

Sunday School Family Sheet: Speak Well

Sunday, February 28, 2021

This sheet is for an adult member of the home to use as a guide for discussing the Sunday School Bible lesson with children.

For this lesson: You will need either:
1) a Bible, or
2) 365 Bible Stories and Prayers
ISBN: 978-1-68052-407-9
(Call the church office 9715-848-7286 for help getting one)

1. **Read and Talk.** Read aloud 1 Samuel 1 and 3 or pp. 102-104 in 365 Bible Stories and Prayers. Before reading aloud, share the following: “Samuel was known as a prophet, someone who spoke for God to Israel. Samuel was an unexpected surprise to his mother and father; they had a hard time having children. But once Samuel was born, God prepared him for his important work as a prophet, learning what to do and not to do from Eli and his family.” Then ask the children to keep these questions in mind as you read. ***After reading, go over the answers and guide them towards the answers here:***
 - a. What did Hannah do when she was so sad in the temple?
(She prayed that God would remember her and give her a son to serve in God’s temple.)
 - b. What does Samuel’s name mean? ***(His name means, “God hears” because God heard Hannah’s prayer to have a child.)***
 - c. What did Hannah do once Samuel was older? ***(She brought him to the temple to learn how to be a priest, just as she promised years before.)***
 - d. God listened to Hannah, Samuel’s mother. Did Samuel listen to God as He called out to him? ***(Yes! But Samuel thought it was Eli at first. Eli had to teach Samuel that was the voice of God, a voice that Eli’s own sons, sadly, failed to listen to again and again.)***
2. **Teach.** After you’ve talked a bit, share these or similar thoughts: When God speaks to us, are we listening? He speaks to us through His Word in worship. In fact, the whole Divine Service on Sunday (or Saturday night) is God speaking to us, His people. He wants us to hear that He is a gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. But, as we all know, listening can be hard work!
3. **Pray.** Have the children cross themselves and say, “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Also, lead them in this prayer: “Dear God, help us to listen to You and listen for You always, especially in prayer and during worship. Open our ears to hear how we are to live our lives, just like Samuel many years ago. Open our ears to hear how many people can struggle and be lonely, like Hannah many years ago too. Above all, open our ears to hear the wonderful message of the Gospel – Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior, who died for our sins that we would live for You and for others. Amen.”