

DISOBEDIENCE

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Lesson 1

DISOBEDIENCE IN THE FAMILY

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

During the 100 years prior to the time of the book of First Samuel, the people of Israel repeatedly disobeyed God. Rather than worshiping Him, they served the false gods of the Canaanites. They did not obey the command of God to destroy the neighboring heathen nations. When the Israelites genuinely repented of their sin and asked God to forgive them, He heard their prayers. Each time He raised up a strong leader—called a judge—to rescue them from their enemies. The Bible book of Judges explains these facts of Israel's past.

First Samuel continues the history of the Israelite people. Samuel lived during the lifetime of Samson and succeeded him as judge of Israel. During this time the Israelites were harshly treated by their enemies, the Philistines.

These historic lessons from the Bible record the power of sin and the severe consequences to all when discipline is lacking. God's hatred *for* sin and His punishment *of* sin, is a warning for us today (1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4; 6:23).

Scripture to be studied: 1 Samuel 1:1-3:21

The aim of the lesson: To show that God disciplines disobedience in the family.

What your students should know: That because God is good, He teaches fathers to discipline their children.

What your students should feel: Thankful for parents who teach the severe consequences of sinning against God.

What your students should do:

Those still in the care of parents—obey their parents; submit to their discipline.

Those who are parents—be firm with their children so they will willingly obey God.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. The failure of Eli in his family (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25).
2. God rejects the family of Eli (1 Samuel 2:27-36).
3. The obedience of Elkanah and Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, 18-21).
4. God chooses Samuel (1 Samuel 2:35-3:21).

The verse to be memorized:

Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things He hath done for you.
(1 Samuel 12:24)

THE LESSON

1. THE FAILURE OF ELI IN HIS FAMILY 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25

Eli was important—indeed, the most important man in the land of Israel. He was the High Priest, the one who talked to God for the people. He taught the people the commands of God. He explained the absolute importance of obeying the Lord. He led the Israelites in their worship of God.

The High Priest was the only one who could go into the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies) in the Tabernacle. And he could enter just one day a year—the Day of Atonement. On that day he took blood from an animal sacrifice to sprinkle on the Ark of the Covenant. When God saw the blood, He forgave the sins of the High Priest and all the Israelites. (See Leviticus 16.)

Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Because Eli was the High Priest, his sons were priests. It was a holy honor to be chosen by God to serve Him in the Tabernacle. (See 1 Samuel 2:28; Exodus 28:1; Leviticus 8:1-30. Long before Eli lived, God had chosen Aaron's family to serve as priests. Eli was a descendant of Aaron.)

Although the priests could not go into the Most Holy Place, they were allowed to enter the Holy Place. They were the ones