



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 062 - The Boy Who Stands In The Gap 1 Samuel 3

In the Bible we sometimes come across women who are unable to have children. These women and their husbands pray fervently, but God chooses for His own reasons to make them wait for their special child until His timing is perfect.

- What things have you sought from God but ended up having to wait an extended period of time to receive?
- How do you find patience during the waiting?
- Were you able to see the advantages of waiting for God's time? Explain.

In the midst of an evil time (1 Samuel 2:22-36), when the sons of Eli the priest were doing despicable things and storing up God's wrath against them, young Samuel was growing in stature and in favor with the Lord and with man. While still a boy God gave him the stern prophecy against Eli. Samuel was afraid to share God's message with the priest until Eli put him under oath. As difficult as this was, God was preparing young Samuel for even more difficult tasks he would have to do in the future. Among these was a confrontation with the mentally unbalanced and murderous King Saul (see 1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:10-35).

- What are some difficult tasks that made you feel you were a boy trying to do a man's job?
- How did these prepare you for even greater challenges in the future?
- How has God shown His strength to you in these challenges?

The description of Samuel's childhood in 1 Samuel 2:26, "Now the young man Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man" is almost identical with the description of Jesus' childhood in Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." Through His childhood and early adult years Jesus perfectly fulfilled God's will. He was well prepared to enter His public ministry at His Baptism and face all the challenges that arose before Him—clear up to His suffering and death on the cross.

- What are some of the challenges Jesus faced?
- How did He prepare for them?

No matter what age you are, you can continue to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and man through Bible study and getting together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Praying to God and receiving His strength through the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are essential to spiritual growth as well.

- How can parents help their children grow in wisdom and favor with God and man?
- Do you see any young people in your church who are growing in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man?
- How can you encourage them to consider serving God?