

ENRICHMENT LESSON 8

THE STORY OF SAMUEL

LESSON NOTES

**FOCUS: THE STORY OF SAMUEL; PROPHET, PRIEST AND JUDGE
(I SAMUEL 1-28:3).**

- SACRED STORY
- ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION

THE MATERIAL

- LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "THE ARK AND THE TENT"
- PIECES: ARK OF THE COVENANT, WRAPPED PRESENT, 3 COATS, SLEEPING MAT, SMALL CLEAR BOTTLE OF OIL, CROWN
- CONTROL
- UNDERLAY: DARK BROWN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"

BACKGROUND

The story of Samuel connects worship in God's tent (the tabernacle complex) and worship in God's temple. I and II Samuel were one book in Hebrew. Samuel's story is in I Samuel, with Saul's story, and David's story begins midway through I Samuel and continues through II Samuel. Samuel was an early prophet and the last of the judges to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. He anointed Saul and then David as kings to rule after him.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Samuel's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is "a horn of oil," like what Samuel would have used to anoint first King Saul and then David. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a strip of dark brown felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: the Ark of the Covenant (like the one used in the lesson on the top shelf, "The Ark and the Tent," *Volume 2*, p. 81), a baby wrapped in a blanket, three coats each a

little larger than the next showing Samuel's growth as a child, a mat for sleeping, a bottle of oil for anointing, a crown.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

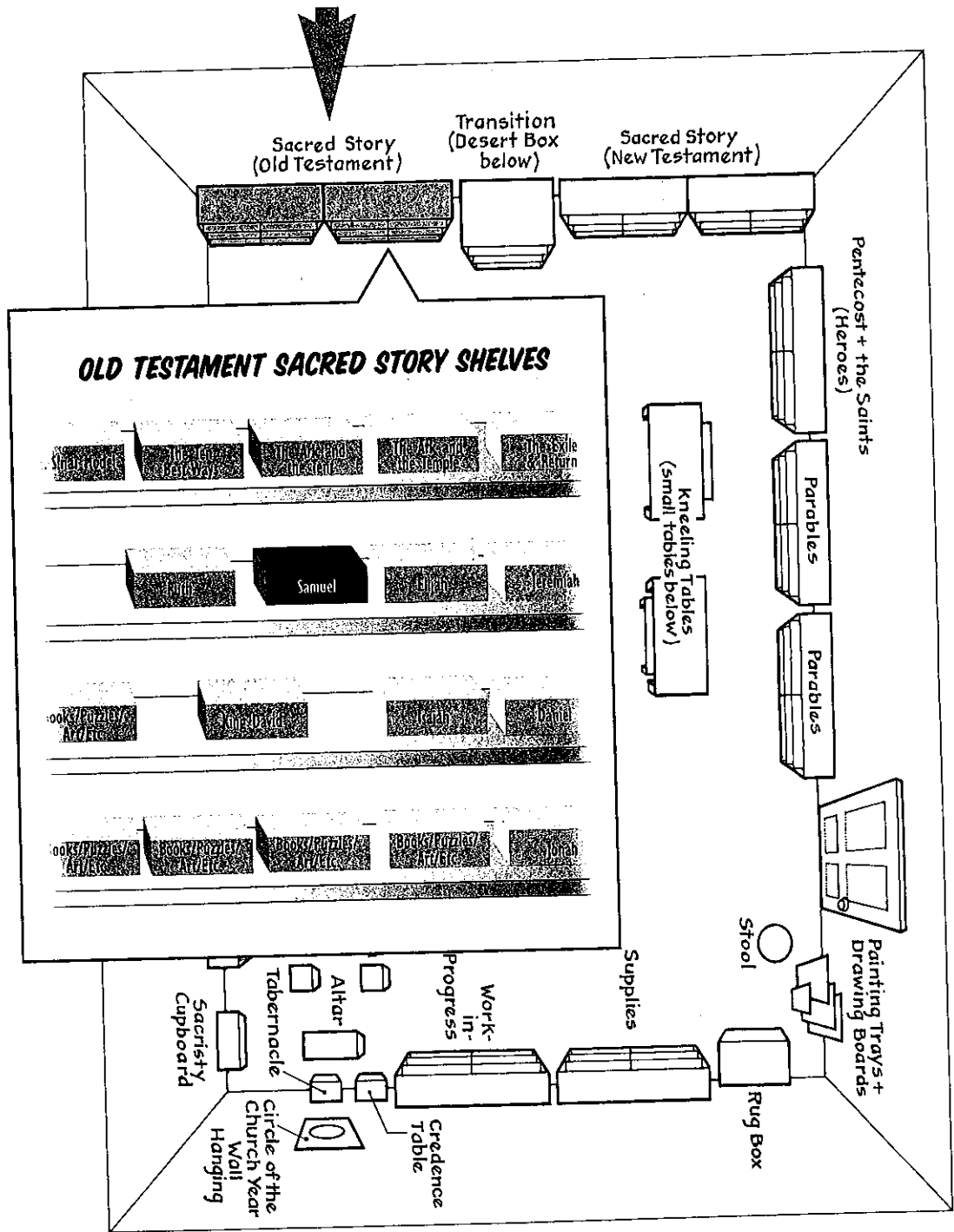
SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

When you introduce the stories in this volume, take care to set them in the larger context of the sacred story of which they are a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of Samuel, you place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, providing just enough space for each object as it's presented, as if you are unrolling a life. At the end of the wondering, show the children the control card and then carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, "Here are the coats Hannah brought to Samuel each year," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS (TEACHING OBJECTS)

MOVEMENTS

Move with deliberation to the shelf where the material waits.

Pick up the tray containing the material and return to the circle. You may need to say:

Remove the underlay from the tray and unroll it just enough so that the first object will fit, from right to left (story-teller's perspective).

*Place **Object #1** (Ark of the Covenant) on the underlay.*

*Place **Object #2** (baby wrapped in blanket) on the underlay.*

*Place **Object #3** (three coats, each one slightly bigger than the previous one, to mark the passage of time) on the underlay.*

WORDS

Watch. Watch where I go.

Everyone needs to be ready.

When the People of God came into the Promised Land, they carried the ark into the mountains to a place called Shiloh. They put up the tent for God, and the ark stayed there.

The People of God settled in the hills around the ark. Two of the people, Hannah and Elkannah, lived in Ramah not far from where the ark was kept. Each year they came to Shiloh to pray.

Hannah wanted to be a mother so much, but she had no children. One year she prayed so deeply in front of God's tent that one of the priests named Eli worried. He went to her to see if he could help. She told him that she was asking God to help her have a baby. He helped her pray.

Hannah and Elkanah had a baby, and they named him *Samuel*, which means "someone given by God."

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah brought Samuel to Shiloh to live with Eli and learn how to care for the ark. But every year Hannah came to see him and brought him a new coat to wear.

MOVEMENTS

Place **Object #4** (sleeping mat) on the underlay. Move your hand away from the mat three times to show how Samuel got up and went to Eli.

Leave your hand resting on the mat when you say that Samuel did as Eli told him.

Place **Object #5** (small bottle of oil and crown) on the underlay when you mention the anointing and then the crown.

WORDS

One night when Samuel was asleep on his mat in the tent, God called, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel thought it must be Eli calling, so he went to him. But Eli did not call him, and he told Samuel to go lie down. This happened three times, until Eli realized that God must be calling Samuel. He told Samuel to go back and lie down. He said, "If you hear the voice again, say, 'Speak, God, for your servant hears.'"

God called him again, but this time Samuel did as Eli told him. God told Samuel that Eli's own sons and the People of God would lose the ark in a battle, and Eli would fall down and die when he heard the news.

In the morning Samuel told Eli what God had told him. It came true. The People of God lost the ark, and Eli died.

Since the ark and the priests were gone, Samuel went back to live with his mother and father. But God stayed close to Samuel, and he became the leader of all the people called a judge. He was also a true prophet.

When Samuel grew old the people came to him and asked for a king. They wanted to be like the other nations. Samuel wasn't sure what to do, so he prayed to God, and God told him to go find a king.

Samuel began to look for the right person to be king. He knew at once that Saul was the right one. He anointed him king by pouring oil over his head and giving thanks to God.

Saul led the armies of Israel, and he was their king, but the Spirit of the Lord left Saul.

MOVEMENTS

Object #6: Move the oil for anointing down to the end of the underlay to indicate the second anointing, but leave the crown. (David is not crowned king until after Saul dies.)

Sit for a moment and look at the lesson from beginning to end to let the story rest. Then begin the wondering.

After the wondering is over, show the children the control card for them to use to check their own telling of the story. Then put the story away carefully. Pick up each object in reverse order and remind the children what the object is, saying for example, "Here is the oil Samuel used to anoint Saul the king and then David." After all of the objects are back in the tray, carefully model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray as well. Return the lesson to its place on the shelf. Then return to your spot in the circle and dismiss the children one by one to their work.

WORDS

One day God told Samuel to anoint a new king. He went to the house of the family of Jesse in Bethlehem. There he found David, Jesse's youngest son, and anointed him to be the new king when Saul died.

When all of Samuel's work was finished, he went back home to Ramah. When he died, people from all over Israel gathered to remember him with tears of sadness and thanksgiving.

I wonder what part of this story you liked the best?

I wonder what part is the most important?

I wonder what part is about you?

I wonder if we could leave any of the story out and still have all that we need?