



Discussions questions on the Sunday school lesson, God Prepares a Leader, for Sunday, July 27.

1. How early should a child's training begin?
2. What is good religious program in the home?
3. Why is the church an important factor in the religious training of a child?
4. How explain a child's becoming profane?
5. How may a child be kept faithful in growing his soul?

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If we as a nation don't get down on our knees we will fall flat on our faces.—Grant.

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COME TO CHURCH



Creameed comments on the Sunday school lesson, God Prepares a Leader, I Samuel 1:20; 1:24-28; 3:16-21; 4:1, for Sunday, July 27.

During the reign of the judges, Israel was falling apart. The purpose of God in having one dependable nation needed a centralized government and Samuel was God's man to unify Israel. For such a task, training was needed.

V.20. "Wherfore it came to pass when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bore a son and called his name Samuel, saying because I have asked him from the Lord." Hannah, childless for many years, felt the sting of her condition and besought God prayerfully for a child, promising to dedicate him to God and his work. The training of a child begins before it is born.

V.24. "And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him into the house of the Lord in Shiloh; and the child was young." The early training of Samuel was in the home, where the right emphasis begins; but the place of worship is an important place or further training; this is also God's plan. Note she did not send him, she went with him and she also worshipped there.

V.25. "And they slew a bullock and brought the child to Eli," Eli, the priest, was honored as God's man to give Samuel spiritual training. The trained and ordained minister is called to guide the people in their spiritual lives.

V.26. "And she said, Oh my Lord, as my soul liveth, my Lord, I am the woman that stood by thee praying unto the Lord." Eli needed to be reminded of her former agonizing prayer for a son.

V.27. "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him." God and Hannah were partners; she prayed and God answered. God always hears and answers prayers for one who is his devoted son.

V.28. "Therefore also have I lent

him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord." As translated, "He whom I have obtained by petition shall be returned." Emphasis in spiritual training was placed on worship. Let it be known that man is the only creature with a capacity to worship, and not to worship is to fall in one's best training—the spiritual training.

V.1. And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision." Samuel by practice learned the ways of worship. The word of the Lord was "precious" in the sense that it was very rare. Direct revelation from God had almost ceased, so low was the spiritual sense; hence, God did not speak through visions. Samuel was trained to give an upward climb.

Vs.16,17. "And Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. And he said, What is it that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me; God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee." Eli had failed to train his sons right and they became very wicked; for this God would call Eli into account; Samuel, knowing this, shrank from telling it to Eli.

V.18. "And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him; and he said, It is the Lord. Let him do what seemeth good." Eli confessed his guilt and was ready for the penalty; at heart Eli was still faithful to God.

V.19. "And Samuel grew; and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground." Because God was with Samuel, he grew his soul. Our biggest business is, to grow souls.

V.20. "And all Israel . . . knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord." Samuel's spiritual stature commanded respect universally and he was now in position to be a prophet with the needed messages for Israel. Samuel was trained for a purpose.

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Our Preacher Says

An attempt to have a world government, to proceed with the United Nations' program, leaving the Almighty out of the picture, is getting us nowhere. Spiritual devotion is the only force capable of solving the innumerable world problems. A just God presides over the destiny of nations. When individuals and nations leave the Creator out of calculations, the result is confusion. This needed spiritual force is attained only by many individuals possessed and ruled by the Spirit of God.

Book Review

I Led 3 Lives, by Herbert A. Philbrick, the McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., is "the exciting story of Communism in the U. S. A." told by an American patriot, citizen, Communist, counter-spy, who was admitted into the inner circle of the party and for nine years reported everything to the F. B. I. as it happened. The government's case against the eleven top Communists was largely based on evidence supplied by Mr. Philbrick who was the chief witness against them at the trial before Judge Meade.

Since the end of World War II, when Eastern Germany was occupied by the Soviet Union, 1894 pastors have fled or moved to the Western zones of the country. 295 have received new calls; 102 are unemployed for the time being.

Bringing hope to the hopeless is the greatest adventure of the soul. Hughes

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