



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Teacher Page: Return to the LORD with All Your Heart

1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17 (English Standard Version)

Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using 1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17 in the English Standard Version as the reading text.

New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy, which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes

Pronunciation Practice: The student can read along with the Scripture audio to practice English pronunciation with the teacher's help. The teacher may pause the audio after each verse or sentence so the student can repeat difficult words and phrases.

Lesson Resources

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17 ESV

Scripture Audio: 1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17 ESV

The student may read along with the audio while the teacher pauses for pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: Samuel called Israel to return to the LORD, put away foreign gods, and serve Him only. The people confessed their sin and asked Samuel to pray. The LORD answered and defeated the Philistines. Samuel continued to judge Israel and built an altar at Ramah.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, sequencing events, describing actions, expressing requests, discussion, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: The student can describe Israel's return to the LORD, explain how God answered Samuel's prayer, and identify the places where Samuel judged Israel.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while they study the ESV Scripture text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust the activities to fit the students' ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

Teacher Awareness

This passage includes foreign gods, fasting, an animal sacrifice, and battle. Explain these terms simply and use age-appropriate detail. Describe fasting as going without food for a time; students need not fast as a class activity. Keep the focus on returning to God, prayer, and faithful service.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses to study and read aloud.
3. Ask what the assigned verses say and mean.
4. Put the principal events in chronological order.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along.
6. Review vocabulary and practice difficult pronunciation.
7. Use selected comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ What does it mean to do something with all your heart?
- ☐ Why is it important to admit when we have done wrong?
- ☐ When do people ask someone else to help them?
- ☐ What makes a leader faithful and helpful?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
deliver	Rescue or save from danger.	Who would deliver Israel?
gather	Come together in one place.	Where did Samuel tell Israel to gather?
fasted	Went without food for a time.	What did Israel do at Mizpah?
cease	Stop doing something.	What did Israel ask Samuel not to cease doing?
offering	A gift presented to God in worship.	What did Samuel offer to the LORD?
thundered	Made a loud sound like thunder.	Who thundered against the Philistines?
pursued	Followed or chased someone.	Whom did the men of Israel pursue?
circuit	A route that visits several places.	Which places did Samuel visit each year?

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ What did Samuel tell Israel to put away?
- ☐ Whom did Samuel tell Israel to serve?
- ☐ Where did Samuel tell all Israel to gather?
- ☐ What did the people confess at Mizpah?
- ☐ Why were the people afraid of the Philistines?
- ☐ What did Israel ask Samuel to keep doing?
- ☐ What did Samuel offer to the LORD?
- ☐ How did the LORD answer Samuel and defeat the Philistines?
- ☐ Which three places did Samuel visit on his yearly circuit?
- ☐ Where was Samuel's home, and what did he build there?

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ How did Israel show that they were returning to God?
- ☐ Why did Samuel tell Israel to serve the LORD only?
- ☐ How did confession and prayer express dependence on God?
- ☐ What does the LORD's answer to Samuel teach about prayer?
- ☐ How did Samuel help Israel when they were afraid?
- ☐ What does Samuel's lifelong service teach about faithfulness?

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a short answer, invite a fuller response: 'Can you tell me more?' 'Why do you think that?' 'What happened next?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Correct gently and model the sentence when needed.

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- ☐ Retell 1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17 in your own words.
- ☐ Describe Israel's return to the LORD in three sentences.
- ☐ Explain why Israel asked Samuel to keep praying.
- ☐ Name the places Samuel visited and describe his work.
- ☐ Put these events in order: idols removed, people gather, sin confessed, Samuel prays, God answers.
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: How can a faithful leader help people who are afraid?

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- ☐ Option A: Summarize 1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17 in 6-8 sentences.
- ☐ Option B: Write a paragraph explaining how Israel returned to the LORD.
- ☐ Option C: Write the main events in chronological order.
- ☐ Option D: Write five sentences using these words: deliver, gather, fasted, thundered, and circuit.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

Israel put away foreign gods, served the LORD only, and confessed their sin at Mizpah. Samuel prayed, and the LORD answered by defeating the Philistines. Samuel judged Israel throughout his life, returned home to Ramah, and built an altar to the LORD.

Remember

"Return to the LORD with all your heart, serve Him only, and depend on Him in prayer."

Final Question

How did Israel show a wholehearted return to the LORD?