

We would be asking, “God, are you sure this is what is best for Samuel? To live in Eli’s house?” You can’t move from chaos to order and purpose overnight. Samuel’s life, as dedicated and set apart by his mother, will begin the winds of change. Samuel is right where God needs him to be. Hannah’s faith is exercised daily and she learns to lean on God when the sense of helplessness overtakes her.

- ❖ In what ways does your life need to move from chaos to order and purpose?
- ❖ How important is the role of perspective (microscopically vs. telescopically) in this process?

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.—1 Samuel 2:18

*And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.
- 1 Samuel 2:21b*

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.—1 Samuel 2:26

- ❖ How did Samuel fare in Eli’s house?
- ❖ How is it that Samuel stood upright and faithful in the house of Eli?

Assignment

1. Describe the difficulties that come with parenting from a distance.

2. Describe the environment in which your children are living in.

3. Do you struggle with feelings of helplessness concerning your children?

In an ideal world, children should grow up under the nurture and care of their parents.

4. In what ways can you see your incarceration as an intervention by God?

5. How have you seen God’s provision for your children?

By faithfully parenting Samuel from a distance (1 Samuel 2:18-21) Hannah established a link to influence him through which hope and heritage passed.

Your witness to your child can inspire them to rise above negative influences in their worlds, such that he or she can stand against the evil that surrounds them and be a faithful light of the Lord in dark places!

🌀 Hannah's Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 7

Memory Verse

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

6. What ideas do you have as a way to accomplish this?

Samuel's World: Hannah instilled spiritual values in Samuel. Even from a distance, intentional and consistent spiritual influence can help guide your child away from the destructive patterns of the world.

Read 1 Samuel 2:11-18, 27-33.

Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD. - 1 Samuel 2:12

7. In what ways can you maintain a viable link with your child?

❖ Exactly what was going on in Eli's house?

God had anointed Eli's family line hundreds of years earlier to represent God to the people. This was a serious responsibility for a family to pass on from generation to generation. Eli did not raise his sons to fear the Lord. Instead he let them do as they pleased—regularly profaning the Lord's name, disregarding priestly instructions, taking portions they wanted from the sacrifices people brought to the Lord, and even having sex with the women who served the tabernacle. Eli knew about all this. God will issue judgement against Eli's family.

8. How can you help your child emerge with a powerful testimony for the Lord?

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much is given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. - Luke 12:48

❖ What did we learn about the characters?

❖ What did we learn about the character of God?