



**INVESTIGATING AT  
GOD'S WORD... HOME**

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**VOLUME 6**  
I SAMUEL

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**ONE STORY**  
♦ MINISTRIES ♦

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Using this Teaching Guide</b> _____	<b>6</b>
<b>LESSON 1:</b> I Samuel 1:1-2:11 _____	<b>10</b>
<b>LESSON 2:</b> I Samuel 2:12-36 _____	<b>18</b>
<b>LESSON 3:</b> I Samuel 3 _____	<b>26</b>
<b>LESSON 4:</b> I Samuel 4 _____	<b>34</b>
<b>LESSON 5:</b> I Samuel 5:1-6:12 _____	<b>42</b>
<b>LESSON 6:</b> I Samuel 6:13-7:17 _____	<b>50</b>
<b>LESSON 7:</b> I Samuel 8 _____	<b>59</b>
<b>LESSON 8:</b> I Samuel 9:1-10:8 _____	<b>67</b>
<b>LESSON 9:</b> I Samuel 10:9-11:11 _____	<b>76</b>
<b>LESSON 10:</b> I Samuel 11:12-12:25 _____	<b>84</b>
<b>LESSON 11:</b> I Samuel 13:1-14:14 _____	<b>93</b>
<b>LESSON 12:</b> I Samuel 14:15-52 _____	<b>102</b>
<b>LESSON 13:</b> I Samuel 15 _____	<b>111</b>

<b>LESSON 14:</b> I Samuel 16	<b>119</b>
<b>LESSON 15:</b> I Samuel 17	<b>127</b>
<b>LESSON 16:</b> I Samuel 18	<b>137</b>
<b>LESSON 17:</b> I Samuel 19	<b>145</b>
<b>LESSON 18:</b> I Samuel 20	<b>153</b>
<b>LESSON 19:</b> I Samuel 21:1-22:5	<b>161</b>
<b>LESSON 20:</b> I Samuel 22:6-23:13	<b>169</b>
<b>LESSON 21:</b> I Samuel 23:14-24:22	<b>177</b>
<b>LESSON 22:</b> I Samuel 25	<b>185</b>
<b>LESSON 23:</b> I Samuel 26:1-28:2	<b>194</b>
<b>LESSON 24:</b> I Samuel 28:3-29:11	<b>203</b>
<b>LESSON 25:</b> I Samuel 30	<b>212</b>
<b>LESSON 26:</b> I Samuel 31	<b>220</b>



## OPENING

**Begin by reading Psalm 94:12-13.**

<sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

**Say:** *Do you believe that you are blessed when God teaches you His ways? You are! God's Word disciplines us—it trains us to turn away from our sin and turn towards God. Only God's Word gives us relief in days of trouble too. Let's study more of that wonderful Word today!*



## DRILL TIME

*First, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?*

**Today's questions:** *What were the names of Naomi's two daughters-in-law? Which one returned to Israel with Naomi? Who was the kinsman-redeemer who married Ruth? What was the name of Ruth and Boaz's first son? Who was Obed's famous grandson?*

### Answers:

1. Ruth and Orpah.
2. Ruth.
3. Boaz.

4. Obed.
5. David.

**Say:** *That's a quick review of our study of the Book of Ruth. The book ends by pointing us forward to David. But before we can learn more about David, we need to finish studying the period of the judges in Israel. During our Bible Investigation time, you will meet the last judge of Israel!*



## **W.O.W!**

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **DEDICATE**. This is a word we have come across before in our reading. Can anyone tell me what it means to DEDICATE something?

**Allow answers.**

*When the Israelites constructed the tabernacle, they were told to DEDICATE it (as well as all its furnishings) to the LORD. To DEDICATE is to set something apart for special use. The items of the tabernacle could only be used in the worship of God!*

*Many adults put money in a savings account in order to DEDICATE those funds to a special cause. Or, we can even DEDICATE some of our time each week in order to do something special for someone else.*

*So, to DEDICATE something means to use it only for particular situations. Did you know that you can also DEDICATE a person?*

*A person can be DEDICATED, or set apart, for special service to the LORD. In our reading today, a child will be DEDICATED to full-time service to the LORD. Let's study and find out who it is!*



## BIBLE INVESTIGATION

**Introduction:** *Today, we will begin investigating the Book of I Samuel. This Old Testament book comes right after the Book of Ruth. It is a book of transitions, where Israel will change from a nation ruled by JUDGES to a nation ruled by KINGS.*

*Let's begin reading together. Read I Samuel 1:1-2.*

<sup>1</sup> There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. <sup>2</sup> He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

**Discussion:** *We are introduced now to a man named Elkanah. What were the names of his two wives? [Hannah and Peninnah.] Which wife had children? [Peninnah.] At this point, Hannah was childless.*

*Let's keep reading. Read verses 3-5.*

<sup>3</sup> Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

**Discussion:** *So now we learn why Hannah was childless. Why? [Because the LORD had closed her womb.] God is the creator of life. He is the one who gives babies to people—and He is the one who makes it so women cannot have babies. Now, how did Elkanah treat Hannah, since she couldn't have babies? [He gave her a double portion when*

they sacrificed.] Remember that many of God's people were now making yearly sacrifices at Shiloh, where the priests ministered. Also remember the names Hophni and Phinehas—we'll learn more about them in the future.

Let's read on. **Read verses 6-8.**

<sup>6</sup> And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup> So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup> And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

**Discussion:** *That's pretty sad, isn't it? Peninnah made fun of Hannah because she couldn't have babies. Could Hannah help it that she couldn't have babies? [No!] Yet, year after year, Hannah was provoked to tears by this other wife. It is a great heartache for a woman not to be able to have a baby!*

**Application:** *Have you ever had someone make fun of you? People can say a lot of things to hurt our feelings. They can make fun of how we look, how we talk, where we live, etc. Is this the way God wants us to treat other people? [No!]*

Let's read what happens next. **Read verses 9-11.**

<sup>9</sup> After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. <sup>10</sup> She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

**Discussion:** *How did Hannah respond to all of Peninnah's teasing? [She prayed.] In her sadness and distress, Hannah*

prayed. And, instead of praying for Peninnah to go away, she asked for a child—a son. What did Hannah promise to do if God gave her a son? [Give him back to the LORD.] What Hannah was saying was that she would DEDICATE this son to God. He would be set apart to serve the LORD all his life. And, he would be a Nazirite too. Do you remember what a Nazirite is? [A person set apart for service to God. A Nazirite couldn't cut his hair, drink alcohol, or touch a dead body.]

**Application:** *The best response to being teased and hurt by other people is to pray! As you grow up, my prayer for you is that you turn to the LORD in prayer when you are sad and hurting.*

Let's read more. **Read verses 12-18.**

<sup>12</sup> As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. <sup>14</sup> And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." <sup>15</sup> But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. <sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." <sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him." <sup>18</sup> And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

**Discussion:** *Eli was the high priest at Shiloh. What did he think was wrong with Hannah? [He thought she was drunk!] Was Hannah drunk on wine? [No!] She was praying out of her misery. When Eli found out she was really praying, what did he say? [May God grant you favor.] Hannah left Shiloh*

*with hope—trusting that God would hear her prayer. Do you think God will answer her prayer?*

*Let's see. **Read verses 19-20.***

<sup>19</sup> They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. <sup>20</sup> And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

**Discussion:** *What great news! God answered Hannah's prayer. What was the name of the son that God gave Hannah? [Samuel.] Samuel's name means "name of God." Hannah knew that God had given her this son, so she gave him a name that would always remind her of that fact!*

*Will Hannah keep her vow? Let's see. **Read verses 21-28.***

<sup>21</sup> The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." <sup>23</sup> Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup> And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. <sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup> And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

**Discussion:** *Did Hannah keep her vow to the LORD? [Yes.] When Samuel was three years old, Hannah brought him to Shiloh and gave him to Eli. Over and over again, she tells Eli how the LORD had answered her prayers. Now, Samuel would be a lifelong Nazirite, and be DEDICATED to the LORD's service the rest of his days.*

**Application:** *When you put your faith in Jesus as your Savior, you are also DEDICATING your entire life to the service of the LORD. Life with God means giving up our whole selves to Him!*

*Now, Hannah prays again. Read I Samuel 2:1-3.*

<sup>1</sup> And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. <sup>2</sup> "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. <sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

**Discussion:** *This is a prayer of thanksgiving and rejoicing! But instead of just thanking God for her baby son, Hannah praises God for her total salvation. She knows firsthand who God is and how He loves His people.*

*Let's read more of her prayer. Read verses 4-8.*

<sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. <sup>5</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. <sup>6</sup> The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. <sup>7</sup> The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. <sup>8</sup> He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.

**Application:** Now Hannah says even more about the great God that we serve. She knows that God is the giver of life. She knows that God lifts His people up and defeats His enemies. She knows that God is the Creator of all things. Do you know all these things about God? Will you praise Him for who He is?

Let's finish this prayer of Hannah's. **Read verses 9-10.**

<sup>9</sup> "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. <sup>10</sup> The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

**Discussion:** Did Hannah put her trust in the LORD? [Yes!] Did God deliver her from her struggles? [Yes!] Will He save you if you call out to Him? [Yes!]

Listen to this last verse. **Read verse 11.**

<sup>11</sup> Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest.

**Conclusion:** So we end with Samuel ministering in the temple with Eli in Shiloh. God used a barren woman's prayer to bring into this world a boy that will become one of the greatest of His prophets. Isn't God amazing? By God's plan, Hannah DEDICATED Samuel to the LORD for life. Next time, we will read more of this boy and how God uses him mightily in His kingdom!



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### I Samuel 2:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."