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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1476 ~ The Lord calls Samuel.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

The small island of Guam in the North Pacific Ocean is crawling with snakes. Slithering brown tree snakes are killing the native birds of this beautiful island nation and threatening the people's way of life. These snakes are not native to Guam. They came as stowaways on airplanes and have multiplied by the thousands. They also threaten other islands with whom Guam trades its goods.

Just as these deadly snakes are a danger to Guam, so our sins are a danger to us if we don't deal decisively with them. Sins such as lust, sexual impurity and greed dominated the lives of the two priestly sons of Eli. Eli was the High Priest in the central town of Shiloh. It was here that the tabernacle of the Lord was set up in its first permanent resting place. Eli and young Samuel ministered there before the Lord.

Every year the Israelites went to Shiloh to sacrifice and worship Almighty God. Each year, Samuel's mother Hannah made a new robe for Samuel and took it to him at the temple when she accompanied her husband, Elkanah, to offer the annual family sacrifice.

At the sacrifice, Eli the High Priest would bless Elkanah and Hannah and say, "May the Lord give you other children by this woman to take the place of Samuel whom you dedicated to Him."

Hannah had been childless for a long time before the Lord gave her Samuel. When the Lord blessed Hannah, she had three more sons and two daughters. Hannah rejoiced greatly in what the Lord had done for her.

Meanwhile at the temple, Samuel continued to grow and learn from Eli how to serve the Lord in Shiloh.

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The sons of Eli did not honour and love the Lord like Eli, but chose to serve themselves. Not only were they treating the offerings to the Lord with disrespect, they were performing other immoral acts too. This displeased the Lord greatly.

Eli was getting old and although he was aware of what his sons were doing, he did not do anything about it. Even a prophet came to Eli and warned him what would happen if he did not intervene.

In 1 Samuel, Chapter 2, the Lord says to Eli, "I will honour those who honour me, and I will treat with contempt those who despise me and no one in your family will ever again live to old age. I will choose a priest who will be faithful to me and do everything I want him to."

This priest was to be Samuel. As Samuel grew up, he learnt to listen, obey and serve the Lord. The Lord made everything that Samuel said to Eli come true. Then all the Israelite people knew that Samuel was indeed a prophet of the Lord.

A man wrote a guidebook to teach amateur repairmen how to fix a particular electric machine. The man knew that often repair people do not have enough respect for the power of electricity.

Studies have shown that it takes only a small amount of electricity to cause the muscles in a person's hand to paralyse. This in turn stops the person from letting go and soon their heart muscles become paralysed too. This is a fatal situation.

And so it is with sin. People dabble with sin because they do not fear its power to paralyse the muscles of their ever-living soul. Then it is too late. Even when people know a sinful behaviour is hurting them and they want to quit, they cannot let go in their own strength. Sin is never safe!

The solution is to say no to sin. Romans, Chapter 6 says, "Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Instead give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes."

When we become believers in the Lord Jesus, we need to respond to life's troubles in a manner that corresponds to our new life. We must ask God to help us to overcome the instant bad reactions to frustrations and irritations we used to explode with before we became a Christian. Our behaviour is to be more and more like the example of Jesus' life in the Bible. We are to adopt the mind of Christ and approach sin the way His Spirit shows us to.

When sinful desires enter our minds, we need to discipline ourselves to be the kind of person God wants us to be. Like Samuel in training, we need to practice by listening, obeying and serving the Lord until it comes naturally.

If we are unconcerned or weak in dealing with our sin habits, like the snakes of Guam, the sins in our lives will grow and multiply. They will destroy our effectiveness for doing the Lord's work.

Back in the year AD 79, an earthquake was followed by a volcanic eruption from Mount Vesuvius in Italy. The resulting mud flows and clouds of ash smothered two nearby cities. The captain of a ship off shore wrote descriptions of the events of that day and sent them to a historian.

Vesuvius has erupted fifty times since then. In 1631 after another major eruption, the clean up workers stumbled on the remains of the city of Pompeii. A further 300 years later the city ruins were excavated.

So swift had been the destruction of Pompeii that people were caught doing their normal tasks of life. Sadly, those people need not to have died from the poisonous gases coming from the volcano in that eruption. But they ignored weeks of ground rumblings and the tell-tale smoke coming from the top of the mountain.

God gives us warning signs too. These days the signs are many wars and rumours of war, the breakdown of moral standards, earthquakes, economic woes and nuclear threats across the globe. The Bible book of Matthew, Chapter 24 warns of bad times ahead but people need not be caught unprepared. God has provided a way of escape for those who ask Him.

Once we have given our lives to the Lord Jesus, God's Son, we gain eternal life. Romans, Chapter 6, says: "God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord." Through faith in Christ, we become children of the heavenly Father. By the power of the Spirit of God in us, we are then able to develop the habit of submitting to God's Word, the Bible.

The Apostle Paul writes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> book to Timothy, a Christian pastor in the first century, "All scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."

Are you now willing to deal with the sin in your life? Ask God to show you His way and give you true life, one that lasts into eternity without the fear of God's judgement for sin?

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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