

THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!

Chapter 10 – Messages from God Day One – God Answers Prayer

Today's reading: Pages 102-103

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 1

Summary: Hannah prayed for a son and God answered.

Do together: Have each child write a prayer request on a slip of paper (or do it for them). Date each slip of paper and place it with the others in a jar to be prayed over all three days and in future days.

Think about: Discuss each prayer request one. Talk about the likelihood of each request. Are they possible? Impossible? Remind the children, using Hannah as an example, that God can do anything. Like Hannah, we can put our requests before God and expect that he will do what is best.

Also read: Matthew 6:9-13

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for everything you have already done. Now, we set before you these simple prayer requests. To the God of the universe, these should not be difficult at all. We trust you with them and expect you will do what is best for us. So, we thank you in advance for answers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 10 – Messages from God

Day Two – Hearing God

Today's reading: Pages 104-106

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 3

Summary: Samuel needed help learning to hear God.

Do together: Play the “Calling to Service” game. Have the children line up at the far end of the room. Then call each one by name. If you say the name twice, the child can take a full step toward you. If you say the name only once, they must remain still or be penalized. When called only once, for every step the child takes, he/she must step backward two steps. Repeat to the end of the game.

Think about: Talk about God's persistence when he calls. Use Samuel as an example. God called him three times before Samuel knew that it was God and not Eli calling. God continued to call a fourth time. Why do you think God was so persistent with Samuel? Why do you suppose he kept calling Samuel and didn't just forget it and call someone else?

Also read: Isaiah 6:8

Prayer: Please, God, help us to know when you are calling. We want to live up to our position as servants. We want to trust in your decisions for our lives. Please help us to be more like Samuel. We want to obey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 10 – Messages from God

Day Three – God’s Way

Today’s reading: Pages 107-109

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 8-10

Summary: God’s people didn’t want to follow God’s way; neither did their first king.

Do Together: Tell the children this story: A bunch of people were sitting on a fence minding their own business. Along came Jesus on one side and Satan on the other. They both beckoned people to follow. Little by little everyone dropped off the fence and began to follow their leader. Many chose to follow Christ; others chose to follow Satan, until only one man remained on the fence. Jesus had left with his followers. Satan had left with his followers. But Satan came back. "Come on," he said to the guy on the fence. "Let's go." The man on the fence shook his head. "No," he said. "I'm sitting on the fence. I am not going to choose one or the other. Perhaps I can have both." Satan looked back and grinned. "You have to come with me," he said. "I own the fence."

Think About: Talk about God's way versus man's way. Why is it better to go God's way? What can happen when man turns away from God and does his own thing? Can man be restored to God after disobeying? Remember the saying: "Slow obedience is no obedience."

Also read: Joshua 24:15

Prayer: I want to choose you. Help me every day to make good choices; choices that please you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.