

8-14-22 Children's Sunday
THREE FAMOUS CHILDREN IN THE BIBLE

Children's Sunday

Today is Children's Sunday. There are many heroes in the Bible that we can look at as good examples to follow. However, there were very few who as children were examples to us. In fact I could only think of three examples of Children who were good examples to follow. Can you think of who they were?

There are three stories in the Bible about exceptional Children who were heroes and good examples for children to follow.

The First Child in the Bible That Was a Good Example For Children To Follow was: Samuel..

I. Samuel was a Good Example For Children to Follow:

Think about this.. he was dedicated to God by his parents from birth. Back then when you were dedicated to God it meant that you were given to God almost like a servant or slave. Samuel when he was just a young boy was taken to the temple to live and serve the high priest.

He waited on Eli hand and foot. He cleaned for him, he served in the temple, he lit the candles, swept the floors, closed the doors at night, opened the doors in the morning. He slept there and worked there. Could you imagine, your parents dropping you off at the church and saying Pastor Bissol I dedicated my child to the Lord, here he is use him however you want? Use him to do whatever you need. I'll come visit him once a year..

How would you feel about that?

Samuel would have to do all the cleaning..
Samuel was used to carry water..
Samuel was used to light fires when it was cold..
Samuel was used to do the dishes after meals..
Samuel was used to wash laundry when needed..
Samuel was used to clean the toilets..
Samuel was used to feed the cattle..
Samuel was used to clean the ashes from sacrificial fires..

We do not read anything about Samuel being bitter about this.

I Samuel 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, [being] a child, girded with a linen ephod.

I Samuel 2:19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought [it] to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

While he was ministering to the Lord we read this story..

I Samuel 3:1 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.

I Samuel 3:2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli [was] laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, [that] he could not see;

I Samuel 3:3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God [was], and Samuel was laid down [to sleep];

I Samuel 3:4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here [am] I.

I Samuel 3:5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

I Samuel 3:6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

I Samuel 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

I Samuel 3:8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

I Samuel 3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

I Samuel 3:10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

I Samuel 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

I Samuel 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all [things] which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

I Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

I Samuel 3:14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

I Samuel 3:15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

I Samuel 3:16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here [am] I.

I Samuel 3:17 And he said, What [is] the thing 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.

I Samuel 3:18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It [is] the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

I Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

I Samuel 3:20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel [was] established [to be] a prophet of the LORD.

When Samuel was just a child, God called him to be a prophet. To be a prophet and spokesman for God you have to tell people what God says. Sometimes people don't like what God says. Samuel was a good example of being willing to tell people what God says even if it means people won't like it. Today a lot of people do not like what the Bible says about certain things. Don't be afraid to agree with the Bible and tell people what the Bible says. Be like Samuel.

This is how we today can be like the prophets of old. Don't be afraid to tell people what the Bible says.

II. THE SECOND PERSON THAT WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE TO CHILDREN WAS DANIEL..

He was the leader of a group of young people who were taken prisoners to Babylon. Imagine if a war broke out and a hostile nation came and killed your family and you were taken prisoner to a strange land with strange customs. You were put in their strange schools: away from your family, relatives, and people. In this strange land they worshipped strange gods. Their laws were contrary to the Bible. This is what happened to Daniel and his three friends when they were just young.

Now the Bible commanded the Jews to be separate from the heathen. It told them how to eat, and what to eat and what not to eat. How to live, in fact the Bible has a lot to say about how we should live. Most people ignore the details of the Bible. This was not the case with Daniel and his three friends, they loved God and wanted to live for God and obey God.

Now being far away from Israel and in a strange country, Daniel and his friends could have been tempted to live like the people of that country. However, they decided to follow God.

Daniel 1:3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring [certain] of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Daniel 1:4 Children in whom [was] no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as [had] ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 1:5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Daniel 1:6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

Daniel 1:7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel [the name] of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego.

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

Daniel 1:10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which [are] of your sort? then shall ye make [me] endanger my head to the king.

Daniel 1:11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

Daniel 1:12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Daniel 1:13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

Daniel 1:14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Daniel 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Daniel 1:16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were] in all his realm.

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued [even] unto the first year of king Cyrus.

We could look to Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-nego. They certainly were heroes and stood alone for God as young people. We could look at Samuel who obeyed God and became a prophet in Israel.

Here we have an example of young people who decided to obey God and God blessed them and they excelled. I can't help but think that God could do that for young people today. If you just decide to obey God and do what God says I believe you will excel also.

III. THE THIRD HERO TO CHILDREN IN THE BIBLE IS DAVID..

1. David WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW TO DEAL WITH FAMILY PROBLEMS

How many of you have a perfect family.. David had 7 older brothers. You know.. sometimes older brothers pick on the younger brother. Imagine having 7 older brothers. In that day when you had 8 brothers, probably the youngest would be neglected..

2. David was the least favored of the family

When Samuel came to David's family David was chosen to stay with the sheep and not attend. Samuel asked for all of Jesse's sons to come to a special dinner, his family thought David certainly would not be missed. So he was chosen by the family to stay with the sheep. Why was he chosen to stay with the sheep. The reason why was that in that day the youngest was the least favored of the family.

It seems to me that even though David was the least favored of his father, still he was favored of God. I don't think that it affected David at all that he was given the extra job of taking care of the sheep. In fact the Bible says God saw in David a person who had a good heart for the Lord.

I believe the reason he had a good heart before the Lord was because he used the time that he was alone taking care of the sheep to pray and meditate in the word of God. How many children with a bad heart would have gotten bitter about their situation. David was like the Cinderella of the family! Instead of getting bitter David made the most of this time alone with the sheep.

David used this free time with the sheep to pray, meditate, and write Psalms. David wrote more psalms and Scripture than any one else in the Bible.

I believe he spent much time learning to skill of playing the harp and singing Scripture while spending late nights with the sheep. It was David who wrote.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:4 The ungodly [are] not so: but [are] like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Psalms 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Psalms 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Maybe David wrote this Psalm when he was just a young man, after all it is the first Psalm. If I were to organize my music I would put the oldest one first.

This is why David was loved of the Lord .. he loved God's word and loved God.

David did not let it bother him that he was least favored of his father.. in fact he used the time where he had to watch the sheep to get close to God.

The proof that David was least favored of his family was that when Samuel came to David's father and asked that all his sons be present, David's father gathered all his sons except little David. He was the least of his sons he thought and did not think it important that he be present.

However, when God choose a King for the nation it was David that was chosen.

Samuel asked Jesse to have all his sons pass before him and not one of his seven sons did the Lord say this was the anointed one. Then read this:

I Samuel 16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all [thy] children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

I Samuel 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he [was] ruddy, [and] withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this [is] he.

I Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

3. DAVID WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE TO US OF HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO TREAT YOU UNFAIRLY

David was just a child when God anointed him to be King of Israel.

If you give your heart to the Lord, God can do great things for you.

God looks at your heart. Do you love the Lord?

Years passed and David still was just a little shepherd boy.

David's older brothers became soldiers in the army of Saul and David still tended his father's sheep. However, God was with him and he grew in spirit and valor.

One day his dad asked him to take some food to his older brothers in the camp.

It was then that Goliath came out and challenged the armies of Israel. David tried to stir up the soldiers to fight the Philistine when his oldest brother heard him making a ruckus, he accused him of being mischievous..

Let me read what Eliab the older brother said to him..

I Samuel 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who [is] this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

I Samuel 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

I Samuel 17:29 And David said, **What have I now done? [Is there] not a cause?**

David is an example of how he did not let others discourage him from following God and doing right.

Don't think that when you try to follow God that everyone will try and encourage you. Some people maybe even your own brothers and sisters may try to discourage you.

David is a good example of someone who would not be discouraged by others and decided to follow God even trusting God to help him fight Goliath!

What a great example to young people.

If you try and follow God.. some of your friends may make fun of you .. but you need to be like David.. He said..

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

Your own family may try and discourage you.. but be like David who said..

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

If you are going to do great things for God you have to be a young person who will follow God and not let others discourage you! THERE IS A CAUSE..

One of the greatest pressures young people face is peer pressure. Don't let your peers keep you from following the Lord..

Don't let your peers keep you from obeying the Bible..

David had a lot of problems in his life. King Saul got jealous of him and tried to kill him. David just kept close to God and stayed close to God.

In the end God blessed him

So three great examples of Children in the Bible

SAMUEL, DANIEL, and DAVID..

I. WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM SAMUEL?..

II. WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM DANIEL?..

III. WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM DAVID?

Imagine what God can do for you if you decide to be like Samuel .. Daniel.. And David.. God is looking for a young person today who will be the next great hero of faith.. Will you be that hero for God?