

God Calls Samuel

PRESCHOOL 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 - four per child
- Markers
- Pens

Get Ready: Write each preschooler's name on a name tag.

Do This:

SAY: At the beginning of the school year, some teachers make a name tag for each student in the class. That helps the teacher learn the kids' names. (Give each child his or her name tag, reading aloud the name as you give it to that child. Have kids put them on and show them off.)

Most people love to hear their name. Doesn't it make you feel good when someone remembers your name? (Invite kids to shout out their names.)

Even God knows your name. Names are important to Him. In the Bible, God called many people by name. One time God called to his friend Moses from within a burning bush. Another time, Jesus called Zacchaeus' name, telling him to come down from a tree.

One of my favorite times in the Bible is when God called Samuel by name. We'll use name tags to show what happened. (Give each child three blank name tags.)

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 hand. Have kids stick these upside down, just above their knee so they can see it from a sitting position.)

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. Well, 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, which is like a church. There, Samuel worked for God, with Eli as his leader. (Have kids draw a small building on a second name tag to show Samuel worked in the temple. Have kids stick these above the hands sticker.)

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. (Lead kids to say, "Here I am!")

"I didn't call you," Eli answered, "go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

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

"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. (Lead kids to say, "Here I am!")

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.'"

(Have kids draw a face with an open/talking mouth on a third name tag. Have kids stick these above the second stickers.)

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." (Lead kids to say, "I'm listening!")

Samuel was just a young boy when God called him. (Invite kids to use their name tags to share with their families what happened.)

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!" (Lead kids to say, "Here I am!")

PRAY: Dear God, today we are listening for Your call. We want to follow You. 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

Do This:

- Have kids sit in a circle.
- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:4.
- Play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose without the chasing part, where you say one word of the verse as you tap each child's head. Have kids say it with you. When you get to the word "answered" from the verse, only the child who you tapped on "answered" should stand and say "Here I am."
- Repeat several times, and then invite children to each take a turn playing the part of the tapper.

SAY: Today we are going to learn more about this how God called Samuel and he answered, "Here I am."

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bible
- Pillows
- Blankets

Do This:

Lead kids through these steps for the experience:

- Remind kids how Samuel's mom, Hannah, brought him to the temple to work for God; so he stayed with Eli, his teacher.
- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:2, then lead kids to gather among the pillows and blankets, lie down, and pretend to sleep.
- Move across the room, having kids stay in their "beds."
- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:3-5a. Have kids get up and run to you, saying, "Here I am!"
- Remind kids Eli told Samuel he didn't call him and told him to go back to sleep. Have kids return to their beds and pretend to sleep again.
- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:6a. Have kids get up and run to you, saying, "Here I am!"
- Remind kids Eli told Samuel he didn't call him and told him to go back to sleep again. Have kids return to their beds and pretend to sleep again.
- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:7-9. Have kids get up and run to you, saying, "Here I am!"
- Remind kids Eli told Samuel he didn't call him and told him to go back to sleep again. Have kids return to their beds and pretend to sleep again.
- Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:10. Have kids stand up from their beds and say, "Speak, for your servant is listening!" Then have them sit and listen.
- Explain that God shared his plan with Samuel.

ASK:

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

SAY: Samuel and Eli were real people, and God wanted to speak to them. God wants to speak to you, too. We can hear God speak through the Bible.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

“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 do you think Hannah was feeling when she prayed for a baby?
- What do you think Samuel was feeling when he heard God call him?

SAY: Hannah wanted a baby. So she prayed to God. And she told Eli “I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” We can pray to God about the things we want also.

Samuel in Bed Snacks

You’ll Need:

- Baby carrots

- **Crackers**
- **Cheese spread**
- **Spoons**
- **Paper plates - one per child**

Do This:

Give each child a paper plate, a cracker, and a spoon. Explain that they're going to make a Samuel in bed snack.

Have kids follow these steps:

- Have kids lay their baby carrots on their crackers, pretending they're putting Samuel to bed.
- Have them spread the cheese on their crackers like it's a blanket.
- If time allows, they can make Eli in bed and/or themselves.
- Allow time for them to deconstruct their snacks and eat them.

ASK:

- **What do you think about as you lay in bed at night?**
- **What can you talk to God about before you go to sleep?**

SAY: Samuel was laying in his bed and heard the voice of God call out to him. 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, Samuel learned it was God calling out to him. That's a night Samuel will never forget.

Follow Me Game

Do This:

Remind kids how God called Samuel and shared a special message with him. Explain that God calls them to follow him like Samuel did.

Play a game of Follow the Leader with kids. Say, "Come, follow me" before each new action or way of moving around the room.

Let kids take turns being the leader, as time allows.

ASK:

- What was it like to follow the leader in our game?
- How can you follow God?

SAY: We played Follow the Leader to remind us that God calls us to follow Him like God called Samuel. But when we follow God, He probably won't ask us to walk in silly ways like in our game. When God calls us, He shows us how to make right choices and share His love with others.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Listening Ears

You'll Need:

- ["God Calls Samuel"](#) handout - one per child
- Cardstock - one for every two kids

- **Crayons**
- **Scissors**
- **Craft sticks - one per child**
- **Glue sticks**

Get Ready: Print the “God Calls Samuel” handout on cardstock, and cut out an ear for each child.

Do This:

To make the listening ears, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child an ear and a craft stick.
- Invite kids to share places they can listen and obey God’s words.
- Have kids draw these places on their ears. Have adults write one-word descriptions of the places preschoolers say they’re drawing, such as home, park, church, and store.
- Have kids glue the ear to a craft stick to make a puppet ear they can hold up to their own ear as a reminder to listen to God.
- Say each child’s name, and have him or her hold up the ear and say “Here I am! I’m listening!”

SAY: Samuel was lying in bed when he heard the voice of God calling out to him. We, too, can listen to God wherever we are. Use this ear as a reminder that God wants you to follow Him and listen to Him wherever you go.

Listening Prayers

You’ll Need:

- **Listening Ears craft**

Do This:

Explain that since they're learning to listen for God like Samuel did, you'll say some things God says to us and they'll respond by holding up their crafts and saying, "Here I am, I'm listening!"

Say the following things:

- **God tells us He loves us.** Have kids hold up their crafts and say, "Here I am, I'm listening!"
- **God tells us to share about His love with others.** Have kids hold up their crafts and say, "Here I am, I'm listening!"
- **God tells us He wants us to obey our parents.** Have kids hold up their crafts and say, "Here I am, I'm listening!"
- **God tells us He wants us to share with others.** Have kids hold up their crafts and say, "Here I am, I'm listening!"
- **God tells us He's always with us.** Have kids hold up their crafts and say, "Here I am, I'm listening!"

PRAY: Dear God, thank You that You still speak to us today. God give us ears to hear You! In Jesus' name, amen.

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: It's so neat that God wants to talk to us and He wants us to listen. As we sing to God today, let's listen for any important messages He has for us.

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 Coloring Page](#)

Complete Supply List:

- [Blank name tags](#) - four per child
- [Markers](#)
- Pens
- Bible
- Pillows
- Blankets
- "Samuel's Rewind" video lesson

- Something to play the video
- [Baby carrots](#)
- [Crackers](#)
- [Cheese spread](#)
- [Spoons](#)
- [Paper plates](#) - one per child
- "God Calls Samuel" handout - one per child
- [Cardstock](#) - one for every two kids
- [Crayons](#)
- Scissors
- [Craft sticks](#) - one per child
- [Glue sticks](#)
- Listening Ears craft

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God Calls Samuel

AT HOME LESSON

Theme: Answering God's Call

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

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.

"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?

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?**

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.

Complete Supply List:

- [Blank name tags](#) - two per child
- [Markers](#)
- Pens or pencils - one per child
- "Samuel's Rewind" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- [Graham crackers](#) - one per child
- [Large marshmallows](#) - one per child
- [Fruit by the Foot](#)
- [Paper plates](#) - one per child

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