



3rd -5th

August 24-25, 2013

DATE

Samuel Listens to God

LESSON TITLE

I Samuel 3 (Pg. 305 Adv. Bible)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Speaks to Us

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Keep in mind, kids might not be perfectly engaged during small group. Do your best to engage every kid, but don't let redirecting take the place of reviewing the story. You may be surprised at what they pick up...even if they appear to be disengaged!

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents how they plan to listen to God this week.

large group heads up

Today, we'll talk about how to listen to God. Samuel learned to hear God's voice...and follow him. But hearing from God can sound daunting. Read I Samuel 3:1-10 ahead of time and pray about how to communicate it to kids. And remember, God speaks to each of us differently—we have to learn to hear his voice *and* believe he wants to speak to us!



instructions

Goal: to help kids understand how to hear from God

Why? Listening can be tough. It takes practice to recognize God's voice—and faith to believe God will speak!

Tip: Not everything that pops into our heads is from God! Make sure you reiterate how important it is for us to make sure the words we hear from God are in line with his character. The lesson plan gives some practical ways to incorporate that discernment.

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week (if you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2).
2. Did you hear anything from God during large group today? (Let kids share but encourage kids that if they didn't hear from God, that's OK. God still wants to talk to them!)

REVIEW THE STORY / DIG DEEPER

3. Remember from our game, what does it mean to really *listen*? (hear and obey/take action)
4. In today's story, why did Samuel think that *Eli* was calling his name? (he hadn't heard God speak before)
5. What did God say to Samuel? (gave him some bad news to tell Eli)
6. How do we know Samuel actually *listened* to God (versus just hearing)?
7. Why do you think God gave Samuel a message for Eli...instead of just telling Eli?
8. What are some ways God speaks to us? (through the Bible, prayer, a word or picture in our thoughts, an idea to help somebody else)
9. ****How do we know something we hear in our head is from God? (If it lines up with what the Bible would say, if it's something Jesus would do, or possibly even if it's something Jesus would do that you wouldn't have thought of on your own, it's probably from God. But he will NEVER ask us to do something that's unloving or out of his character.)**

LISTENING PRACTICE

We're going to look at **some pictures** and talk about different ways God can speak to us.

- Show a picture: let kids guess how God is speaking in that picture.

(Continued on the following page)

- *The pictures are not boxed in to these ways of God speaking. Let kids throw out other ideas. The scenarios are just one example out of many possible things that could be happening in the picture.*
- Read the scenario on the back. Ask kids: (1) if that sounds like something God would say and (2) what he or she can do to *listen*.

DEBRIEF

10. Which example of how God can speak most surprised you? Why?
11. What are some other ways he can speak? (make sure kids know that the pictures were NOT exhaustive)
12. Do you think you've ever heard from God and not realized it? Share what happened.
13. Do you think it's harder to listen or obey? Why?
14. How can we be better listeners?
15. What's one way you'll listen for God this week? (Some ideas if kids are unsure: Say, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening," read the Bible, pray, etc.)

***Pray with the kids, thanking God that he speaks to us and asking him to talk to us.**

*...Extra time? Try this listening game: Say: "I'm taking a plane to (choose a destination) and I'm taking (choose an item or person)." The first letter of the destination must be the **same** as the first letter of the item or person he's taking, but don't tell the kids that rule! For example, you might say, "I'm taking a plane to Florida and I'm taking French fries."*

Ask the kids where they want to go and who/what they want to bring. If they choose a location and an item or person to bring (both of which share the same first letter) they can "come with you" on the trip. If they don't, they can't come with you...yet. Encourage them to listen very carefully to see if they can figure out who can come and who can't. (But at the end, tell them WHY some could come and some couldn't! And assure them that you'd want them all to come along.)

LARGE group

special notes

Listening to God is a big concept. Large group focuses on the story of Samuel and the idea of listening. Small group will help kids view hearing from God in a practical way they can apply.

presenter tips

Prepare ahead of time on exactly how you want to “host” the listening game in the beginning. Get excited with each new round, so that kids not only transition into the idea of listening but also have some fun!

script

Hey everybody! Welcome to kids club. It's great to see you here! Today, we're going to talk about how God wants to speak to us. But first, let's play a little game to remind us how to listen.

LISTENING GAME

We're going to start with a little game. I'm going to split you guys in half (motion for one side of the room to scoot a little to the left and the other side to scoot a little to the right). Okay, now, I need two volunteers from each side (choose one girl and one boy from each side).

Great, now one of you gets to be the Speaker and one of you gets to be the Listener. (Assign roles.) I'm going to whisper instructions to the Speakers. Then each Speaker is going to whisper it to the Listener on his/her team. The Listener has to follow those instructions! And make sure to *whisper*...so the other team doesn't hear you!

Whoever follows the instructions first, wins! And audience, you may have to help them, so watch closely. Ready? (Make sure kids don't have questions.)

Each set of instructions is a round. Tally up which team wins the most rounds. Here are instructions to give, but if you want to add/replace some of your own, feel free! Here are some ideas:

- *Give 5 people on your team a high five*
- *Run to the back of the audience, sit all the way down, then stand up and run back*
- *Do ten jumping jacks*
- *Find one person wearing yellow and bring them onto the stage with you*
- *Go shake hands with somebody on the other team*



script continued

LISTENING GAME DEBRIEF

Wow, great job! Listeners, was it hard to listen? Why? (Let kids respond into the microphone.) How did you listen? (Let kids say they tried to be quiet to hear their teammate's voice.) That's exactly what good listeners do! Thanks for being such great listeners, guys! You can go ahead and have a seat.

You know what else I noticed? Even though this game is all about listening, would this team have won if they just *heard* the words and stood there? (Let kids say: No!) NO way! That's because part of listening is more than just *hearing*...it's obeying!

Now, that game was a lot of fun. But there's a reason we played it. Today, we're going to hear about a guy who listened...*to God!* His name was Samuel.

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL ONCE

When Samuel was young, his mom dedicated him to God. So instead of living with her, Samuel lived with a priest named Eli in the Lord's house. It was sort of like what we would call a church today. It was a house where people went to talk to God. Eli raised Samuel and they lived together in the Lord's house. Eli taught Samuel how to follow God.

Well, one night, Samuel went to bed. Suddenly, God called to Samuel! He said (use your microphone), "Samuel!"

Now, if you heard your name in the middle of the night, who would you think was calling you? (Let kids say: their parents, sibling, etc.—somebody in their house.) Yeah, you'd probably think it was somebody in your house, right?

Samuel did, too. He ran to Eli's room and said, "Here I am!" He probably was worried something was wrong. But guess what?! Eli said, "I wasn't calling to you...go back to bed!"

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL A SECOND AND THIRD TIME

So Samuel went to bed. But a little later, God called to Samuel *again!* But *again*, Samuel thought Eli was calling to him! Eli just told him to go back to bed again.

Well, a little later, for a *third* time, Samuel heard, "Samuel." Now, what would you think if you were awakened to a voice calling your name...three times? (Let kids respond.) I'd probably think Eli was sleep-talking!

This time, Eli somehow realized that GOD was the one calling Samuel. He said, "Next time, say, 'Speak Lord! For your servant is listening.'"

SAMUEL LISTENS TO GOD (HEARS AND OBEYS!)

So Samuel went back to bed and the next time he heard his name. I Samuel 3:10b tells us what happened next:

SLIDE: I Samuel 3:10b: Then Samuel replied, "Speak. I'm listening."



script continued

And guess what? Because Samuel was ready to listen, he got to hear...*from GOD*. God spoke to Samuel.

Now, God told Samuel some bad news he wanted Samuel to share with Eli. It wasn't easy for Samuel to tell Eli what God said, but he did. And because Samuel chose to tell Eli what God had said, who else got to hear a message from God? (Let kids say: Eli.) That's right, sometimes we can hear from God through other people!

Does anybody know what somebody is called who hears a message from God—then shares it? (A prophet) They're called a prophet. But even if we don't get a message to share with somebody else, we can ALL hear from God!

GOD SPEAKS TO US

In fact, God loves to speak to us when we listen. It might not sound like a voice you can hear. But maybe he brings a word or a picture into your head while you're praying. Maybe you think of a Bible verse when you're feeling lonely or scared. There are lots of ways God speaks to us. We're going to talk more about them during small group.

For now, let's spend a minute listening to God. In your head, if you want to hear from God, invite him to speak to you, like Samuel did. Say in your head, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."

PRAY

Now we'll sit quietly and listen to God. (Instead of asking for a volunteer, lead the kids in a little silence, then wrap up prayer for the kids. Thank God that he speaks to us. Then continue.)

As you're listening, we're going to watch a music video. Just sit back and listen to see if God wants to say anything to you during this music video:

Music Video: I Will Listen

WORSHIP

Now let's stand up! (Let kids stand.) Let's sing to thank God for speaking to us. This song reminds us that sometimes we have to get quiet and listen in order to hear God. Before we go....we have to STOP. Ready?

Song: Before I Go

Dismiss kids to small groups.



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name



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PREP needs



small group supplies

1. Per small group: stack of 6 scenario cards (each card should be ½ sheet of white cardstock with picture on front—printed in color—and the corresponding #'s scenario printed

on back. Front and back templates are in curriculum folder. CAN re-use cards from service to service)

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pg. 305)

a/v needs

1. SLIDE: I Samuel 3:10b: Then Samuel replied, “Speak. I’m listening.”
2. Music Video: I Will Listen (from mainstage; has Mae in it)
3. Song: Before I Go

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Samuel.
How can we listen to God?

parent page

Samuel listened to God, which meant he heard God’s voice *and* obeyed it. And guess what? God wants to speak to us too! Ask your kid to tell you the one way they want to listen for God’s voice this week. You can also read the story together in I Samuel 3.