



THE CALL OF SAMUEL

The Call to Prayer in the Old Testament

2569 "... In his indefectible covenant with every living creature,⁷ God has always called people to prayer. But it is above all beginning with our father Abraham that prayer is revealed in the Old Testament."

2570 "When God calls him, Abraham goes forth 'as the Lord had told him';⁸ Abraham's heart is entirely submissive to the Word and so he obeys. Such attentiveness of the heart, whose decisions are made according to God's will, is essential to prayer, while the words used count only in relation to it ..."

2574 "Once the promise begins to be fulfilled (Passover, the Exodus, the gift of the Law, and the ratification of the covenant), the prayer of Moses becomes the most striking example of intercessory prayer, which will be fulfilled in 'the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.'¹⁹"

2578 "The prayer of the People of God flourishes in the shadow of God's dwelling place, first the ark of the covenant and later the Temple. At first the leaders of the people - the shepherds and the prophets - teach them to pray. The infant Samuel must have learned from his mother Hannah how 'to stand before the LORD' and from the priest Eli how to listen to his word: 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'²⁶ Later, he will also know the cost and consequence of intercession: 'Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.'²⁷" excerpts from *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* 2569-2570, 2574, 2578

⁷ Gen 9:8-16.

⁸ Gen 12:4.

¹⁹ 1 Tim 2:5.

²⁶ 1 Sam 3:9-10; cf. 1:9-18.

²⁷ 1 Sam 12:23.

IN BRIEF

"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God' (St. John Damascene, *De fide orth.* 3, 24: PG 94, 1089C).

God tirelessly calls each person to this mysterious encounter with Himself. Prayer unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation as a reciprocal call between God and man.

The prayer of Abraham and Jacob is presented as a battle of faith marked by trust in God's faithfulness and by certitude in the victory promised to perseverance.

The prayer of Moses responds to the living God's initiative for the salvation of his people. It foreshadows the prayer of intercession of the unique mediator, Christ Jesus.

The prayer of the People of God flourished in the shadow of the dwelling place of God's presence on earth, the ark of the covenant and the Temple, under the guidance of their shepherds, especially King David, and of the prophets.

The prophets summoned the people to conversion of heart and, while zealously seeking the face of God, like Elijah, they interceded for the people.

The Psalms constitute the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament. They present two inseparable qualities: the personal, and the communal. They extend to all dimensions of history, recalling God's promises already fulfilled and looking for the coming of the Messiah.

Prayed and fulfilled in Christ, the Psalms are an essential and permanent element of the prayer of the Church. They are suitable for men of every condition and time." CCC 2590-2597

What Did You Learn About The Call of Samuel?

for younger saints

1. When Samuel grew up, he became a
 - a. priest
 - b. prophet
 - c. king
2. Samuel's mother was
 - a. Mary
 - b. Elizabeth
 - c. Hannah
3. When Samuel was 3 years old, his mother
 - a. put him on the ark to care for the animals.
 - b. gave him to the Lord, and brought him to the temple to live.
 - c. put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile River.
4. Samuel was born because
 - a. his mother prayed and begged the Lord for a child.
 - b. God wanted a holy priest and prophet to lead His people.
 - c. God wanted us to learn from Samuel's example of obedience.
5. What did Samuel say when he heard the Lord's voice?
 - a. "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
 - b. "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
 - c. "Let it be done to me according to Your will."
6. Recite your memory verse for this month.

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Quiz Answers

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 - c. "Let it be done to me according to Your will."
6. Recite your memory verse for this month. *"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:9*

for older saints

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10. Recite the Family Vocation Prayer.

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Name the person who heard these calls from God:

6. He heard God's call to lead people to the promised land. Moses

7. He heard God's call to tell the people of Ninevah to repent. Jonah

8. He heard God's call and became the leader of the Church today. Pope Francis

9. He heard God's call and became Jesus' father here on earth. Saint Joseph

10. Recite the Family Vocation Prayer.

Oh God, we earnestly ask You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers, and sisters who will love You with their whole strength and gladly spend their entire lives to serve Your Church and to make You known and loved. Bless our families, bless our children. Choose from our homes those needed for Your work. Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us, pray for our priests and religious, obtain for us many more. Amen.