

God Calls Samuel

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON



Theme: Answering God's Call

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Memory Verse: "Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.'" 1 Samuel 3:4

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- Blank name tags - two per child
- Markers
- Pens - one per child

Do This:

SAY: At the beginning of the school year, most teachers make a name tag for each student in the class. The teacher does that to help the students in the class learn one another's names. (Give each child a blank name tag and markers. Instruct kids to write their name on the nametag and decorate it. Have kids put them on and show them off.)

I've heard it said that the sweetest sound to anyone is the sound of their own name. Doesn't it make you feel good when someone remembers your name? (Invite kids to share about a time it made them feel good to hear someone say their names.)

Even God knows your name. Names are important to Him. In fact, I can think of several times in the Bible when God called someone by name. In Exodus, God called to Moses from within the burning bush. In Luke, Jesus called Zacchaeus' name, telling him to come down from the tree. God called Paul by his given name, Saul, before Saul became a believer, and then gave him a new name.

One of my favorite times in the Bible is when God called Samuel by name. (Give each child another name tag and a pen this time, and have kids write "Samuel" on it, leaving space for a few small drawings.)

Samuel's mother, Hannah, wanted a son more than anything, so she prayed and asked God to give her one. (On the nametags, have kids draw a stick figure on her knees to represent Hannah praying.) **Hannah promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give Him back to the LORD to serve him all the days of his life. God gave Hannah the son she asked for and she kept her promise to God. When the boy was old enough, she took him to the temple and presented him to Eli, the priest. So Samuel served in the temple under Eli.** (Have kids draw a small temple to show the son would be serving God.)

One night Samuel was sleeping when he heard someone call his name. He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said to Eli.

"I didn't call you," Eli answered, "go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed. (Have kids draw a bed.)

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me."

"I didn't call you, go back to bed," Eli answered a second time.

A third time God called Samuel and Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said.

Finally, Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if He calls you again, say, 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed and sure enough, again he heard the voice of God calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel answered as Eli had told him, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Some people think that God only calls grown-ups. But Samuel was just a young boy when God called him. God knows your name just as He knew the name of Samuel and God still calls boys and girls today saying, "Come, follow me." So, listen for God's call and answer just as Samuel did, "Here I am!" (Invite kids to stick their Samuel name tags upside-down to a leg so when they look down, they can remember that God called Samuel and God calls them, too.)

PRAY: Dear God, today we are listening for Your call. Perhaps You have something special for us to do. When You call, we will answer, "Here I am." In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Memory Verse

"Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." 1 Samuel 3:4 (NIV)

You'll Need:

- **Bandanas - one per small group**
- **Stars in different colors - eleven in each color, per small group**

Get Ready: Before class, write a word on each star from today's Bible memory verse, and put the verse reference on one star. Make a set in a different color for each small group. Hide the stars around the room.

Do This:

- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:4.
- Divide the class into small groups.
- Blindfold one player in each small group.
- The blindfolded player's job is to listen closely, as his or her teammates yell out instructions of where to find stars and how to put them in order.
- Once small groups have the verse assembled, have them practice saying it together until they can say it without the prompting of the stars.

SAY: **Our blindfolded teammates did a great job listening closely to their team. Today we are going to learn more about how God called out to Samuel and he had to listen closely to what God had for him.**

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- **Bibles - one per child**
- **Paper - one per small group**
- **Pens or pencils - one per small group**

Do This:

Divide the class into small groups, and follow these steps for the experience:

- Give each child a Bible, and give each group one sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Have them choose one person to be the recorder.
- Explain that in their small groups they are going to read 1 Samuel 3:1-10. As they read, the recorder should list the names of every person (and God) mentioned in the passage.
- After they read, groups should work together to discuss and write down the things they learn about each person in their list, based on the verses.
- After each group is finished, invite them to share what they learned. Start first with Samuel and allow a group to read off what they learned. If another group wrote down the same information about Samuel, they are to mark it off their

sheets. Continue with each group sharing about Samuel until everything noted has been shared.

- Then do the same with Eli and God.

ASK:

- What was the coolest thing you learned today?
- What would you do if you heard God call your name?

SAY: You all did a great job collecting clues about the people in the Bible today. We have to remember that Eli and Samuel weren't super heroes. They were real people and God wanted to speak to them. God wants to speak to you, too. We can learn all about God through the Bible.

“Samuel Rewind” Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- [“Samuel's Rewind”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- What is something you learned from the life of Samuel?
- How can you prepare yourself to be used by God?

Samuel's Bedroom Snack

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks
- Cheese crackers
- Fruit by the Foot
- Round candies
- Napkins - one per child

Do This:

- Give each child a napkin, and have them imagine this is Samuel's bedroom.
- Invite kids to use the snacks to design Samuel's bedroom layout.
- Invite them to be as creative as they can.
- Allow them to show off their creations.
- Enjoy.

ASK:

- What do you think about as you lie in your bedroom at night?
- How do you think you would react if you heard God calling your name?

SAY: Samuel was lying in his bed and heard the voice of God call out to him. That is pretty crazy, right? Samuel wasn't sure who was calling him at first and he was right to go to a trusted adult. After hearing his name called three times, he learned it was God calling out to him. That's a night Samuel will never forget.

Listening Circle

Do This:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- The teacher can start a phrase or short sentence and whisper that into the first child's ear.
- Then that child will whisper what they heard into the next child's ear, and go around the circle until the last child whispers the sentence in the teacher's ear and see if it matches what the teacher started out whispering!
- Play again, if time allows.

ASK:

- **What made it hard to listen carefully?**
- **What made it easy to listen carefully?**

SAY: Just think about how Samuel was in bed when he heard his name called. After the third time, Eli told him to say, "Speak now, for your servant is listening."

ASK:

- **What does it mean to you to listen to God?**

Help kids understand that God wants to speak to us and we need to be sure to listen closely to Him. While He might not call our name aloud, He does speak to us through the Bible and other believers.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Fleece Pillowcases

You'll Need:

- [God Calls Samuel How-to video](#)
- **Fleece material**
- **Pillow stuffing**
- **Paper**
- **Pens or pencils - one per child**
- **Scissors - one per child**
- **Rulers - one per child**

Get Ready: Cut sets of fleece in 36-inch squares.

Do This:

To make the fleece pillowcases, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child two pieces of fleece, a ruler, a pen, scissors, and a slip of paper.
- Cut 6-inch squares out of each corner of both pieces of fleece.
- Make fringe around all sides of both pieces by cutting 6 inches into fleece at 1-inch intervals. These do not have to be exact.
- Instruct kids to knot fringe pieces together using one strand from the top and one from the bottom to tie each knot.
- Tie together along three sides.
- Next have kids stuff the pillow with stuffing.
- Invite them to take a minute and write the memory verse on a slip of paper to include inside the pillow.
- Once they are finished, invite them to tie up the fourth side of the pillow.

SAY: Samuel was lying in bed when he heard the voice of God calling out to him.

We, too, can listen to God through reading the Bible, going to church, praying, and more. Use this pillow as a reminder when you go to bed that God speaks to us and we are to listen.

Pillowcase Prayers

You'll Need:

- A pillow case
- Index cards - one per child
- Pens or pencils - one per child

Do This:

- Give each child an index card and a pen or pencil.
- Invite them to write a prayer request they have on their index cards. When they are finished, hold up the pillow case, and have all the kids put their index cards in it.
- After all the prayer requests are in the pillowcase, shake them up. Then explain that one important thing friends can do is pray for each other.
- Guide each child to take out an index card.
- Instruct kids to spread out around the room and silently pray for the prayer request on their cards. When they're done, they can return the index cards to the pillowcase.
- Explain to kids that you'll keep the pillowcase of prayers so you can pray for each one of them.

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for hearing our prayers. Thank You for friends who pray for us. We are so glad that not only do You listen to our prayers, but You speak to us, too. God give us ears to hear You! In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual Lesson Tip

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Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Somewhere Listening"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)

[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- Song: "Footsteps of Jesus"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)

[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

Do This:

SAY: What a joy it is to answer God's call. As we worship Him through song today, let's be reminded that it's His plan we are to follow.

Lead children in singing "Somewhere Listening" and "Footsteps of Jesus."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Call of Samuel Crossword](#)
- [Call of Samuel Decoder](#)
- [Call of Samuel Word Search](#)

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- "Samuel's Rewind" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- [Pretzel sticks](#)
- [Cheese crackers](#)
- [Fruit by the Foot](#)
- Round candies
- [Napkins](#) - one per child
- [Fleece material](#)
- [Pillow stuffing](#)
- Scissors - one per child
- [Rulers](#) - one per child
- [A pillow case](#)

- [Index cards](#) - one per child

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AT HOME LESSON

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(Have kids draw a bed.)

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me."

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Do This:

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ASK:

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- How can you prepare yourself to be used by God?

Bedtime Snacks

You’ll Need:

- Graham crackers - one per child
- Large marshmallows - one per child
- Fruit by the Foot
- Paper plates - one per child

Do This:

Give each child a paper plate, a graham cracker rectangle, a large marshmallow, and some fruit by the foot. Explain that they are going to make a bed using their supplies.

Have kids follow these steps:

- The graham cracker will be the base.
- The marshmallow will be the pillow at the top.
- The Fruit by the Foot will be the covers.
- After they create their beds, invite them to show their bed creations to others.
- Then enjoy.

ASK:

- **What do you think about as you lie in bed at night?**
- **How do you think you would react if you heard God calling your name?**

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