



SMALL GROUP STUDY

A Priest, A Prophet, A Politician, and A Poet

The book of 1 Samuel tells the story of 1 woman and 4 men. Hannah, the mother of Samuel who prays to God for a son; Eli, the high priest whose sons do not know the Lord; Samuel, Hannah's son who is dedicated in service to the Lord; Saul, Israel's first king; and David, Israel's second king and a man after God's own heart.

Hannah

Hannah was the wife of Elkanah and she was barren. She cried out to the Lord and He heard her cry and gave her a son, Samuel. When Samuel was still just a boy, she lent him to the Lord for all of his life.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What does "lent to Lord" mean?
- b. What similarities do you find in 1 Samuel chapter 2 and Luke chapter 1?

Eli and His Sons

Eli was the high priest. He had two sons who were corrupt, they did not know the Lord. In one fateful day both Eli's sons die, the Ark of the Lord is captured, Eli dies and his daughter-in-law gives birth to a son who she names Ichabod which means "the glory has departed from Israel!"

Discussion Questions:

- a. Who captured the Ark of the Covenant? How and why was it voluntarily returned?
- b. Is it possible to be in church every week and not know the Lord?

Samuel

The Lord came and called Samuel in the night. Samuel awoke and thought that it was Eli who had called to him but it was the Lord. After Samuel said, "speak Lord, your servant hears" the Lord gave him a revelation. The Lord was with him and all that he prophesied, the Lord brought to pass.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What did God reveal to Samuel on that first night God called to him?
- b. How is Samuel similar to Jesus Christ?
- c. What did the people ask for that so disappointed Samuel?

Saul

Saul is the beginning of the monarchy of Israel. The people ask for a king to be judge over them. They choose Saul as that man. He started well--humble, he could have ended well, but he didn't. Saul played the fool by arrogance, by indifference, and by disobedience.

Discussion Questions:

- d. What did Jonathan do that his father Saul took credit for?
- e. Why was Saul going to put Jonathan to death? Who rescued him?
- f. Examine your heart: Is there an area of your life where you are being disobedient to God?
- g. Who do you know that has walked away from the Lord? Commit to pray for them regularly.