

GOD SAID IT

OLD TESTAMENT HEROES—2



BRADLEY BOOTH



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COLORING PAGES

Check out the coloring pages in the middle of this book. They are based on the featured stories and are meant to be colored in by the reader and presented as a gift to a person they appreciate. These may include

- parents,
- sisters or brothers,
- grandparents,
- aunts and uncles,
- teachers,
- neighbors, or
- friends.

INTRODUCTION

God Said It introduces children to the Bible. It is designed to help children understand the importance of reading and learning from the Word of God. Our prayer is that parents, teachers, church visitors, and children everywhere will use this book to reach young people for Jesus.


The Bible is full of stories about heroes who were faithful as they led God's people and the results of what happened when they sometimes were not. In this book you'll read a story about a boy named Samuel, who talked with God. You'll read about Saul, a farmer, who became the first king of Israel. There are also two exciting stories about David the shepherd boy, who fought lions, and David the warrior, who fought the giant Goliath.

God Said It is dedicated to God's faithful witnesses in the Bible and to all the boys and girls who read these stories. We trust that the stories on these pages will draw children to Jesus. May they choose to be faithful like the Bible heroes from long ago so that they can one day shine "like the stars forever" (Daniel 12:3, NKJV).

SAMUEL: **THE BOY WHO LISTENED**

THIS STORY IS FOUND IN 1 SAMUEL 1-3





Samuel was an answer to prayer. His mother, Hannah, had wanted a baby boy for many years, but for some reason, the baby never came. And then one day, she prayed that if God gave her a baby boy, she would dedicate him to serve God at the tabernacle sanctuary.

God heard her prayer. One day she finally had that baby and was so happy about it. When he was old enough to leave home, she took him to the sanctuary to live with Priest Eli. Then every year she would visit and bring him a new robe to wear.

Samuel was a little boy, but he could do all kinds of things to help Priest Eli in the tabernacle sanctuary. Ashes had to be emptied from the altar for burnt offerings. Water was needed for the priests to wash every day. Oil must be put in the seven-branched candlesticks, and the wicks had to be trimmed.

It was wonderful for Eli to have someone around he could depend on. His own two sons, Hophni and Phineas, were not much help. They were spoiled in many ways and troublemakers of the worst sort. They didn't seem to care about anything except having parties, getting drunk, and stealing from the worshipers at the sanctuary. A prophet of God came by to tell Eli he must make his boys stop doing bad things or they would be punished, but Eli did not make them behave.

These were the kinds of things going on at the sanctuary when Samuel came to live with Eli. The old priest must have often wished his sons were more like young Samuel.


One evening, Samuel went to bed as usual. After saying his prayers, he lay down on his little mat to sleep, and just as he was dozing off, he heard a Voice calling him.

“Samuel! Samuel!” the Voice said.

Samuel thought Priest Eli was calling him, so he jumped up and ran to where the old man was sleeping. “I’m here,” Samuel said in the darkness. “What do you need?”







Eli shook his head. "I didn't call you, son. Go lie down."

Samuel was surprised, but he went back to his bed as he was told.

Three times the Voice called him, and three times Samuel ran to Eli to find out what the old priest needed.

By now Eli knew it must be God who was trying to talk with Samuel. "Go and lie down," he told the boy, "and if the Voice calls you again, just say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

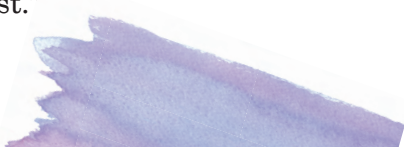
So Samuel went and lay down on his bed, and sure enough, the Voice came again. "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel must have been excited and a little bit frightened to hear God speaking to him. He tried to remember what he was supposed to say, but all he could think of was, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

And God did speak to Samuel. He told him all that was going to happen to Eli's family. It was a very serious message for the Lord to give a little boy, but no one else at the sanctuary was listening for God's voice. "Trouble is coming to Priest Eli and his sons, and it cannot be stopped!" God said. "Because his sons have been so evil, they are both going to die on the same day!"

The next morning Eli wanted to know what God had said to Samuel the night before. We can imagine the little boy bowing his head in sadness as he told Eli the terrible message, but the old priest humbly accepted it.

"The Lord is good," Eli said. "Let Him do what He thinks is best."



Having to give Priest Eli such a message must have been a hard thing for little Samuel to do, but he obeyed God and did it bravely. This was the beginning of many great things Samuel would do for God as he grew up, and it all began that night when he was a little boy.

