



LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

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FOUR-STEP METHOD

Living Way Bible Study suggests this four-step method:

1. PERSONAL - The student prays for guidance from the Holy Spirit and answers the Personal Application questions at home using only the Bible (no commentaries).
2. SMALL GROUPS - The class meets for an opening and divides into small groups of 8–10 people. The Small Group Leader guides the group through the P.A. questions encouraging each to share their answers and add/discussion. *Thank you for encouraging each other in prayer that the Holy Spirit will use this study to help you grow in your knowledge and appreciation of our God and His Word.*
3. THE MESSAGE - The lecture or message is given by a Pastor or lay person who has researched the material and presents the study giving personal experiences and complimenting, but not merely duplicating, the author's comments. *Your order grants you permission to print and make copies (one copy per person in your LWBS class) of this study. Lessons should be stapled according to lesson number. Please honor our copyright of these materials.*
4. THE NARRATIVE - The author's comments or narrative, along with the P.A. questions for the next lesson, are given out at the door as the student leaves the class. *When your class has received sufficient offerings we would appreciate a donation of \$1.00 per lesson within this study or more as you feel led. We are a non-profit organization and exist solely on your generous donations to be able to continue and grow our Bible study ministry and help spread the word through advertising.*

The first meeting of the class is an introduction to the study. Since the members of the small groups have no PERSONAL APPLICATION questions to discuss at the first meeting, they may use the trial free number. *If you have any questions or comments on any part of it, please drop us a letter, email, or call us at the trial free number. We are always eager to hear from you and appreciate your comments.* At the first meeting the Lecturer presents background information about the course using the INTRODUCTION lesson as a guide. *May God bless you as you walk in His Living Way!*

Each lesson should be stapled together using the number of the lesson in the right hand corner of the page. To keep the lessons in order check the Bible text listed at the top of each page. The PERSONAL APPLICATION questions are attached to the author's narrative and will be the home study for the next class session. *Please make checks payable to:*

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With this 4-step method the student has the opportunity to study the particular section of Scripture covered by this lesson from four different approaches. This emphasizes the Bible text and gives the student a feeling of understanding and ownership for each section studied.

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Lois Engelbart:

- Author of Living Way Bible Study course First Samuel.
- Edited by Reverend Robert Wolff.
- Author of Bible study material and leader of Bible classes for over twenty years.
- Married to Warren Becher Engelbart, and has three daughters and eight grandchildren.
- Educated in Lutheran grade school, public high school, and two years of college.
- Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Des Peres (St. Louis, MO) for many years.
- Now member of Hope Chapel Lutheran Church, Osage Beach, MO.
- Active member of boards and committees. Taught Sunday school, Bible classes and Vacation Bible School for many years.
- Sang in the “Lutheran Hour Choir.”
- Trained and active in Evangelism, and “Under Shepherds” program.

Bibliography for First Samuel:

- Concordia Self-Study Bible
- Matthew Henry Commentary with comments of Thomas Scott
- P.E. Kretzmann’s Commentary
- The Expositors Bible Commentary
- Halley’s Commentary
- Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament
- Howard F. Vos Commentary

1 Samuel – Introduction
Lesson 1

FIRST SAMUEL

Lois Engelbart

The book of First Samuel stands much like a cornerstone in the center of the Old Testament, marking a change in Israel's form of government.

First Samuel has not gained the same attention by Bible scholars which many of the other books of the Bible do. It provides no account of beginnings as does Genesis, nor end time prophecy, as does the book of Revelation, nor a narrative of the life of Christ as do the gospels. Neither does the book of Samuel offer great statements of doctrine, like the epistles provide. Yet it is an extremely important book...historically, doctrinally, and devotionally.

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The Historical Account of 1st Samuel

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Without a doubt, the most important historical event in 1st Samuel is our introduction to David, since Jesus our Savior was known as "the son of David". Luke's gospel tells us, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

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Historically, 1st Samuel marks the ending of the era when judges ruled Israel, and the beginning of the time when kings ruled God's chosen people. 1st Samuel provides us with details of this transition.

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Although the authors of 1st and 2nd Samuel remain unknown, most of 1st Samuel was likely written by Samuel. Over the centuries, the titles given to the two books of Samuel have varied. The two books have been named 1st and 2nd Kings, 3rd and 4th Kings, and also 1st and 2nd Books of Kingdoms. Although the titles have varied, the content of the two books of Samuel has remained unchanged. It is the Living Word of God written to us, calls us to people.

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Doctrinal Brief Summary

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Doctrinally, 1st Samuel speaks of the nature of God.

1. His Holiness.
2. His demand of complete obedience.
3. His judgment of sin.
4. His grace.

As the chapters of Samuel unfold, we will see God's hand at work in all of these areas. But mostly we will concentrate on the gracious and loving hand of our God as He gives blessings, affords protection to the weak, and provides for loving relationships. The account of David and Jonathan records the finest example of human friendship recorded in scripture.

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Devotional Significance

As we look at the lives of both Samuel and David, we will see a beautiful picture of godly living. Both men lived lives which we would do well to emulate. David's ability to live for God in spite of constant trials and yet remain the sweet Psalmist shines like a ray of hope for us, as we struggle, like he did, with life's problems.

Samuel stands out in scripture alongside of Jacob's favorite son, Joseph. There is not one word recorded about either man that would indicate rebellion or displeasure to God. Samuel's life of obedience is a life which encourages every believer to walk humbly and closely with their God, always listening to Him as He speaks to them through His living word.

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1st Samuel centers around the lives of three of God's chosen people: Samuel, Saul, and David. Samuel was chosen by God to be His prophet at a very young age, and during a very dark period in Israel's history. Sin abounded both in the nation and in the church. In his role as God's prophet, Samuel stood for righteousness, listened to God, and then spoke God's word to Israel.

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Samuel was the last of the judges to rule in Israel, and as the last of the prophets (Acts 3:24). With the passing of this prophet's office, Samuel saw the necessity to continue having Godly prophets after he was gone - prophets who would follow in his footsteps as propheters of God's word to the nation of Israel. To facilitate this vision, Samuel established a school for the training of future prophets in the town of Ramah. (1 Samuel 19:20). Samuel's example teaches us the importance of training the next generation to carry God's word to future generations, as well as to the world around them.

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How we need men like Samuel in our world today! Men whose whole desire is to live for God and to speak God's word in all of its truth, purity and power to men and women everywhere who need to know, and learn to care about the Lord.

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Saul had the distinction of becoming Israel's first king. Up until Saul's reign, Israel had been a theocracy. The Lord God had been their ruler and king. But because they desired to be like the nations around them, they demanded an earthly king. Saul was God's answer to their demand. The tall, handsome Saul that the Lord gave them as their King was everything they thought they had wanted. Actually, God had chosen Saul to be His instrument of punishment to his chosen people – for preferring an earthly king over Him. Saul was, for the most part, a miserable human being, and a miserable king. And the people who so desired an earthly king suffered under Saul's control.

Soon after Saul had begun his reign, God chose Samuel to be Israel's next king. However, too many years went by before David could ascend the throne... Years which would punish Israel, but help shape David, through trial and

tribulation, into the godly king the Lord desired he become. As long as Saul was on the throne, David lived a desperate life as a fugitive. He was constantly fleeing to save his life from the jealous pursuit of Saul. David hid in desolate places. The wilderness caves and mountain crevices became his home. For a time he even resorted to living among Israel's great enemy, the Philistines, to escape Saul's wrath.

Comments on 1st Samuel

If this book were not a part of the canon of scripture, it would find its way to the best-sellers list, even in today's market. It contains true stories of bravery, trickery, love, hate, judgment, jealousy, madness, an ugly marriage, a beautiful child, pride, cowardice, witchcraft, and even suicide. While the sensational always seems to grab our attention, the purpose for studying 1st Samuel is to gain Godly wisdom, to learn to walk before our God in a pleasing manner, and to recognize Him as our personal Savior, our Lord, and our Protector who loves us with an everlasting love.

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Concluding Remarks

Thank you for your order! It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will use this study to help you grow in your knowledge and appreciation of our God and His Word. The Bible tells us an amazing fact about Samuel. We are told that "not one of his words fell to the ground". God was in everything Samuel said and did. My prayer as we begin this study is that none of God's word falls to the ground in your lives, but rather that it falls into the rich soil of hearts desiring to know their Lord better and better. *Your order grants you permission to print and make copies (one copy per person in your LWBS class) of this study. Lessons should be stapled according to lesson number. Please honor our copyright of these materials.*

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PERSONAL APPLICATION

Heavenly Father, we come to You, knowing that You alone are the giver of life, both physical and spiritual. In Your wisdom and love, grant life to those women who, like Hannah, are looking to You today for the gift of a child. Now may Your Holy Spirit cause our hearts and lives to become spiritually alive as we study Your word. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

1 Samuel 1:1-8

1. The spiritual climate in Israel at this time is recorded in Judges 21:25. How would you describe it?

2. Elkanah had many children, yet he loved Hannah more than all the others. List problems which existed in the Elkanah residence.

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3. What great sorrow did Hannah have in her life?
 4. Elkanah loved Hannah, yet he was unable to comfort her. What efforts did he make to try to help Hannah in her distress?
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- 1 Samuel 1:9-18
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5. Whom did Hannah turn to for help in her sorrow?
 - a. What does Psalm 50:15 tell us to do?

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8. What can we learn from Hannah's response to Eli? (1 Thessalonians 5:12-15, Proverbs 11:16a)

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9. What blessing did Eli pronounce upon Hannah?

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10. How did Hannah's demeanor change as a result of Eli's blessing?

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- a. What does this tell us about Hannah? (1 Samuel 1:19)

1 Samuel 1:19-28

11. There is a wonderful lesson to be learned from Elkanah's family. What did they do before beginning their journey home?

12. How does the Bible verify that Samuel was born as a result of prayer?

13. Knowing what the name Samuel means, do you have any children or grandchildren who could rightly bear this name? _____

14. Hannah did not go to Shiloh the next year. Which words tell us that she had not forgotten her vow to the Lord?

15. Researchers today are learning how important the early years of our life are to the total development and well-being of our future life. Now that she was giving her child to the Lord, what special early training do you envision Hannah giving to Samuel before presenting him to the Lord?

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16. When Samuel was weaned, Hannah returned to Shiloh. What offerings did her family bring, and how did she introduce herself to Eli?

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17. How might this have enriched Eli's spiritual life? Eli the priest, but who did she give him to?

18. Today we also bring our children to the Lord in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Do Hannah's words of dedication reflect how you felt when bringing your child to the Lord in Holy Baptism?
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19. Do you know anyone who, like Hannah, is suffering because of infertility? What words or gestures might be helpful to such a person?
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20. Abraham Lincoln said, "No man is poor who has had a godly mother." Samuel was rich. Are you rich? _____ Are your children rich?

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FIRST SAMUEL

Lois Engelbart

Family Life at the Elkanah's: 1 Samuel 1:1-8

We begin our study with a picture of family life. Certainly, family life was very different then (almost 3000 years ago), than it is now – or was it? Some of the same problems which hinder family life today were present in Elkanah's family. Infertility, jealousy and lovelessness all had found a place in the Elkanah residence. Jealousy and lovelessness arrived when Elkanah tried to solve his infertility problem. Rather than standing beside Hannah, the wife whom he loved, and praying that God would one day open her womb, Elkanah took a second wife, Peninnah. He solved his infertility problem, but created grave problems within his family. Peace was lost. He did not love Peninnah: she was simply a convenience, and she was very aware of the loveless state in which she lived. She was there simply to produce the children which Hannah was incapable of producing.

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The Elkanahs Travel to Shiloh to Worship

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Elkanah doesn't appear to have a handle on how best to help his barren wife Hannah in her heartache and pain. Nor does he take a hand in defending her from Peninnah's verbal abuse. And in an, today we would classify Elkanah's family as highly dysfunctional. There are similarities in the account of their family to families today who appreciate how common families are splintered, and a second marriage leaves a husband with two distinct families to care and provide for. Many problems and heartache accompany such unions.

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Handling Problems in Daily Life

Please make checks payable to: We all handle grief and pain in our lives differently. Peninnah and Hannah certainly did. Peninnah allowed bitterness and anger to control her, while Hannah was a silent sufferer. Tears were her release. Living Way Bible Study

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Sorrow and problems in our lives can drive us away from the Lord, or drive us away from Him into a world of self-pity. Peninnah was a closer to her Lord, while Peninnah was filled with self-pity, outwardly displayed by her anger.

Hannah's Prayer: 1 Samuel 1:9-19

Hannah needed help, and she knew where to turn for that help. She went to the temple and brought her heartache and misery to the Lord. Through her tears she pleaded with the Lord for a child.

Hannah's prayer serves as a model for each of us to follow. She was rightly related to the Lord. She was intense in expressing her desire to Him. She petitioned specifically for what she wanted. She made a vow of dedication to the Lord. She prayed in faith, believing that God would answer her prayer.

It would have been a real help to Hannah and to their marriage had Elkanah been kneeling beside Hannah, joining her in prayer, and being the spiritual leader that God had called him to be.

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Hannah's patient and forgiving attitude was sorely tested by the very person she was turning to for spiritual help – Eli, the priest. In her distress, Hannah sobbed with such intensity that Eli accused her of being drunk. Instead of becoming angry with Eli, Hannah showed him respect. She replied, "Not so my lord," and then brought her personal anguish to Eli's attention. Sadly, Eli offered Hannah no apology, but he did then bless her. It was Eli's blessing, as God's representative, which gave Hannah new hope! She would become a mother!

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Perhaps Elkanah noticed the smile which was now on Hannah's face when they went as a family to worship the next morning (before returning to their home in Ramah). Hannah had come to Shiloh empty, but she left Shiloh full. Full of faith and full of hope in the God she worshiped, El Shaddai.

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Hannah's Prayer is Answered: 1 Samuel 1:19-20

Since the family had safely returned home, Elkanah slept with Hannah as he had so many times before. But this time we are told, "The Lord remembered her," and the name Samuel was born. We can only imagine the joy that filled Hannah's heart as she held her tiny baby boy to her breast. She now knew the joy of motherhood.

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The name Hannah chose to give her new little son reflects her desire that everyone know that Samuel was a special gift to her from the Lord. For the rest of Samuel's life he would carry the name "Asked of God." What a wonderful reminder this would be to him and to others, that God answers prayer and gives good gifts to those who earnestly seek Him.

Living Way Bible Study

Hannah Keeps her www.livingwaybiblestudy.org 21-28

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Hannah remained at home, nurturing her son about the Lord God, until he was old enough to take to Shiloh as she had vowed to do. We can be

certain that Hannah's "mother-love" was stretched to its limit as she took her precious little son and left him in the care of Eli the priest at Shiloh. But she knew that the Lord would watch over Samuel now. Because of Hannah's sacrifice, Samuel's life is still ministering to people today.

Customs have changed since Hannah brought her son to Shiloh. Today we bring our babies to the Lord in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Hannah's words of dedication are ones which could so aptly be used as we bring our children. "I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." Then we are told, "He worshiped the Lord there."

Conclusion

We are all called at times in our lives to wait on the Lord as Hannah waited. There is always a reason for our waiting. It may be His good purposes, His revelation in prayer, and, at times, a yielding of our will to God's will.

Thank you for your order! It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will use this study to help you grow in your knowledge and appreciation of our God and His Word.

Our world today has many "Hannahs" who are praying that God will bless them with a child. These women need all of the love and support which you and I can give them. Never pretend to know the pain which they are experiencing. Simply be kind, tenderhearted listeners, and show them the compassion which Jesus has for them. Do not make promises to them which only a sovereign God can fulfill. If God should choose to give them a "Samuel," Rejoice with them.

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PERSONAL APPLICATION

Heavenly Father, help us to be Your obedient children. But when we fail, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and restore us by the power of Your Holy Spirit to once again walk as Your children of light. Open our hearts and our minds now as we study Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

1 Samuel 2: 1-11

1. Who is at the center and forefront throughout Hannah's song of praise?

List the verses where the Lord is mentioned.

2. Find verses in Hannah's song which reflect the difficulties Hannah brought into her life.

How were the difficulties overcome? _____

3. What is your favorite hymn or song of praise?
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1 Samuel 2: 12-17

Your order grants you permission to print and make copies (one copy per person in your LWB class) of this study. Lessons should be stapled according to lesson number. Please describe the behavior of Eli's sons toward their fellow students who brought honor to the Lord in the materials.

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5. Why was this such a great sin? (v. 17)
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1 Samuel 2: 18-26

6. In the midst of the evil being done by Eli's sons, who remained faithful to the Lord?
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Is there anyone whom you are under girding with prayer? _____

8. Prayer is the greatest gift parents can give their children. Besides prayer, what other gift did Hannah bring to Samuel each year?
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9. What blessing did Eli pronounce upon Hannah and Elkanah each year?

How many children did the Lord bless them with? _____

10. What other sins were Eli's sons committing, according to verse 22?

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11. When Eli became aware of his sons sinful lives, what did he do about it?

12. Who is our Great High Priest, and what is He doing right now for each one of us who belong to Him? (Hebrews 7:24,25)

13. Read Ezekiel 34:2 & 3, and apply it to Eli's sons.

14. We are again given a glimpse into young Samuel's life. What are we told about Samuel? (Compare 1 Samuel 2:26 with Luke 2:52)

What does the Lord say we are to be? (Ephesians 5:1, 3 John 11)

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1 Samuel 2: 27-36

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15. Who does the Lord speak to about the sin which Eli's sons were committing?

16. What charges did the Lord bring against Eli?
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18. How does the Lord describe a faithful priest?
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19. How can we know what is in God's heart and mind? (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

20. What are some of the duties Eli's sons had failed to do as shepherds of Israel? (Ezekiel 34:4)

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