

## GOLDEN TEXT

1 Sam. 3:9. Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.

## DAILY READINGS

M. —1 Sam. 3: 1-10.	} The boy Samuel.
T. —1 Sam. 3: 11-21.	
W. —1 Sam. 2: 12-19.	
Th. —1 Sam. 2: 10-18.	
F. —Prov. 4: 1-13.	
S. —Matt. 21: 1-18.	} Wicked priests.
S. —Matt. 18: 1-14.	
	} Judgment fulfilled.
	} A father's counsel.
	} Children's praise accepted.
	} Christ and children.

## CATECHISM

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of any thing whereby God makes himself known.

## TIME AND PLACE

About B. C. 1184; the place Shiloh, the religious capital of Israel, 17 miles north of Jerusalem, Bethel nine or ten miles from Shechem on the north and Bethel on the south.

## LESSON PLAN.

- I. A Cheerful Service, 6-9.  
Rendered by the youthful Samuel to the aged Eli.
- II. An Important Commission, 10, 11.  
Entrusted to the child Samuel by the Lord.
- III. A Solemn Revelation, 12-14.  
Given to Samuel concerning Eli and his family.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 389; 7 (Ps. Sel.); 240; 232; 532; 522.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Juniors**—What does the name Samuel mean? (ch. 1: 20.) Why was he so called? Give the names of his parents. Where was Samuel born? Who was the high priest? Name his two sons (ch. 1: 3). What kind of men were they? To whom was Samuel dedicated? (ch. 1: 11.)

6 At what age was Samuel when called by God? Who was a similar age when he went first to the temple? Relate the circumstances of the call.

7, 8 Did Samuel recognize God's call? Why not? What did he do? How often was the call repeated?

9, 10 What was Eli's instruction? What did Samuel then reply? Who appeared to him? Does He call boys and girls to-day? What should your answer be? Why should it be in youth? How can young children enter God's service? What danger is there in delay?

11-14 What very hard duty was given Samuel? What was Eli's chief fault?

**Seniors and the Home Department**—Who was the high priest at this time? Tell what you know about him and his family. Who was Samuel? What kind of boy was he? In whose home was he? How was he reminded of his mother's love while there? (ch. 2: 19.) How long was Samuel with Eli?

6 How many times was he called by God? What was his answer each time? How does God call to-day? (Rom. 2: 4; 1: 20; Rev. 22: 17.) From what does He call? (1 Pet. 2: 9.) To what does He call? (Gal. 5: 13; 1 Tim. 6: 12.) To what does rejecting the call lead? (Acts 18: 6.) What answer does God expect?

7-10 How may God have appeared to Samuel? (Judges 6: 14; Gen. 18.) Why is it easier to be a

Christian in youth? When does God want His calls accepted? (2 Cor. 6: 2.)

11-14 What had been Eli's sin? What terrible message sent to him? Through whom? Why was it hard for Samuel to take it? What was Eli's reply? (v. 18.)

**Prove from Scripture**—That God calls young people to His service.

**Practical Points**—1. The child has a long start in life who has been consecrated to God by pious parents.

2. Samuel's little duties in God's temple were just as important as Eli's great tasks. The hairspring of a watch is as indispensable as the mainspring.

3. It was a first-class education that Samuel was getting—happy are they that get at least a touch of it!—culture through drudgery.

4. Samuel was to command the nation by and by as judge. He is now learning how by obeying Eli.

5. What would you or I do or say, if God should call us with His voice? But does He not? (See Heb. 2: 2.)

6. God sometimes allots hard tasks to little hands.

7. God has said, "Forever blessed  
Those who seek me in their youth;  
They shall find the path of wisdom,  
And the narrow way of truth;  
Guide us, Saviour,  
In the narrow way of truth".

8. Samuel, though but a child, had duties in the temple. He was not only a "member of the church", but a very active member, as indeed all children ought to be. What church will shut its door to the earnest pleadings of the children who say, We love Christ our Saviour and we want to show our love to Him at his own table?

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How came the child Samuel to be with Eli?

2. Describe God's communicating with him

3. With what message was he charged?