

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF SAMUEL

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE STORY OF SAMUEL; PROPHET, PRIEST AND JUDGE (I SAMUEL 1-28:3).

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "THE ARK AND THE TENT"**
- **PIECES: ARK OF THE COVENANT, BABY WRAPED IN BLANKET, 3 COATS, SLEEPING MAT, SMALL CLEAR BOTTLE OF OIL, CROWN**
- **CONTROL**
- **UNDERLAY: DARK BROWN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"**

BACKGROUND

The story of Samuel connects worship in God's tent (the tabernacle complex) and worship in God's temple. I and II Samuel were one book in Hebrew. Samuel's story is in I Samuel, with Saul's story, and David's story begins midway through I Samuel and continues through II Samuel. Samuel was an early prophet and the last of the judges to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. He anointed Saul and then David as kings to rule after him.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Samuel's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is "a horn of oil," like what Samuel would have used to anoint first King Saul and then David. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a strip of dark brown felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: the Ark of the Covenant (like the one used in the lesson on the top shelf), The Ark and the Tent, a baby wrapped in a blanket, three coats each a little larger than the next

showing Samuel's growth as a child, a mat for sleeping, a bottle of oil for anointing, a crown.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

When you introduce the story of Samuel, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of Samuel, you place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, providing just enough space for each object as it's presented, as if you are unrolling a life. At the end of the wondering, show the children the control card and then carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, "Here are the coats Hannah brought to Samuel each year," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF SAMUEL