



Kindergarten-2nd

August 24-25, 2013

DATE

Samuel Listens to God

LESSON TITLE

I Samuel 3 (Pg.321)

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 learn about how God spoke to Samuel—and how God wants to speak to us, too! That's why knowing how to listen is so important. Read I Samuel 3:1-10 (Pg.321) ahead of time and pray about how to communicate it to kids.



instructions

Goal: to help kids review the story and practice listening

Tip: Try to play up the story. Feel free to use words that your group will find funny.

Why? Listening can be tough. It takes practice—and the faith to believe God will speak!

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

1. Who was the guy in today's story? (Samuel)
2. Who was calling his name? (God)
3. Why did Samuel think that *Eli* was calling his name? (he hadn't heard God speak before)
4. Who else does God want to talk to? (us!)
5. 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)
6. How could you be a better listener? (be quiet, read your Bible, pray, ask God to talk to you)

LISTENING PRACTICE

Everybody gets **a red piece of paper and a green piece of paper**. (Hand out papers.) I'm going to read today's story again. You hold up the piece of green paper if what I'm reading sounds pretty normal. If your papers are green, I'll keep going. But if I read something kind of strange-sounding, hold up the piece of red paper. I'll stop and we can talk about it.

Ready? (Read your story.)

- What's the first thing you guys think about after hearing that story?

(Continued on the following page)

- What's one way you'll listen to God this week? (Use ideas from question #6—also encourage kids to do what Samuel did and say, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening." Have kids **write/draw it on their piece of colored paper.**)

*Let's ask God to speak to us this week! **Pray with the kids, thanking God that he speaks to us and asking him to talk to us. Be quiet for a few seconds to give your group time to hear from God!** Then ask them if they heard from him.

*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 item/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

Use movement across your whole presenting area to engage kids. Decide where you want Samuel's "bed" to be. Make sure you have to "run" as far as possible to get to Eli. The more dramatic your movements, the more engaged kids will be. Don't be afraid to be silly!

presenter tips

Have a plan in mind to host today's game! Adapt as necessary to best fit your space and your group of kids. Just keep the object the same: to win, you must listen!

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 remember how we can hear people who want to speak to us.

LISTENING GAME

(*feel free to adapt number or location of objects for your group—or cut out the "Whisperer" role and choose one volunteer per side)

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). You guys face the wall (have them look away from the audience).

Alright, now I'm going to pass out some items to each side. Don't say what I'm giving you. (Throw the **two beach balls**, pass out the **two hats**, and give out the **two dollar bills**.) Your teammate will have to run out, find an item, and put it back into this bin (refer to the large group **presenter bin**—and set it in a central location.)

OK, absolutely no touching or giving the item to somebody else until the game is over. Your teammate has to find it on his or her own, but you can hold it up high if you want. Got it?

(Then turn to the four contestants:) Okay, did you guys hear that? I've given your team three objects. You don't know what they are. I'm going to tell which item you need to find. The one who finds it first and brings it back up to this bin, wins. So I might say, "Find a book." The person who has the book will hold it up—you go grab it and bring it back. Make sense?



script continued

But here's the thing: I need a Speaker and a Listener from each team. (Assign roles.) I'm going to whisper the object to the speaker—then you whisper it to the Listener. The listener goes out to find it! And make sure to *whisper*...so the other team doesn't hear you!

Whoever listens best, wins! Ready? (Make sure kids don't have questions.)

(Whisper "hat" to the Whisperers; let them whisper "hat" to the "Listeners; let the "Listeners run out to get the hats. Repeat for "beach ball" and "dollar." After the game is finished, recap):

Wow, great job! Listeners, was it hard to listen? Why? 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! Today, we're going to hear about a guy who listened...*to God!*

And for this story, I need your help. Every time I say, "Here I am!" I need you guys to put your hand to your ear...and pretend to listen *very* closely. Let's practice! 1-2-3: Here I am! (Let kids put their hands to their ears.) Great job! Now let's get to the story.

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL ONCE

So there was a guy named Samuel. Samuel lived with an older man named Eli. Eli wasn't Samuel's dad, but he was taking care of him. And they lived in the same house. Eli was teaching Samuel to follow God.

One night, Samuel went to bed. (Lay down with the *pillow and blanket*.) Then God called to Samuel! He said (use your microphone): "Samuel!"

Well, Samuel thought Eli was calling to him! So he got up (spring up), went running to Eli's room (pretend to run), and said, "Here I am!" (Pause and let kids put their hands to their ears, listening.)

But guess what?! Eli said (use a deep voice), "I wasn't calling to you...go back to bed!"

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL A SECOND TIME

So Samuel went to bed. (Lay down with the *pillow and blanket*.) Then God called to Samuel! He said (use your microphone), "Samuel!"

Again, Samuel thought Eli was calling to him! So he got up (spring up), went running to Eli's room (pretend to run), and said, "Here I am!" (Pause and let kids put their hands to their ears, listening.)

But just like last time, Eli said: (use a deep voice), "I wasn't calling to you...go back to bed!"



script continued

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL A THIRD TIME

Well, Samuel went back to bed. (Lay down and pretend to be asleep.) And for the THIRD time, he heard his name (use your microphone), “Samuel.”

He got up (spring up) one last time, went to Eli’s room (pretend to run) one last time, and said, “Here I am!” one last time. (Pause and let kids put their hands to their ears, listening.)

This time, Eli realized that GOD was the one calling Samuel. He said, “Next time, say, ‘Speak Lord! For your servant is listening.’”

SAMUEL LISTENS (AND HEARS FROM GOD!)

So Samuel went back to bed and when he heard his name again, he said, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” (Lead the kids in putting hands to your ears again.)

And guess what, because Samuel was ready to listen, he got to hear from GOD. That’s pretty cool, huh? And when he heard God, he obeyed. Let’s look at John 14:23 again:

SLIDE: John 14:23 If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them.

Guess what’s even cooler!? We can *all* hear from God if we choose to listen. We might not hear him talk out loud, but sometimes he just brings a word or picture to our mind—or maybe he just helps us notice somebody who looks sad and needs our help!

But just like any good listener, we have to stop, listen closely, and learn to hear God’s voice. We’re going to talk more about that in small group. For now, let’s pray together and practice hearing from God.

PRAY

(Instead of asking for a volunteer, pray for the kids. Thank God that he speaks to us and ask him to talk to us here, today. Then spend a few seconds in silence, letting the kids hear from God.)

Some of you might have heard a word, remembered a verse, or thought of a picture or a person you can help. Maybe some of you didn’t hear from God—and that’s okay too. You’ll hear him another time! Now let’s sing some songs and thank God for being so great!

WORSHIP

Now let’s stand up! (Let kids stand.) Let’s dance and sing to thank God for speaking to us.

Song: Before I Go

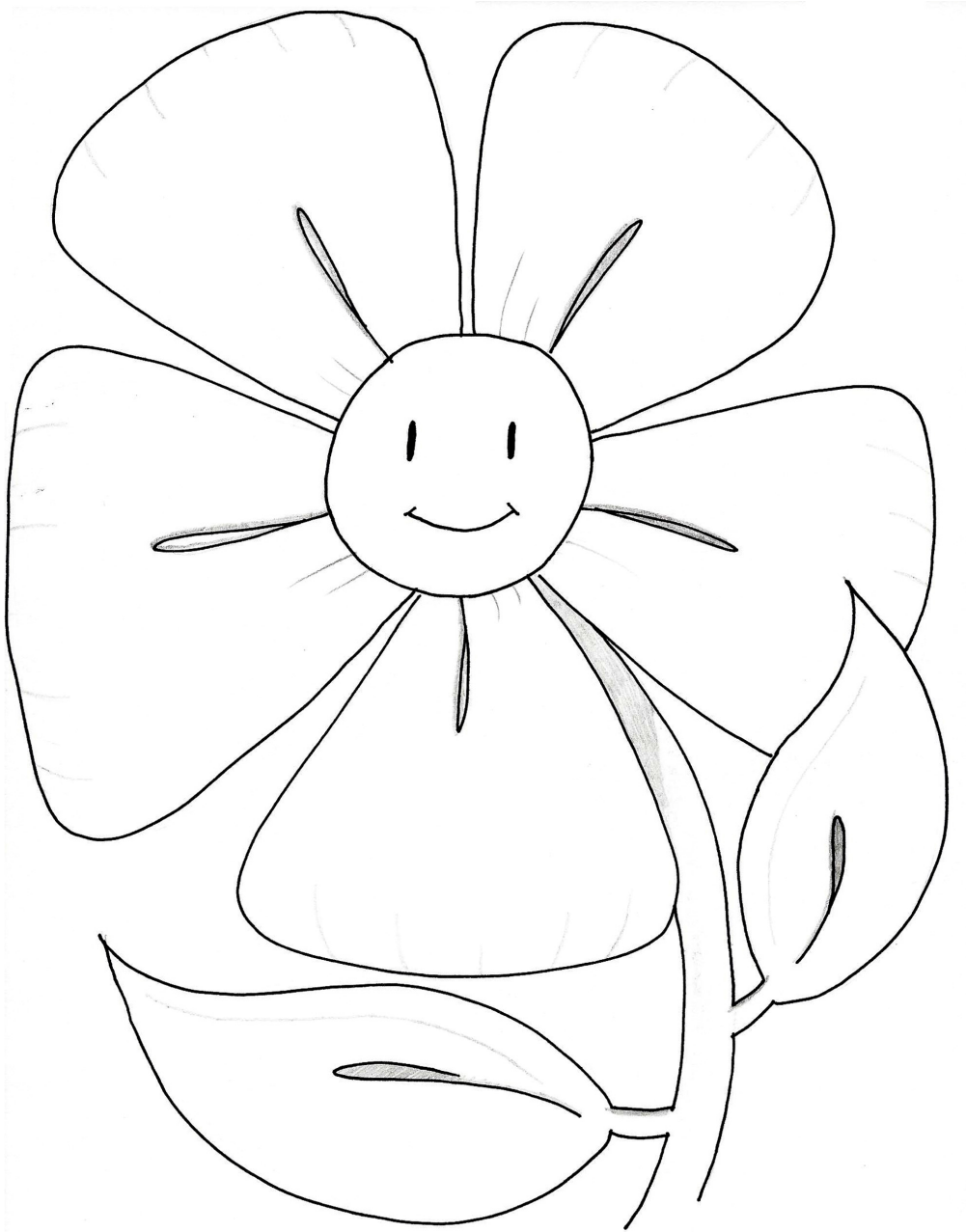
Song: Dance Shout and Sing

Dismiss kids to small groups.



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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

Coloring pages: Flower markers
1 quarter sheet of red construction paper per kid
1 quarter sheet of green construction paper per kid

1 small group story per small group (template in curriculum folder)

large group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 321)
Pillow
Blanket
2 hats (any style)
2 beach balls (inflated)
2 fake paper bills (any \$ amount)

a/v needs

1. Verse: John 14:23 If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them.
2. Song: Before I Go
3. Song: Dance Shout and Sing

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Samuel.
Who spoke to Samuel?

parent page

Today's story is all about how Samuel listened to God! The great news is, we can listen to—and hear from—God...just like Samuel. 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 3:1-10.