



3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

September 12-13, 2015

DATE

Samuel

LESSON TITLE

I Samuel 3; Philippians 4:13

WHERE TO FIND IT

God speaks.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (20 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (10 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

Today is all about listening to God. To prepare, think of a few different ways God has spoken to you. Be prepared to share those with kids.

## check-in/out

BEFORE kids check in, make sure you understand how the Connect Time game works and how you want to implement it as a team. Then you'll be ready to focus on them once they arrive.

## 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!

## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### **ELECTRIC COMMUNICATION**

*\*Must be played with the whole group.*

- Split kids into two groups and have each group line up, single file, with each kid facing the front of the room (there should be a little space between the two lines).
- In the front middle (between the two lines), place a **chair** with the **stuffed animal** on it. (This is to be grabbed by one team or the other during each round.)
- There should be one adult at the front of the room facing the kids. Another adult should lead the game by standing at the back of both lines.
- Have the kid at the back of the line turn to face the adult leader (all other kids keep facing front).
- All kids should grab hands.
- The adult leader facing the kid at the back of the line should **flip a coin**. If it's tails, don't say anything but wait a few seconds and flip it again. If it's heads, it's "good," so nod at the kid facing you.
- That kids should squeeze the hand of the kid in front of them, who then squeezes the hand in front of them and so on until it gets to the front of the line. When the kid at the front feels his/her hand get squeezed, then he/she should jump up and grab the stuffed animal. The team who gets it first gets a point.
- If the flip was "not good" and the kid thinks they felt a squeeze, or if it becomes clear that a team was already squeezing hands before they were supposed to, then the other team gets the point.
- The adult at the front of the room should keep score until it's time for Large Group or you reach a certain number of points (up to you based on size and ability of your group).
- **Then break into small groups and debrief:**
  - What does it mean to communicate? How did you communicate in this game? What are some other ways we communicate?

**Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand that God wants to speak to us and (2) identify ways God may speak.

**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.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. In today's story, why did Samuel think that *Eli* was calling his name? (he hadn't heard God speak before)
2. What did God say to Samuel? (his name)
3. What did Samuel do when he realized God was speaking? (he said "Speak, God. Your servant is listening.")
4. 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, nature)
5. Did anybody hear from God during Large Group? You can share if you want!
6. **\*\*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.*)**

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

To remember to listen, we're going to make string telephones! (Kids may need your help for this. **\*Also, you might want to pre-cut the string!**)

- Give each kid **two white cups**
  - On one, have them write, "Speak, God!"
  - On the other, write, "Your servant is listening."
- Cut a **ten-foot-long piece of string** for each kid
  - **\*Measure against the 10-foot-long red piece of yarn in your small group bin**
- Have them **tie a knot** on one end of the string.
- Then give them a **toothpick** and have kids poke a **SMALL** hole on the bottom center of each cup.

(Continue on the following page)



- Hold one of the cups upright and send the un-knotted side of the string through the hole at the bottom of the cup so that the knot sits in the bottom of the cup when it's standing upright.
- Hold the other cup up in the air and push the un-knotted side up through the underside of the cup. Then tie a knot on that side and pull it taut, so that the knot sits on the bottom of that cup when it's standing upright.
- Let kids talk to each other! See if they can remember their Bible verse and say it across the "phone line." (Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.)

**\*After kids finish, pray together and ask God to speak.**

*Extra time? Here's another fun 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.)*



## special notes

You can preview today's story video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHStDjHxr0Q&app=desktop>.

## presenter tips

God speaks in so many ways and it takes time and practice to learn to hear his voice. Help kids understand how God speaks by sharing ways you have heard him!

## script

### WELCOME AND INTRO (9 min.)

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here! The game you were just playing in Connect Time looked pretty fun. Can somebody tell me how to win and get the stuffed animal? (Let a kids respond.) Yeah, you had to communicate without looking at each other or speaking to each other! You had to communicate by touch!

What does it mean to communicate? (Let kids respond.) That's right, to send messages or share some sort of information or idea. And we communicate all the time, don't we? Why do we tell each other things or show each other things? (Let kids respond.) Yep, we communicate so that somebody will know and do something. Let's think about this for a second. Check out these pictures and think about what they would cause us to KNOW and DO. (For these images, feel free to use your own interpretation!)

### (Click below for the pictures/videos)

- Smile
  - What do you know?
  - What might you do?
- Thunderstorm rolling in
  - What do you know?
  - What might you do?
- Thumbs up
  - What do you know?
  - What might you do?
- Yelling "heads up"
  - What do you know?
  - What might you do?



## script continued

Good job! I can tell you guys are ready to hear today's story. It's all about the time GOD communicated with a guy named Samuel.

### **THE STORY OF SAMUEL (6 min.)**

**(Click to show image of Samuel.)** Now Samuel's mom was named Hannah. She wanted a son for a long time before she was pregnant with Samuel. She told God that if he gave her a son, she would dedicate him to God so that he would follow him for his whole life. When God answered Hannah's prayer, she did what she promised. She sent Samuel to live with a priest named Eli so he could serve God.

When Samuel was young though, he didn't yet know how God would use him. He was helping Eli, but he didn't have his *own* relationship with God. This story is all about the first time Samuel hears God actually speak to him. We're going to watch a video about what happened. As you watch, see if you can figure out what Samuel did when he realized GOD was talking to him!

### **Video: Young Samuel (about 3 min.)**

Wow, so what did Samuel do when he realized GOD was speaking to him? (Let kids respond.) That's right, he said, "Yes, God, speak! Your servant is listening."

After that, God spoke to Samuel. He told him many things and Samuel shared them with others. He was called a prophet. Does anybody remember what a prophet is? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's someone who hears from God and shares it. Before Jesus rescued us, God spoke through prophets. Now, we can all hear from God!

God says different things to different people in different ways, but he really does want to speak to all of us. You can read about how Samuel was part of God's story in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. And YOU can be part of God's story by listening to God too. You can say, "Speak, God. Your servant is listening."

### **LISTEN TO GOD (AND OBEY) (6 min.)**

But here's the thing: we have to listen carefully for God's voice, like waiting to feel the squeeze on our hands. If we're not paying attention, we might miss it.

So we're going to practice listening right now. We've got a video to help us understand some ways God might speak and help get us in the right frame of mind to be still and listen. So let's ask God to speak and declare that his servant is listening. On the count of three, say "Speak, God. Your servant is listening." 1-2-3: Speak, God. Your servant is listening.

### **Video: Take A Minute / Listen (about 4:30)**

If you guys heard something from God, you'll have a chance to share it in small group. If you didn't, that's OK! Like the video said, God DOES want to speak to you. And he will. Just give it time and keep asking him to speak. Maybe find a special place where you can be alone and just wait.



## script continued

And remember, God doesn't speak just to hear his own voice. He speaks so that we will KNOW something and DO something. Once Samuel heard from God, God didn't keep saying "Samuel" (use a booming voice) over and over again—he gave him a message. So if God told you something today, there's something he wants you to do!

### **VERSE AND PRAYER (1 min.)**

If you feel like you're not sure if you can listen to God or if he tells you something and you know it will be hard to obey him, let's remember this month's verse, from Philippians.

**SLIDE: Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.**

Let's say that together a couple times (lead kids in repeating it). And remember, THE BIBLE is God's word. So God just spoke to all of us!

Does somebody want to come pray for us and ask God to speak to us? (Let one volunteer come pray.)

### **WORSHIP (6 min.)**

Now let's worship God by telling him we will listen to him. Both of these songs talk about that!

**Music Video: Listen**

**Song: Before I Go**

*\*Dismiss kids to small groups*





**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

1 coin

Per room

1 chair

1 stuffed animal/object (any kind; can be different per room and site)

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## small group supplies

Per kid

2 white cups (paper or styrofoam- markers need to write on them)

1 ten-foot piece of kite string (on Amazon.com, search "500 feet Winding Nylon Kite Spring Spool (30 lb test)

Per group

Markers

1 Bible

scissors

several toothpicks

1 ten-foot piece of red yarn as a guide to help volunteers measure and cut the correct length

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
  2. Image: Smile
  3. Video: Thunderstorm:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10rH37Y YvKU>
  4. Image: Thumbs up
  5. Video: Heads up! 1:09-1:13 of this:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5C6su O5pZs>
  6. Video: Young Samuel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHStDj Hxr0Q&app=desktop>
  7. Video: Take A Minute / Listen:  
<https://vimeo.com/104309273>
  8. SLIDE: Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
  9. Music Video: Listen <https://vimeo.com/107752866>
  10. Song: Before I Go (in K5 song slides)
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## connect questions

Tell me about Samuel.  
How can we hear from God?

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