

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 72: ELI & HIS WICKED SONS**  
**I SAMUEL 2:12-36**

Eli's sons were priests, but they were dishonest and refused to obey the LORD. So, while people were boiling the meat from their sacrifices, these priests would send over a servant with a large, three-pronged fork. The servant would stick the fork into the cooking pot, and whatever meat came out on the fork was taken back to the priests. That is how these two priests treated every Israelite who came to offer sacrifices in Shiloh. Sometimes, when people were offering sacrifices, the servant would come over, even before the fat had been cut off and sacrificed to the LORD. Then the servant would tell them, "The priest doesn't want his meat boiled! Give him some raw meat that he can roast!" Usually the people answered, "Take what you want. But first, let us sacrifice the fat to the LORD." "No," the servant would reply. "If you don't give it to me now, I'll take it by force." Eli's sons did not show any respect for the sacrifices that the people offered. This was a terrible sin, and it made the LORD very angry. The boy Samuel served the LORD and wore a special linen garment called an ephod, which is like a fine linen apron over the clothes he also wore that his mother made for him. She would bring new clothes every year, when she and her husband came to offer sacrifices at Shiloh. Eli would always bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "Samuel was born in answer to your prayers. Now you have given him to the LORD. I pray that the LORD will bless you with more children to take his place." After Eli had blessed them, Elkanah and Hannah would return home. The LORD was kind to Hannah, and she had three more sons and two daughters. But Samuel grew up at the LORD's house in Shiloh. Eli was now very old, and he heard what his sons were doing to the people of Israel. "Why are you doing these awful things?" he asked them. "I've been hearing nothing but complaints about you from all of the LORD's people. If you harm another person, God can help make things right between the two of you. But if you commit a crime against the LORD, no one can help you!" But the LORD had already decided to kill them. So he kept them from listening to their father. Each day the LORD and his people liked Samuel more and more. One day a prophet came to Eli and gave him this message from the LORD: When your ancestors were slaves of the king of Egypt, I came and showed them who I am. Out of all the tribes of Israel, I chose your family to be my priests. I wanted them to offer sacrifices and burn incense to me and to find out from me what I

want my people to do. I commanded everyone to bring their sacrifices here where I live, and I allowed you and your family to keep those that were not offered to me on the altar. But you honor your sons instead of me! You don't respect the sacrifices and offerings that are brought to me, and you've all gotten fat from eating the best parts. I am the LORD, the God of Israel. I promised to always let your family serve me as priests, but now I tell you that I cannot do this any longer! For those who honor Me I will honor, and those that think little of Me shall be of small value in My eyes. The time will come when I will kill you and everyone else in your family. Not one of you will live to an old age. Your family will have a lot of trouble. I will be kind to Israel, but everyone in your family will die young. If I let anyone from your family be a priest, his life will be full of sadness and sorrow. But most of the men in your family will die a violent death! To prove to you that I will do these things, your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will die on the same day. I have chosen someone else to be my priest, someone who will be faithful and obey me. I will always let his family serve as priests and help my chosen king. But if anyone is left from your family, he will come to my priest and beg for money or a little bread. He may even say to my priest, "Please let me be a priest, so I will at least have something to eat."

## 72. ELI & HIS WICKED SONS

(1 SAMUEL 2:12-36)



Now the sons of Eli were evil and good-for-nothing men, having no knowledge of the Lord.

**1 SAMUEL 2:12**

## **72. ELI & HIS WICKED SONS**

(1 SAMUEL 2:12-36)

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

“For those who honor Me I will honor, and those that think little of Me shall be of small value in My eyes.” 1 SAMUEL 2:30

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. The sons of Eli were good men, obeying the LORD. TRUE or FALSE
2. Eli's sons used to send a servant over to the people sacrificing meat to the LORD with a large meat hook to take meat from their sacrifices.  
TRUE or FALSE
3. When the people asked the servant to let them first sacrifice the fat to the LORD, he would wait and let them. TRUE or FALSE
4. The boy Samuel served the LORD and wore a special linen garment called an ephod. TRUE or FALSE
5. Samuel's mother used to bring clothes to him that she made for him every year. TRUE or FALSE
6. Eli was happy that his sons were treating the Israelites very well.  
TRUE or FALSE

### **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. When Eli told his sons that they were sinning against the LORD, did they listen to him? Why not? What did the LORD already make up his mind to do to them?
2. Did the LORD and the people like Samuel more and more each day?
3. Who did the LORD send to talk to Eli? Was it a prophet?
4. What did the prophet tell Eli about his family? Were they going to be priests to the LORD any more? Why not?
5. What was going to happen to Eli's sons, Hophni and Phineas?
6. Was the LORD going to raise up another priest for Himself? Who do you think it would be?

## Lesson 72 ACTIVITY

### Gold Star

As you begin your class time give these instructions to the children in your class. Have each child's name written on the chalk or whiteboard in columns. Explain to the children that you are going to encourage the children to "tell on" each other. The catch is that they can only report to the teacher the "good" things they observe in others.

Have the children look for examples of serving others that they did during class time. Maybe it is an act of kindness, or serving the teacher by being exceptionally quiet, or giving a prayer request about someone else. Allow the children to point out examples to you as well as noticing a few yourself. When they tell you or you see someone doing the right thing, praise them aloud by saying something like, "Great Sam!" Then put a star (chalk or dry erase) beside his or her name. Explain that how we serve others is very important to the Lord. It is not enough to just serve others, but we need to do it in the right way; in love, etc. Good deeds flow out of a heart that is right with the Lord. At the end of the class, you may refer back to some of the lessons learned from those you caught doing something good. [Our service to God must be with a right heart.](#)

### What Face?

Sometimes we can seem to be so nice as we pray to God, exhibiting our best manners. Then we turn to other people and are rude or act like we do not care. This craft will help us to remember to serve with the right attitude towards others.

Get two paper plates for each child. On one plate draw a happy face and on the other draw a grouchy face. Have the children color the faces if they like and then glue them back to back. Insert a tongue depressor at the bottom of the faces (or you can opt to leave those out).

Next come up with five or six statements about serving others; some with the right attitude and some with a bad attitude. Have the children hold up the face that reflects the attitude of the service that you are describing. Remind the children of the importance of serving the Lord and His people with a right heart.

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to serve the Lord and His people with a right heart. Also, pray and ask the Lord to help the children obey the Lord and their parents. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.