



Biblical Drama based on 1 Samuel 3:1-20
Character Parts: Narrators 1-11, God, Samuel, Eli

Narrator 1: When the prophet Samuel was a little boy, his mother Hannah took him to the temple to serve God. Little Samuel was ministering to the LORD under the direction of Eli the priest.

Narrator 2: The word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

Narrator 3: One night, old Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel:

God: Samuel!

Narrator 4: But Samuel thought it was Eli calling for him. So he ran to where Eli was sleeping.

Samuel: Here I am, master, for you called me.

Eli: (*groggy and confused*) I did not call for you; go back and lie down again.

Narrator 5: So Samuel went and lay down again. He tried to sleep, but the LORD called to him again!

God: Samuel!

Narrator 6: Once more, Samuel arose and went to Eli.

Samuel: Here I am, for you called me.

Eli: I told you. I did not call, my son; now go lie down again.

Narrator 7: At this time in his life, Samuel did not yet know the LORD. God had never talked to him before, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. So when the LORD called Samuel the third time, he arose and went to Eli.

Samuel: Here I am, for you called me.

Eli: Something strange is going on here. You say that someone keeps calling you?

Samuel: Yes, master.

Eli: We are in the temple. It is said that the LORD talked to Moses in such a place. Perhaps it is

the LORD himself who is calling you! Go lie down, and if God calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'

Narrator 8: So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times.

God: Samuel! Samuel!

Samuel: Speak, for your servant hears.

God: Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel which will make the ears of everyone who hears it tingle. I am about to punish Eli and his family for the sins that they commit. Eli's sons have been saying bad things about me, and Eli has let them get away with it. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that they will be held accountable. I will bring them to an end!

Narrator 9: Samuel lay until morning, until it was time to open the doors of the house of the LORD. Eli called Samuel and wanted to know what God had said. But Samuel was afraid to tell him.

Eli: Samuel, my son.

Samuel: Here I am.

Eli: What was it that the LORD told you?

Samuel: I'd rather not say — it's not good.

Eli: Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.

Narrator 10: So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

Samuel: The LORD said he is not pleased. He is going to bring an end to your family.

Eli: (*considering*) If this is what the LORD has decided, let him do what seems good to him.

Narrator 11: On that day, Samuel understood that God's Word is certain and is never wasted. From that day on, the LORD was with him and Samuel became known as a prophet of the LORD.