
- rattles or toy stuffed animals

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." You can also be God's helper. You are God's little helper when you help in Sabbath School. Show me what a good helper you can be. Take off your Samuel costume and put it in the box.**

Adults assist the children as they remove their costumes and let the children put the costumes wherever you choose to keep them. During this activity, sing "Let's Put All Our Clothes Away" to the tune of "Let's Put All Our Toys Away" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 294).

Let's put all our clothes away
When we stop our play;
Away, away,
Let's put them away,
Let's put our clothes away.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." When you put things away in Sabbath School, you are being God's little helper. Let's put toys away while we sing.** Sing "Let's Put All Our Toys Away" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 294).

Let's put all our toys away
When we stop our play;
Away, away,
Let's put them away,
Let's put our toys away.
—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you for being good helpers. "Little Samuel was helping the Lord." When we give the babies something to hold, we are also being God's little helpers.** While the older children give the babies something to hold (rattles or toy stuffed animals), sing "I'm a Little Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 293).

I'm a little helper,
A helper, a helper,
O I'm a little helper for Jesus!
—Janet Sage

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K. I Can Help at Home

You Need:

- child-size brooms and mops
- clothes hamper or basket
- washcloths
- water

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” You can also be God’s little helper. When you help your family you are being God’s little helper. How do you help your family? One way is to help clean the house. Let’s pretend we**

are helping clean with the brooms and mops and put the clothes in the hamper (or basket) while we sing together. Sing “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290).

I will be a helper,
I will be a helper;
Help my mother clean the house,
I will be a helper.

—Marie Ingham

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Say: **Another way to help at home is by raking leaves with Daddy. Let’s sing while we pretend we are raking leaves.** Sing “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290) and use the words “Help my daddy rake the leaves.”

I will be a helper,
I will be a helper;
Help my daddy rake the leaves,
I will be a helper.

—Marie Ingham

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” You can also help at home by washing your hands and face.** Hand out washcloths. Touch the children’s cheeks with a little water and have them dry their face. Sing “I Will Be a Helper” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 290) and use the words “I will wash my hands and face.”

I will be a helper,
I will be a helper;
I will wash my hands and face,
I will be a helper.

—Marie Ingham

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L. I Am Jesus’ Helper

Say: **“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” He was God’s little helper. He helped at church and at home. You are God’s little helper. You can help at church and at home.** Sing and clap “Who Is Jesus’ Helper?” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 298).

Who is Jesus’ helper?
Doing all (he/she) can?
I am Jesus’ helper,
Tiny tho’ I am.

—Dorothy Robison

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5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the children sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following each week as you review the story.

Week 1
Samuel's New Robe

You Need:

- photocopy of Samuel pattern for each child (see p. 70)
- construction paper
- safety scissors
- fabric or paper scraps
- glue
- markers

Say: **Little Samuel's mother made him new clothes every year when he was serving in the tabernacle. Let's help Little Samuel's mother make him a new robe.**

Have parents cut out the outline of Samuel (see p. 70) and help their child draw Samuel's face and hair. Parents can spread glue over the body and help their child stick on pieces of fabric or paper.

Optional: Make a coat from a large (paper) grocery sack. Cut out a



neck hole and armholes and color or decorate the robe with fabric or colored construction paper pieces.

(Adapted from Anita Reith Stohs, *Little Hands Can Too* [St. Louis: MO, Concordia Publishing House, 1994].)

Week 2
Welcome Cards

You Need:

- colored paper
- safety scissors
- glue
- ribbons
- stickers

Make and decorate cards to hand out to visitors next Sabbath (or in Welcome Time in your church's service when some of the older children and their parents could give them out). Parents fold a sheet of paper in half and write a Bible verse on it and a welcome message. They can help their child glue ribbons and/or add stickers to decorate it.

Week 3
Running Samuel

Parents can cut out the pattern and cut out the circles so children can put their fingers through them to make Samuel "run to help." Child can color Samuel. Help glue the two pieces of paper or fabric to make a bed by gluing three sides together and leaving one open. Alternately, the child can use the envelope as a bed. Child can color the bed. Parents and children can play with it. When parent calls, child takes out their Samuel boy and runs to their parent.

(Adapted from Lois Keffer, *Clip and Tell Some More Bible Stories* [Loveland, Colo.: Group, 1998].)

You Need:

- photocopy of "Samuel" pattern (see p. 71) for each child
- crayons
- safety scissors
- two 4" x 6" (10 cm. x 15 cm.) rectangles of paper or fabric, or small brown envelope for each child
- glue

Week 4
God's Little Helper (Pop-up Puppet)

Parents can make a slit on the bottom of the cup and cut out the child's silhouette from the pattern (see p. 71). Children can color it. Glue it to the end of the craft stick. Poke the stick through the bottom of the cup.

Optional: Put a sticker of Jesus on the side of the cup.

You can use this puppet with the song "Who Is Jesus' Helper?" (*Little Voices*)

You Need:

- plastic or paper cups
- craft sticks
- boy and girl silhouette patterns (see p. 71)
- glue
- crayons

Praise Him, no. 298). Pop up the puppet when the verse says "I am Jesus' helper."

Week 5 (or optional activity) **Candleholders**

You Need:

- small jars or cans
- votive candles
- colored tissue paper or glitter, glue, and markers

Draw a pattern or picture on the outside of the jar with glue and glitter, or decorate with tissue paper. Place the votive candle inside. (See page 72.)

Use the candle at home when you tell the story of Samuel as a little helper.

Variations: Make candleholders with

nature objects glued to form a circle (pinecones, pieces of bamboo sticks, etc.) or a big piece of clay that can hold a candle, etc.

(From Deborah Stroh, *Christ's Kids Create!* [St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House, 1992].)

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack may be provided each week, such as crackers, fruit slices, or juice.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may

be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: "**Little Samuel was helping the Lord. I'm so glad Samuel was a little helper for God. And I'm so glad that you are God's little helpers at home and at Sabbath School. Sing our memory verse song with me: "Little Samuel was helping the Lord."**

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear God, we love You so much. May we always be Your helpers. Amen.**

Close with singing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."

—Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

Samuel Listens to God

References

1 Samuel 3:1-10;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 581,
582

Memory Verse

"Little Samuel
was helping the
Lord" (1 Samuel
3:1, TLB).

The Message

We are God's
little helpers.

Cory is a helper. He helps set the table. Samuel was a helper too—just like Cory.

Little Samuel lives at God's tent. Little Samuel has work to do. He is Priest Eli's helper.

(Make a little tent by draping a cloth over the table. As you make the tent together, sing, "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, helping at God's tent.")

See Little Samuel. *(Point to Samuel.)*
See his broom.

(Point to the broom.) Little Samuel has a job to do. He sweeps around God's tent. *(Point to the tabernacle.)*

Little Samuel is Priest Eli's helper. *(Point to Eli.)* Little Samuel is God's helper too. *(Make a tent and sweep.*

Sing, "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, sweeping at God's tent.")

See the pretty candlestick. Little Samuel has a job to do. He polishes the candlestick. He keeps the lights burning bright.

Little Samuel is Priest Eli's helper. *(Point to Eli.)* Little Samuel is God's helper too. *(Light a candle on the table, out of reach. Let your child blow the candle out. Clap and affirm your child for helping. Sing: "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, polishing the candlestick.")*

It is night at God's tent. *(Make two*

beds on the floor with quilts.) Priest Eli sleeps in his bed. *(Lie down as if you are Eli.)*

Samuel snuggles in his bed. *(Your child lies down.)* Samuel is not asleep. He is looking at the candles. *(Sing, "Samuel, little helper, helper, helper. Samuel, little helper, now it's time to sleep.")*

Shh! Eli is sleeping. *(Snore softly.)*

"Sam-u-el!" *(Call out, then whisper.)*

Shh! Who is calling?
(Pause.)

"Samuel!"
(Loudly again.) It must be Eli.

Little Samuel runs to Eli. "Here I am!" he says. "You called me."

"No,"

Priest Eli replies. *(Shake head.)* "I did not call. Run back to bed." *(Repeat this twice, making Eli sound more emphatic each time.)*

"Go back to bed, little Samuel," says Priest Eli. "Next time say, 'Speak, Lord. Your helper is listening.'"

So Samuel goes back to bed. *(Your child pretends to sleep.)*

"Sam-u-el," God calls again.

Samuel sits up and says *(wait for your child to sit up)*, "Speak, Your helper is listening." And God gave special messages to His little helper. *(Hug your child as you whisper in your child's ear: "Samuel was God's little helper. And you can be God's helper too.")*



1. Samuel may have helped put out candles at night. Have your child pretend their index finger is a lit candle and have them “blow it out” after they say the memory verse.

2. Sing a song about baby animals running to their mothers when they are called. Suggested song: “When a Mother Calls” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 274).

3. Tell the Bible story using thumbs as Samuel and Eli. Draw faces on your thumbs. Make them sleep inside your closed fists.

4. Help your child put away toys while singing “Let’s Put All Our Toys Away” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 294).

5. Play a shadow game. Children copy what you do (dust furniture, put away toys, and so on).

6. Make a bed for Samuel with a bath mat or towel. Help your child roll up and unroll the “bed” as Samuel did.

7. Let your child help prepare a special treat for a Sabbath meal.

8. Prepare and decorate a box in which your child may put away clothes or toys.

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child’s developmental stage and repeat them often.

Where will you keep it?

9. Help your child listen to and identify different sounds around the house (refrigerator, running water, doorbell, telephone, etc.).

10. Help your child listen to and identify different outdoor sounds (animals, birds, wind, traffic, etc.).

11. Sing (and do the actions to) “Coming, Mother” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 266) or make up a little song about coming when Mother calls.

12. Make a little book together, gluing on its pages magazine pictures of things your child can do to help at home.

13. Play a game (such as Simon says) to give your child practice in listening to and following directions.

14. Make a pin with a happy face on it. Write “I’m God’s little helper” on it. Have your child wear it when helping at home.

15. Put some cleaning items (brush, soap, cloths) in a box. Teach your child what they are used for and how to use them. Use a different one each day.