**LESSON NINE**

**The Journey to Shiloh**

**Key Verses**

**1 Samuel 3:1-13**

**Lesson Overview**

After earnestly praying for many years, Hannah bore a son, Samuel, and kept her promise to God. She gave Samuel back to God to serve Him in Shiloh. Because of his obedience and dedication in serving, God used Samuel as a prophet in Israel. Throughout his life, Samuel continued to obey and serve God. He faithfully declared righteousness and showed people the way of God.

**Lesson Aim**

To some, serving God has become something that is added to regular duties. For the Christian, serving God should be the umbrella under which every task is performed. Whether we are dictating a letter, balancing the books, nursing a patient, or changing a diaper, all is to be done as a service to God.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

* Realize that a journey of obedience begins with surrender and dedication.
* Strive to be in a position to hear God's commands and direction.
* Understand the holiness of God and seek to cleanse themselves from any unconfessed sin.
* Determine to do God's work God's way, using His established order and methods.
* Seek to be a shining light for God in a world darkened by sin.

**Teaching Outline**

I. The Calling of Samuel

A. The hearing of Samuel

1. He was assisted by Eli.

2. He was approached by God.

B. The holiness of God

1. God's pronouncement against Eli

2. God's purpose for Samuel

II. The Cleansing of the People

A. A conditional covenant

B. A call for help

III. The Concern of Samuel

A. The people refused the hand of the Lord.

B. Saul replaced the order of the Lord.

**Study Questions**

1. What characteristic is evident in the lives of both Hannah and Samuel?

2. God had two primary purposes for Samuel which he accomplished throughout his life. What were they?

3. One of God's purposes for Samuel was to speak His words, not letting one fall to the ground. Are you faithful to tell others of God's plan of salvation? What can you do this week to share His Gospel message with those around you?

4. As seen in our lesson, what must we do before we call upon the Lord for help?

5. Write out Psalm 66:18 in the space provided below. If there is any iniquity in your heart, take a moment right now to confess it to the Lord. PSALM 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

6. Briefly describe Saul's actions that replaced the order of the Lord.

7. Name an obvious example of the children of Israel refusing the hand of the Lord.

8. God called Samuel to a lifetime of service for Him. Has God called you to a particular area

of service? Are you performing it out of a heart of love for Him? Take a moment and write a quick evaluation of your service to God in light of Samuel's sacrificial service in Shiloh and throughout his life.

**Memory Verses**

**1 PETER 1:14-16**

*14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*