

board, or if it is reversible, write the following, to be used with the picture:

INFLUENCES	
FOR WRONG.	FOR RIGHT.
Bad Example	Mother's Love.
of	Religious Home.
Eli's Sons.	Dedicated to God.
	A Church Home.
	Eli's Council.
God cared for Samuel.	He cares for me.

Herean Methods. The Teachers' Meeting.

Draw a sketch map of tribal Palestine, and mark the various sites where the tabernacle was erected, from the crossing of the Jordan to the building of the temple. ... Fix the time of the lesson—how many years from Moses's death; how many years before the Solomonic era of prosperity.... Describe the tabernacle and adjoining priests' apartments and the probable influence of such an establishment on the town and surrounding country.... Tell the story of Eli; his position in the hereditary priesthood; the universal degradation and general idolatry of his time; his failure in bringing up his family for the service of God.... Sketch the history of Samuel; his godly father and mother; his dedication to the Lord, and his early ministry in the tabernacle.... The methods of God's revelation under the judges: the Urim and Thummim, dreams, visions, oral voices, etc.... Emphasize the difference between the principle underlying the eternal punishment of sin and that underlying the disastrous consequence of evil action in this life.... God "prepared for himself a people" by a series of selections. He first selected from the human family the Semite race; from that he selected Abraham; from all Abraham's children he chose Isaac; from Isaac's sons, Jacob; from Jacob's descendants those of Judah, and finally from Judah's descendants that noble remnant which voluntarily returned from the Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem. In a similar way God selected the Messianic family; but it was by a process which incidentally rejected one after another of the prominent families of Israel. The "judges" were tried, and each in his day doubtless hoped to forward the historic line in which the great "Anointed" was to appear. But, one by one, they were rejected by divine wisdom. Samuel's sons are soon to be rejected in favor of Saul, and Saul, in his turn, in favor of David. In this lesson the proud priestly family is thus tested and the house of Eli is rejected. This view gives new interest to the lesson. God's act is to be regarded as a punishment in itself, for Eli's misgovernment; but it is also to be looked upon as part of his providential plan in the gradual selection of that pure family from which "in the fullness of time" Christ was to come.

References. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 3: The Ark of the Covenant, 142.... FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Ver. 1-10: Poetical, 3066, 3068; Prose, 3595, 7072, 8148. Ver. 10: Prose, 524, 529; Poetical, 3069. Ver. 13: Poetical, 2450; Prose, 4312, 7102, 10895.

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE. The Child Samuel.

I. A HELPFUL CHILD.

Samuel ministered unto the Lord. v. 1.

"Opened the doors of the house." v. 15.

"A doorkeeper in the house of the Lord." Psa. 84. 10.

II. A HOLY CHILD.

The Lord called Samuel. v. 4.

"Samuel among them that call." Psa. 90. 6.

"Diversities of gifts.... same Spirit." 1 Cor. 12. 4.

III. A WILLING CHILD.

He answered, Here am I. v. 4.

"Here am I; send me." Isa. 6. 8.

"What wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9. 6.

IV. A PROMPT CHILD.

He ran unto Eli. v. 5.

"Do it with thy might." Eccl. 9. 10.

"Wait on our ministering." Rom. 12. 7.

V. A PATIENT CHILD.

The third time.... he arose. v. 8.

"Fruit of the Spirit.... gentleness." Gal. 5. 22.

"Trying your faith.... patience." James 1. 3.

VI. A SUBMISSIVE CHILD.

Speak; for thy servant heareth. v. 10.

"To do the will.... sent me." John 4. 34.

"I delight to do thy will." Psa. 40. 8.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Conversing With God.

1. *God's voice can be heard in childhood.* There are few converts in maturity who cannot recall the convictions of their childhood. "Heaven lies about us in our infancy;" and if boys and girls will only answer "Here am I" when God calls, guidance, both providential and spiritual, will be vouchsafed to them through life.

2. *God's voice is most plainly heard by those who are already consecrated to him.* If a child be sincerely devoted to God's service, whether by his own infantile decision, by the solemn baptismal covenant of his parents, or by some Christian pastor or teacher, that fact is always recognized by God. His voice is addressed to all his children, in Christian and heathen lands alike, but it is most likely to be plainly heard by those whose lives have already been consecrated to him.

3. *In the temple of the Lord God's voice is plainly heard.* He speaks at all hours and in all places, but the world's hubbub and bustle are apt to drown his accents. They who "dwell" in God's house have already placed themselves in the best condition to receive divine revelations.

4. *Samuel was not the only person who has mistaken God's call for the call of a fellow-being.* Ignorance and prejudice and evil tendencies alike lead to such a misapprehension. Children and adults who "do not yet know the Lord" do not like to recognize his voice.

5. *The consent of the listener is necessary to an effective hearing.* If Samuel had not said, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," the message would never have been completed. And so it is to-day. Our Samuels and Johns and Charlies, our Marys and Jennies and Hatties have, all of them, heard the repeated call. Have they welcomed the message?

HOME READINGS.

M. Samuel called of God. 1 Sam. 3. 1-7.

Th. Samuel called of God. 1 Sam. 3. 8-14.

W. The Lord with Samuel. 1 Sam. 3. 15-21.

Th. The call of Moses. Exod. 3. 1-10.

F. Timothy's early call. 2 Tim. 1. 1-10.

S. Call of the apostle Paul. Gal. 1. 11-24.

S. Called by Jesus. Mark 1. 14-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. 1 Sam. 3. 10.

PLACE.—Shiloh.

TIME.—1151 B. C.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divine call.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 45, Dominion Hymnal.

God has said, "Forever blessed
Those who seek me in their youth."

No. 46, Dominion Hymnal.

Happy the child whose youngest years
Receive instruction well.