

and courage in helping deliver their people.

- What can we learn from Deborah about being a true friend? How have your friends helped you face difficult challenges or obey the Lord's commandments? How can we be better friends to others?
- As a Nazarite and a member of the house of Israel, Samson made covenants with the Lord. What

covenants do we make with the Lord? How have these covenants strengthened you?

- What were the consequences of Samson's violation of his covenants? (See Judges 16:17–21.) What are the consequences when we violate our covenants?

Additional reading: "Judges, The" and "Judges, Book of," Bible Dictionary, pages 719–20.

"All the City . . . Doth Know That Thou Art a Virtuous Woman"

20

Ruth; 1 Samuel 1

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Ruth 1–2. After her husband dies, Ruth goes to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law, Naomi. In Bethlehem, Ruth works in the fields of Boaz, who treats her kindly.
- b. Ruth 3–4. Ruth lies at the feet of Boaz, and he promises to marry her. They marry and have a child.
- c. 1 Samuel 1; 2:1–2, 20–21. Hannah is blessed with a son, whom she lends to the Lord as she promised. She is later blessed with more children.

- What did Ruth give up by going to Bethlehem with Naomi? What did Ruth gain by going with Naomi? (The gospel of Jesus Christ; see Ruth 1:16.) What can we learn from Ruth about making sacrifices for the gospel?
- How do you think Hannah felt about giving Samuel to the service of the Lord? What does the Lord ask us to give him? What should our attitude be about giving to him?
- What righteous qualities did Ruth, Naomi, and Hannah exemplify?

God Will Honor Those Who Honor Him

21

1 Samuel 2–3; 8

Study the following scriptures:

- a. 1 Samuel 2:12–17, 22–25. The sons of Eli commit transgressions and are counseled by their father.
- b. 1 Samuel 2:27–36; 3:12–14. A man of God warns Eli about the consequences of the wickedness in his family.

- a. 1 Samuel 3. The Lord calls Samuel, and Samuel responds.
 - d. 1 Samuel 8. The Israelites want a king so they can be "like all the nations." Samuel warns them about the dangers of such a choice.
- What did the actions of Eli's sons suggest about whom they chose to