



Date: _____
Series: I Am God's Child
Summer Year 2, Lesson 2

Samuel is Dedicated to the Lord

Bible Event: 1 Samuel 1

Take Home Point: *I AM GOD'S CHILD—I give my life to Jesus.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus gave his life for us, so we give our lives to him

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that no matter what age we are, we can dedicate ourselves to the Lord. We can always find ways to serve the him, just like Samuel. God showed his love for us by sending Jesus. We can show our love for him by giving our lives to serving the Lord. Kids will take home the point: ***I AM GOD'S CHILD – I give my life to Jesus.**
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and creating them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's Word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before showing. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting them to see what happens by watching the video. Also, you can introduce the video by inviting them to watch for special actions or words.

Tell children that today's true Bible event is about a little boy named Samuel who gave his life to serving the Lord.

Show the first half of the video (up to 15:30 minutes) *Animated Stories of the Bible: Samuel*, Nest Masters, Inc., 1993.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Make a baby Samuel. Break thick pretzel rods in halves or thirds and wrap a cheese slice around the pretzel. (Baby Samuel wrapped in a blanket.)

Drama Zone: Provide cleaning supplies like a bucket with water or spray bottles and rags for children to practice cleaning around the church. Explain one way we can give ourselves to the Lord is by taking care of God's house. Children may help the adults clean the snack tables when everyone is finished eating.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Samuel's dedication from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #56, "The Boy Samuel," from *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide blank paper, glue, and old magazines for children to create a collage. Have them find pictures of people helping or serving one another. Since finding these kinds of pictures may be difficult, they may just cut out pictures of all people. Explain that one way we serve Jesus is by serving others. Place a pre-made label on the collage saying "I am God's Child – I Give My Life to Jesus."

Play Zone: Provide several large buckets labeled "Jesus." Place masking tape on the floor and set up a game where children have to stand behind the line and throw bean bags or balls into the buckets to remind them to put things away and help others.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any books that feature the story of Samuel being dedicated to the Lord.

Music Zone: Provide musical instruments for the children to play. Explain that another way we give ourselves to Jesus is by praising him with music.

Coloring Zone: "Samuel is Dedicated to the Lord" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onstage puzzled. He wants to give himself to Jesus and he knows how important it is to do that, but he has one big question. He wants to know if he has to live in the church. He knows that when Samuel dedicated his life to Jesus, his mom took him and left him at church. Bubba doesn't know if he wants to leave his bedroom and toys and mom and dad. He doesn't know where he'd sleep and he bets that the church is really dark at night.

The large group presenter cuts in and tells Bubba that he doesn't have to worry. Bubba can still dedicate his life to Jesus without having to move into the church. Instead, Jesus will come to him. Bubba wonders how that works. Is Jesus going to need a room in his house? The presenter explains that when we give our lives to Jesus, his Holy Spirit is sent to our hearts to stay. Jesus lives with us every day by helping us to do the right things. He helps us serve others, help our moms and dads, and be nice to other kids. We can do lots of things to serve the Lord without moving into the church. We can just invite Jesus into our hearts and he will live with us that way! Remember: ****I AM GOD'S CHILD – I give my life to Jesus.***

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead, and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- video, *Animated Stories of the Bible: Samuel*, Nest Masters, Inc., 1993.

Action Zones:

Snack:

- pretzel rods
- slices of cheese

Drama:

- cleaning supplies (buckets, water, rags, etc.)

Craft:

- blank paper
- scissors or pre-cut pictures of people
- glue or glue sticks
- old magazines
- pre-made labels "I am God's Child – I Give My Life to Jesus"

Play:

- masking tape
- buckets
- bean bags or balls

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- musical instruments

Coloring:

- coloring page
- crayons, markers

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

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