Samuel

“Samuel, Eli and Eli’s Sons”

Series Objective:

 Students will learn:

* The story of how Eli’s sons and Samuel chose different roads under Eli’s leadership
* The story of how Saul became the first king of Israel
* The story of David serving king Saul
* The story of David and Jonathan’s friendship

Series Theme Verse: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” –Psalm 119:105

Lesson Objective: For students to understand the story of Eli and his relationship to his sons and Samuel.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 2:12-26 (Verse 22 should be treated carefully)

Materials Needed: Bibles, Glow stick for each student, dark room, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

 Talking Points:

* Eli was the high priest of Shiloh and the second to last judge of Israel. Were his sons good sons? (No, they were scoundrels)
* Why were they considered bad sons? (They had no regard for, or didn’t know the Lord)
	+ Vs. 13-16 illustrate the evil ways of Eli’s sons. If you talk about this with students, you might need to briefly explain how Israel made sacrifices to God as an act of worship and repentance of sin. As part of the sacrificial process, the Law allowed the priests to take for themselves the breast and upper part of the right rear leg of animals brought as peace offerings. But Eli’s sons took all that the three-pronged fork brought up when plunged into the remaining meat being boiled for the sacrificial meal. The priests were to burn the best part of the sacrifices on the altar as offerings to God, but Eli’s sons demanded for themselves raw meat that was not cooked at all.
* Eli’s sons were supposed to be the person who stood for the people between God and Israel, but did they do their job in a way that pleased God? (No, they did not keep the sacrifices holy)
* We meet another boy serving in the Temple, what is his name? (Samuel)
* Where have you heard that name? (It is the name of the book we are in)
* What did Eli’s mom bring him each year when she visited the temple to worship with her husband? (A robe she made)
* Eli would bless Samuel’s parents asking God to give them children. Why? (Because they had dedicated Samuel, their only son, to serve God in the temple, so he no longer lived with them)
* Did Hannah, Samuel’s mom, have other children? (Yes, 3 sons and 2 daughters)
* Samuel did not live with his parents, but he grew up in the presence of whom? (The Lord)
* When Eli heard how his sons were acting with disregard for the Lord, what did he do? (He confronted them, trying to convince them not to sin as they were)
* Did the sons listen to Eli? (No, they thought they knew better than their father)
* In the midst of all the evil that Eli’s sons are committing, what is going on with Samuel? (He is continuing to grow in stature and favor with the Lord and with people)
* What does it mean that Samuel was growing in stature? (He was growing up, taller and stronger)
* What does it mean that Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and people? (He was pleasing to God because he followed God’s leadership and people loved him because they saw the way he followed God)

The Story Retold:

* Give each student a glow stick and show them how to break the stick to make it glow.
* Take a trip to a room that can be made extremely dark, or prepare your room ahead of time by blacking out windows with black butcher paper.
* Have students use their glow sticks to move around the room finding certain objects you have planted in the room (a Bible, a cross, a clock, etc.)
* After you finish, sit around the table and ask students reflection questions like:
	+ Was it easy to find each object?
	+ How did the glow stick help you in your search for each object?
	+ Did your glow stick light up the whole room?
	+ What did the glow stick help you to see?
* At night when you are riding with your parents, how do they see to drive? (They use their car headlights)
* Can you see as far at night with headlights as you can during the day? (No)
* What do the headlights help you see? (What is right in front of you)
* Like the glow stick, headlights give you enough light to get safely down the road.
* God’s direction and leadership is a lot like the glow stick and headlights. When we study God’s word and pray to God, we might not see the future or everything God has in store for us, but helps us see enough to get safely down the road in our faith journey.
* Eli’s sons did not trust God and treated God as worthless, and they did not grow in God.
* Samuel, on the other hand, was faithful to God and served God in the temple. As a result, he grew in favor with God and people.
* When we live as God leads us to through the Bible, we please God and people see that we are different in a good way.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Ask the students what the Psalmist means when he writes “your word”?
* Help students understand that God’s word, the Bible, is our guide to live as God wants us to.
* Give students an example of how you practice studying God’s word and applying it to your life.
* Ask the students if they have their own personal Bible. Take note of any who don’t, or any who need a translation more on their level.
* Say the verse in groups (boys, girls, white shoes, etc) to begin memorizing the verse.