

Mustard Seed Children's Lesson

October 15, 2006

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God Answered Samuel's Prayer

GOLDEN TEXT—"Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him" (I Samuel 7:9).

LESSON THEME: Samuel prayed for God to forgive Israel, and God forgave them.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 7:3–13.

I SAM. 7:3 And Sam'u-el spake unto all the house of Is'ra-el, saying, **If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ash'ta-roth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Phi-lis'tines.**

4 Then the children of Is'ra-el did put away Ba'al-im and Ash'ta-roth, and served the LORD only.

5 And Sam'u-el said, **Gather all Is'ra-el to Miz'peh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.**

6 And they gathered together to Miz'peh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, **We have sinned against the LORD. And Sam'u-el judged the children of Is'rael in Miz'peh.**

7 And when the Phi-lis'tines heard that the children of Is'ra-el were gathered together to Miz'peh, the lords of the Phi-lis'tines went up against Is'ra-el. And when the children of Is'ra-el heard *it*, they were afraid of the Phi-lis'tines.

8 And the children of Is'ra-el said to Sam'u-el, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Phi-lis'tines.

9 And Sam'u-el took a sucking lamb, and offered *it* for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Sam'u-el cried unto the LORD for Is'ra-el; and the LORD heard him.

10 And as Sam'u-el was offering up the burnt offering, the Phi-lis'tines drew near to battle against Is'ra-el: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Phi-lis'tines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Is'ra-el.

11 And the men of Is'ra-el went out of Miz'peh, and pursued the Phi-lis'tines, and smote them, until *they* came under Beth'-car.

12 Then Sam'u-el took a stone, and set *it* between Miz'peh and Shen, and called the name of it Eb'en-e'zer, saying, **Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.**

13 So the Phi-lis'tines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Is'ra-el: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Sam'u-el.

NOTES ON LESSON

The line of Israel's judges after Joshua's death in the Promised Land lasted about three hundred years (expert opinions vary). The number of years each judge led Israel varies from six to forty years.

Samuel, the last of Israel's judges, led the people back to God. The covenant relationship was renewed.

Samuel set up a stone memorial, a reminder of God's faithfulness to His people and His part in the covenant.

Help the children remember God's goodness and care. Their promise box is like a memorial to help them remember God's care.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children to remember God's goodness to them.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Samuel set up a memorial.
2. The memorial reminded the Israelites of the good things God did for them.
3. The children should remember the good things God has done for them.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For **Beginning the Lesson**, draw eight lines on the chalkboard for the letters of the word "Remember."

For **Telling the Lesson**, you will need the time line (or make one yourself).

For **Telling How to Live**, bring the promise boxes (or decorate a tissue or shoebox), two 3-by-5-inch cards, and a Bible for each child.

For **Helping to Remember**, you need a 6-inch piece of string for each child.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

(Gather the children around the chalkboard. Point to the lines. Instruct the children to take turns guessing a letter. When "remember" is completed, ask for its meaning. Tell the children things you remember that God has done in your life.)

Who would like to tell us what good things they remember God doing for them?

Today we are talking about a man who told the people of Israel to remember the good things God did for them.

TELLING THE LESSON

(Gather the children around a table.) We can find the name of this man in the Bible. (Point to and read in unison each book of the Bible on the time line, ending at Samuel.) There are two books of Samuel—I Samuel and II Samuel. Find I Samuel 7:3.

(Help the children find the Bible reference.)

Raise your hand when you find the man's name. (When everyone has found it, say the name together.)

Samuel was a very good leader. He loved God. He obeyed God. He told the people of Israel what God said. Samuel's love and obedience made him a good leader in Israel. Samuel prayed for the people. He called the people together. He told them that God had not forgotten them. He had not forgotten the covenant. The covenant said God promised to take care of them if they obeyed Him.

They were not obeying, though. They were worshiping false gods, idols made of wood or

stone. They had broken the covenant promises. So God let an enemy, the Philistines, come into their land.

Disobedience broke the covenant. God no longer promised to bless them. Disobedience is sin. Sin broke their covenant promise. The only way to renew their promise to God was to repent.

Samuel pleaded with the people to repent and throw out the idols. He told them that God would help when they repented.

To repent means to tell God, "I am sorry for my sin. Forgive me. I will obey."

Finally the people repented of their sin. They were really sorry they had disobeyed. They threw out the idols. They renewed their promise to God. God could be counted on to be faithful to His promises.

Samuel poured water on the ground as a sign that the people were sorry. He prayed for them. He asked God to get rid of their enemies and give them peace.

God forgave them. God sent a storm that drove the Philistine army out of their land. Samuel set up a stone, a memorial, to help the people of Israel to remember God's help to them. It reminded them of the covenant God made with them.

God helped us in the past. Knowing this helps us trust God.

(Distribute the promise boxes and give two cards to each child.) The promise boxes are like memorials. They help us remember God's covenant. They help us remember God's promises.

(Write the words "Good" and "Remember" on the chalkboard. Instruct the children to write each word on a card.)

Which card tells about God's part in the covenant? Which card tells about our part? Put the cards in your box. (Keep the boxes for the next lesson.)

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

God wants us to remember the good things He has done for us. Remembering helps us obey Him.

God wants us to remember His promises. God made a covenant with us. A covenant is a promise. God always keeps His promise. He has promised to bless us. In gratitude we are to be obedient to Him. God gave us the Bible to tell us how to live. We must do what it says. The Bible tells us to remember God's goodness.

Obey God. Think about the good things God has done for you. Memorials help us remember that God helped us in the past. Knowing this helps us trust God.

(Distribute the promise boxes and give two cards to each child.) The promise boxes are like memorials. They help us remember God's covenant. They help us remember God's promises.

(Write the words "Good" and "Remember" on the chalkboard. Instruct the children to write each word on a card.)

Which card tells about God's part in the covenant? Which card tells about our part? Put the cards in your box. (Keep the boxes for the next lesson.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Sometimes people tie a string around their finger to remind them to do something. We are going to tie a string around our finger to remind us to thank God for good things.

Do not grumble and complain about problems. Thank God for what He has done for you in the past.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him" (I Samuel 7:9).

The people were in danger. An enemy army was coming into their land. They were afraid. They could have been killed. They could have been taken as slaves.

Samuel prayed for God's protection. He knew that God heard him. He remembered how God had helped them in the past. He remembered the covenant.

Puzzle Activity:

God Answered Samuel's Prayer

P H I L I S T I N E S L D C R
Q R D L R U E L D O F E R R E
D O G T S E P R N J Y U Y I T
B R S H B R M L V A U M L E U
D I T R O L Y E R E Y A V D R
W P G M N Z B P M Y M S I R N
F D I A R F A R G B R G X P E
O S R E P E N T D Q E N O S D
E U P Z R G I R F E M R I A F
N L N V E P Q Z K X D L E S E
X F E L A I R E U O J Z V D E
V D C A J K H D Y R R W O V H
T Y U L R L P Z P G T V E H L
J A Q X X S X Q F I D V D E T
T L L R D C I G N Y B A T R W

AFRAID
ISRAEL
PRAYED
REPENT
SERVE

CRIED
ONLY
PROMISE
RETURNED
SIN

GOD
PHILISTINES
REMEMBERED
SAMUEL

God Answered Samuel's Prayer Solution

P H I L I S T I N E S L D C R
+ + + + R + E + + O + E + R E
D O G + + E P R N + Y U + I T
+ + + + + R M L V A + M + E U
+ + + + O + Y E R E + A + D R
+ + + M + + + P M + + S + + N
+ D I A R F A + + B + + + + E
+ S R E P E N T + + E N + + D
E + + + + + + + + + R I + +
+ L + + + + + + + + + E S +
+ + E + + + + + + + + + D +
+ + + A + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + R + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + S + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + I + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

AFRAID (7, 7, W)
CRIED (14, 1, S)
GOD (3, 3, W)
ISRAEL (7, 15, NW)
ONLY (10, 2, SW)
PHILISTINES (1, 1, E)
PRAYED (8, 6, NE)
PROMISE (7, 3, SW)
REMEMBERED (5, 2, SE)
REPENT (3, 8, E)
RETURNED (15, 1, S)
SAMUEL (12, 6, N)
SERVE (6, 1, SE)
SIN (14, 10, NW)

Lesson Summarized By:

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