

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 7; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 589-591.

Samuel's Service

What will you be when you grow up? Will you be a leader like Samuel?

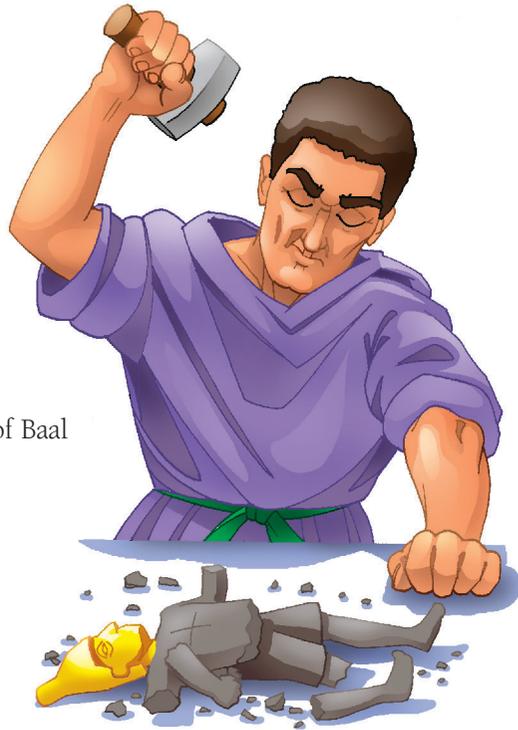
God's people, the Israelites, had started worshipping the idols of their neighbors, the Philistines. One of these idols was Baal, the Philistine god of thunder and rain. Many Israelites had little idols of Baal in their houses.

God sent Samuel to talk to the people. "Remember, the name Israel means 'ruled by

God,'" he began. "Turn back to God with all your hearts! Throw away your idols. Give yourselves to God and serve Him only."

The people of Israel listened to Samuel. They broke all their idols and began to worship God again.

"Come meet at Mizpah," Samuel told the people. "I will pray to the Lord for you there."



Memory Verse

"Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life."

1 SAMUEL 7:15, NIV.

The Message

I will serve God
all my life.

So the people gathered at Mizpah. “We have sinned against the Lord!” they admitted. “We are sorry. We are really, really sorry.”

The Philistines heard that the Israelites had gone to Mizpah. “Let’s go attack them!” they said. So the Philistine rulers gathered their soldiers and marched toward Mizpah.

“The Philistines are coming! The Philistines are coming!” a young man may have shouted as he ran up the dusty road.

The Israelites looked at one another with wide eyes. “Ask the Lord to save us from the Philistines!” they begged Samuel.

Samuel prayed for the safety of the Israelites. Suddenly, there was the sound of loud thunder from heaven. It echoed from the mountains. It shook the air. It rumbled, rolled, and boomed.

The Philistines were frightened! They dropped their swords and spears. And they ran away as fast as they could go.

The Philistines thought their god Baal was the god of thunder. So the true God used thunder to show that only He had power and an idol did not.

Samuel put a large rock for a monument on the road to Mizpah. He wanted the people of Israel to always remember how the true God had saved them. For years to come children would ask, “Why is that big rock there?” And the parents would tell their children the wonderful story.

Samuel led Israel for the rest of his life. He served the Lord all of his days.

Do you want to serve the Lord too? How can you serve Him today?



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story.

Using a gift box, place a cutout of a child inside. On the cutout write the words to the memory verse from head to toe. As your child slowly pulls the cutout from the box, say the verse together. Repeat it each day.

SUNDAY

Together, read 1 Samuel 7:1-11, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: Were the Israelites sorry? How did Samuel help them? What did God use to scare the Philistines away?

Look at pictures of different professions and talk about them. Say: Whatever you do when you grow up, you can serve God while doing it.

MONDAY

Ask: What were the Israelites to tell their children about the stone monument?

Help your child find two rocks (or use the rock brought home from Sabbath School). Take one to a friend and tell them about Samuel's service. Keep the other to remind your child that he or she should want to serve Jesus always.

Sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 202).

TUESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 7:12-17. Ask: What did

Samuel name the monument he built? How long did Samuel serve God?

Help your child count how many years old they are and explain how many days that is. Say: You may have been serving God all those days!

WEDNESDAY

Act out the Bible story. Let your child make noise with a pan and spoon for the thunder. Ask: Did the Philistines' thunder god, Baal, help them? Who helps us during storms?



THURSDAY

Help your child make an "I Serve Jesus" doorknob hanger. (See picture.) Hang it on their bedroom door.

Sing "Serve Him, Serve Him, All You Little Children" (tune: "Praise Him, Praise Him").



FRIDAY

During worship tonight, read about Samuel's service in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 590 (first paragraph) and page 591 (last paragraph).

Say the memory verse together. Sing songs that tell how Jesus takes care of us.