

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 14 September 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

➤ **SERIES / LESSON:** Children of the Bible / Samuel

➤ **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** 1 Samuel 2:18 – 3:21

➤ **CONCEPT:** God is with me

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids believe that God is always with them and speaks to them if they listen.
- To help kids understand that God has a plan for each of them and is preparing them to do something for Him.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure Chest – with basket inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Map or globe
- ✓ Hannah (actress – in costume if possible, e.g. long, plain dress/robe tied; shawl; headdress; etc)
- ✓ Samuel's coat (e.g. boy's dressing gown / bath robe), plastic needle and thread
- ✓ Rocking chair / Chair for Hannah
- ✓ Samuel graphic
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>This is the Day / I Am Not Forgotten</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down.	You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Supernatural</i>)
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B. Message 15 minutes 1. Recap (2-3 minutes) Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the basket you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain the significance of the basket. Recap last week's story of Miriam and her baby brother by asking a few follow-up questions. Finish by eliciting the Bible concept: God is with me. You could also ask if anyone remembers last week's memory verse and have them recite it, individually and as a group. Or refer kids to the verse if you displayed it following the last session - <i>"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6</i> 2. Set the scene Today, we're going to hear about a special boy who lived in a town called Ramah, in Israel. Can you find Israel on our globe? (<i>Allow kids to find Israel in relation to their own country.</i>) The town of Ramah was close to Jerusalem – <i>point it out on the globe/map.</i> In Ramah, there lived a lady called Hannah. Hannah was very sad. She was so sad that she didn't eat and she cried and cried. Even though Hannah was very sad, she loved God and believed that He listened to her and cared for her. Boys and girls, Hannah is here with us today! Please say hello and welcome her! <i>Bring Hannah into the room and have her greet the kids. Then she can sit down.</i> 3. Tell the story (<i>The story should take place in the form of an interview between you, the interviewer, and Hannah. Hannah should have a copy of the script beforehand in order to prepare for the session. Hannah's responses are in bold print.</i>) Hannah, I've just been telling the boys and girls that you were very sad and that you couldn't stop crying ... but, Hannah, you don't look too sad today! You are right! A long time ago I was very sad because I had no children. I was so upset that it seemed like I was crying all the time. I really wanted to have a baby, but year after year, nothing happened. It was just me and my husband. No baby. Well, why are you happy today? Did something change to make you feel better? Yes! During those days when I was sad and upset, I prayed. I	You'll need ... <i>Treasure chest with basket inside (from last week's story)</i> <i>Globe / map</i> <i>Hannah actress (in costume, with the coat she is making for Samuel)</i> <i>Rocking chair / chair</i>
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asked God to help me and to give me a son. I prayed very hard. I believed that God loved me and He was listening to my prayers. I made a promise to God. I promised God that if He gave me a son, I would take the boy to live at the church and he would do God's work there for the rest of his life. It is true that God hears our prayers. I had a baby boy! God was listening to my prayer and He gave me a son! I called him 'Samuel' because I asked the Lord for him. That's why I am happy!

Wow! God is good! Hannah, I have a question. You said that you made a promise to God. You promised that you would take the boy to live at the church. Did you really give Samuel away or did you keep him at home?

Samuel stayed at home with me and his daddy until he could walk and talk. When he was about three years old, I took him to live at the church. I was sad to say goodbye to my boy, but I had made a promise to God and I trusted that God would always be with Samuel. Here is a picture of Samuel now. (Show picture of Samuel on screen.)

Every year I make him a new coat and his daddy and I go to visit him. See? I'm working on his new coat. (Pretend to sew a little and show the coat to the children.) When Samuel wears his new coat he knows that I love him very much, even though he has to live at the church.

I'm sure he loves getting his new coat every year, Hannah! Is the Lord God always with Samuel as you believed?

Oh yes! Samuel is a good boy who helps Pastor Eli. Samuel opens the church doors every morning, he cleans and sweeps the floors, and Pastor Eli teaches him about God.

One night, Samuel heard someone calling his name. 'Samuel, Samuel!' Samuel thought it was Pastor Eli, so he jumped out of his bed and ran to see what Eli wanted. Pastor Eli said, 'I didn't call; go back and lie down.' (1 Samuel 3:5) Samuel went back to bed. Again, Samuel heard someone calling his name. 'Samuel!' Samuel ran to see if Eli needed something. Pastor Eli said, 'I didn't call; go back and lie down.' (1 Samuel 3:6) Samuel went back to bed. Maybe he was just hearing things. ... 'Samuel!' A third time Samuel heard his name. He went to Pastor Eli but Eli hadn't called him that time either! Right then, Pastor Eli realised that the Lord God was calling Samuel! Pastor Eli told Samuel to go back to bed, and if he heard his name again he should say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' (1 Samuel 3:9) So Samuel went back to bed ... again!

Sure enough, Samuel heard his name. 'Samuel! Samuel!' This time, Samuel said, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' (1 Samuel 3:10) The Lord God spoke to Samuel and told him about things that were going to happen in his country of Israel. Samuel trusted God and listened to His voice. The Lord God is still with Samuel as he is growing up.

Graphic – Samuel portrait

Samuel's coat (e.g. an old dressing gown or bath robe), needle and thread for Hannah to pretend to work with

<p>God is with Samuel, God is with me, and God is with you too.</p> <p>4. Explain Thank you, Hannah, for coming today to tell us about Samuel. <i>(Hannah may leave and kids can say goodbye to her.)</i></p> <p>Hannah prayed and asked God for a baby. She promised to take the baby to the church to work for God there. God heard Hannah's prayer and He gave her a special son called Samuel. Hannah kept her promise and took Samuel to the church. Samuel was a good boy who helped the pastor at church and spent a lot of time learning about the Lord God. God looked after him and kept him safe even though he was far away from his mummy and daddy. The Lord God is always with us too. You might not hear Him call your name, but you might feel Him in your heart, telling you that He wants you to trust Him. And like Samuel, we can say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'</p> <p>Let's put Samuel's coat into the treasure chest. We'll open it again next week.</p>	<p><i>Treasure chest</i></p>
<p>C. Prayer Net 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. When we pray, God can talk to us too in a still, small voice in our mind. We can be ready, like Samuel, to listen to God and do the job He has for us. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week the kids will tell us what happened in those situations. 5. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 6. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge kids to remember to be like Samuel – ready to listen to God and do what He says. 2. Remind kids to come back this evening. 3. Sing a closing song. <i>(I Am Not Forgotten)</i> 4. Ask kids to put their mats away and put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i> <i>Name tag box</i></p>

THE ISLAND cont'd

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PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To personalise today's Bible story by making welcome cards for missionaries to ... – people who have listened to God's voice and are serving Him.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Memory Verse Slide (1 Samuel 3:10)

- ✓ Activity: tables
Pre-made card to show kids
sheets of card folded to make greetings cards

optional: paper inserts printed with a standard message and stuck into the cards before or during the session.
Suggested message: Dear ____, Thank you for listening to God. Love from ____.

a selection of coloured pens / pencils / crayons, etc.
a selection of sequins, ribbons, foil, fabric scraps, etc. (whatever is available that could be used to decorate the cards)
child-friendly glue
child-friendly scissors
large envelope for all the cards

- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>year so that Samuel knew his mummy loved him and had not forgotten about him, even though he was living and working at the church.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Explain:</i> Even today, some people still go away and leave their home to work for God. We call these people missionaries. Can you imagine how difficult it is being away from your family and friends? But missionaries know that God loves them very much. 5. <i>Explain:</i> We have new missionaries in our church (<i>change this to suit your situation – maybe you have missionaries who were sent out from your church, or people who your church supports</i>). They came from another country to live in our town and work with us at our church because God told them to do that. They listened to God and they did what He asked them. 6. <i>Explain:</i> We are going to make welcome cards for our missionaries to let them know that we are happy they are here. Just like Hannah made a coat for Samuel, we will make beautiful cards to make our new friends feel welcome. The cards will be delivered to them during the week. 7. Show your pre-made welcome card to the kids in demonstration of what they should work on. 8. Firstly, help kids to write their message inside the card. They can copy your greeting if they want, or write something else. Alternatively, you could print a standard message on small squares of paper and stick them into the cards before the session. Make sure each kid signs their name on their card. 9. Tell kids to be as creative as possible and decorate the front of their cards with the materials you have provided. 10. Collect the finished cards, put them inside a large envelope addressed to your missionaries, and assure kids that their cards will be delivered during the week. 	<p><i>Pre-made welcome card – decorated on the outside; inside write a greeting (e.g. Dear X&Y, Thank you for listening to God. I am happy you are here. Love, ...)</i></p> <p><i>Coloured pens, pencils, crayons, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Sequins, ribbons, foil, fabric scraps, glue, scissors, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Large addressed envelope</i></p>
<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 2. Ask kids to hold hands and sing <i>Jesus Loves Me</i> (first verse and chorus) <i>a cappella</i>, or with an instrument if preferred. 3. Close in prayer. Remind kids to come back next week! 4. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>