

# God Calls Samuel Class Notes Answer Key

*Print one Class Notes Answer Key for your use as the students fill in the answers in their Student Guides.*

- 1. In 1 Samuel 1, how did Samuel wind up in the service of Eli?** *Hannah was barren (could not have children) and promised God that she would give her child to His service if He would grant her a son. God was pleased to answer her prayer, and after he was weaned, Samuel was given to serve the Lord at the Tabernacle in Shiloh.*
- 2. What do Hannah's actions and her prayer in chapter 2 tell us about her?** *She had true faith in God and recognized many of His attributes (holiness, sovereignty, faithfulness, justice, etc.). She understood that God could grant her a child. It was God who had closed her womb according to 1:5 and God who granted her a child according to 1:19–20. Hannah trusted God through her trial.*
- 3. Who was Eli?** *He was the priest (2:11) at the Tabernacle in Shiloh (2:14).*
- 4. What do we learn about Eli's two sons?** *They were corrupt and did not know the Lord (2:12). They were stealing the meat intended for sacrifice (2:13–17). They were fornicating with women at the Tabernacle (2:22), and they did not listen to their father's rebukes because God intended to kill them (2:25).*
- 5. How could we rate Eli as a father?** *Although he rebuked his sons, Eli obviously did not train them or discipline them to obey himself or God (2:22–25, 3:13). Also, 2:29 implies that he was also eating the choice cuts of meat and getting heavy (4:18) alongside his sons as he honored them above God.*
- 6. By contrast to Hophni and Phinehas, how is Samuel described in these passages?** *Samuel served faithfully (2:18) and grew in stature and favor with the Lord and men (2:26).*
- 7. What other young man is described in a very similar way elsewhere in Scripture?** *1 Samuel 2:26 is very similar to the description of the young Jesus in Luke 2:52.*
- 8. In 1 Samuel 2:27–36, what judgment does this unnamed prophet pronounce?** *Eli's sons will die young on the same day, and their descendants will not retain the service of the priesthood.*
- 9. How old was Samuel in chapter 3 when he received his first vision?** *We don't know from the text other than to say he was still a boy. Most commentators would suggest he was in his teens, but we cannot be certain of his age.*
- 10. Was revelation from God common at that time?** *There was not widespread revelation (3:1), though there was at least one prophet speaking for God (2:27).*
- 11. Once Samuel realized that God was speaking to him, not Eli, how did he respond?** *He was willing to listen (3:10), but reluctant to deliver the message of judgment (3:15).*
- 12. How did Eli respond to the message from God?** *He acknowledged that God could do what pleased Him (3:18).*
- 13. Did the people recognize Samuel's role as a prophet?** *Yes, 3:19–21 and 4:1a make it clear that all of Israel (Dan being the extreme north and Beersheba being the extreme south) acknowledged Samuel as a prophet of the Lord.*