

## BIBLE CHALLENGE

1. Samuel's mother's name is:
  - a. Ruth
  - b. Mary
  - c. Hannah
  - d. Esther
2. Samuel had five older brothers.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. Samuel's parents were so grateful to have a son they dedicated him to God's service. Samuel was raised by the priest:
  - a. Saul
  - b. Eli
  - c. David
  - d. Goliath
4. God made Samuel a famous:
  - a. King
  - b. Rock Star
  - c. Judge
  - d. Prophet
5. A prophet is someone who:
  - a. Speaks for God
  - b. Predicts the future
  - c. Rules over the people
  - d. Leads the people in battle
6. The king of Israel was elected by the people.
  - a. True
  - b. False
7. The first king of Israel was:
  - a. David
  - b. Saul
  - c. Solomon
  - d. Jesus

## SAMUEL

Samuel's parent, Elkanah and Hannah, were devout followers of the Lord. For many years, Hannah had been unable to have children. On an annual pilgrimage to the shrine at Shiloh, she promised the Lord that if she was given a son, he would be consecrated to God's service.

Hannah eventually had a son they named Samuel. When he was a toddler, they brought Samuel to Shiloh to formally dedicate him to God. She left him to be raised by the priest Eli so that he would learn the duties of a priest.

While still a young boy, God called Samuel in the middle of the night. Samuel thought it was Eli who was calling and went to him. After this happened three times, Eli realized it was the Lord calling the boy. Eli instructed that next time he heard the voice he should say "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)

The Lord told Samuel that Eli's sons had become corrupt, were leading the people astray and God was going to destroy the family. When Israel was defeated by the Philistines at the battle of Aphek, Eli's two sons were killed. Eli died when he heard the news.

God had made Samuel a prophet. Samuel told the people to stop worshiping pagan gods and follow the Lord. The people repented and changed their ways ... for a while.

The people of Israel slowly slipped back into their evil ways. They went to Samuel and asked for a king to rule over them. Up to this point God was their ruler. Through God's instruction, Samuel gave the people all the reasons this was not a good idea. But the people insisted and God relented. Saul was the first king of Israel appointed by God, later to be followed by David, Israel's greatest king.

There is much more to this story of Samuel ... see 1 Samuel chapters 1-16, 19, and 28.

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Answers: 1c, 2b; 3b, 4d, 5a; 6b; 7b