

God, and praised God in a song of thanksgiving. She left him under the care of Eli the high priest, and every year made him a little coat, and brought it to him, when she and her husband went to Shiloh to attend the religious feasts. Samuel with a linen ephod ministered before the Lord, and grew, and was in favor with the Lord and with men. Eli the high priest had two sons, who were priests, and ministered with their father, in the tabernacle; but they did not do what was right, and God was much displeased with them, and just before our lesson begins we have an account of a man who came to Eli and told him that if his sons did not repent, and if he allowed them to go on in their wickedness, that he would destroy all his house.

V. LESSON STORY. (Tell the beginning of the story of Samuel). We now find Samuel about 12 years old, helping Eli in many ways about the tabernacle, such as lighting the lamps, opening the doors, and attending on Eli himself, who was now getting old and feeble. (Draw or pin a picture of the tabernacle on the board). In the tabernacle there was a golden candlestick, with seven lamps which burned all night (show a picture of it). One night, or towards morning, before the lamps had gone out, when Eli and Samuel were asleep, a voice called Samuel: Samuel got up and went to Eli who was not far away from him, but Eli said I did not call you, lie down again. In those days God spoke to his people through a prophet, and Samuel was a little prophet, and it was God who was speaking to him, but as this was the first time that God had spoken to him, he did not know that it was God, but thought that it was Eli. Not long after Samuel lay down, he heard the voice calling him again, and again he got up and went to Eli, and said, here I am; for thou didst call me, but Eli said I called not, my son; lie down again. Then God called Samuel the third time, and he again got up and went to Eli, and said, here am I; for thou didst call me. Eli now knew that it was God who was calling the child, and told him to go and lay down, and if he heard the voice again, to say, speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down, and God came (perhaps as an angel) and stood, and called as at the other times, Samuel, Samuel, and Samuel answered, speak for thy servant heareth. God then told his little prophet, to tell Eli, that because he had not listened to His warning, had not kept his sons from acting so wickedly in his tabernacle, that He was going to destroy his house.

VI. APPLICATION: As God's voice spoke to the child, Samuel, so long ago, so it speaks to children now. How does it speak? and what does it say? It speaks by His Word, that is, the Bible. (Draw or pin a picture of one on the board, and write "God's voice in it). What does it say? "Give me thy heart" How can I listen and obey that

SAMUEL LISTENED TO GOD'S VOICE

I WILL LISTEN TO CONSCIENCE

GOD'S VOICE GOD'S VOICE

more than anybody, or anything else. Then God speaks to little boys and girls by conscience. That little voice inside our heart which says do right, "do right," "do right." (Make a heart and write God's voice in it, and over it write "conscience.") Little boys and girls don't always want to listen and do what this voice of God tells them. Willie was a little boy who heard this voice, but did not do what it told him. One morning mamma made some nice little cakes and gave Willie two. As she put the rest away in the pantry, she said: "now Willie, dear, don't touch any more of these cakes." As Willie was playing in the afternoon, he ran into the kitchen for something, and as he passed the pantry, he remembered about the cakes. Oh! if mamma had not said not to touch them, he thought; well, I'll just run in and look at them, that can't be wrong; "do right," "do right," said the little voice; but Willie did not listen, but went in and saw them there. How nice they look! he thought, if I just took one up and feel it, that would not be wrong; "do right," "do right," again said the little voice. Willie heard it, but did not obey, and took one up. "just a little nibble would not be very wrong." "do right," "do right," again whispered the little voice, but it was not so loud now, (for if we don't listen to it, it gets fainter, and we do not hear it so plainly).