

# Old Testament

## Samuel listens to God 1 Sam. 3:1-21

### Younger Verse

How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9

### Older Verse

How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

Has your mom ever had to call your name several times before you came or answered? Let's see what happened when someone calls Samuel's name.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned how God blessed Hannah and gave her a child. She promised God that She would let him live at the church so that he could serve God his whole life. Hannah's baby was named Samuel. Samuel grew and Hannah kept her promise by sending Samuel to live at the church. He lived with the preacher named Eli. Eli taught Samuel how to serve God.

Hannah loved Samuel and knew that God would care for him at the church. God blessed her with 5 more children. She still loved Samuel and visited him often.

Samuel served God with Eli's help. One night Samuel heard someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli. He jumped up out of bed and ran to see what Eli wanted. Eli told him that he didn't call him.

Again Samuel heard someone calling his name. He ran to see what Eli wanted. Eli told him that he hadn't called him.

A third time Samuel heard the voice and went to Eli. Eli had not called. Suddenly, Eli realized that GOD was calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to listen again for the voice. When he heard it, he must say, "I am here, God. I am listening."

Sure enough, the voice called and Samuel told God, "I am here, God. I am listening."

### Lesson Goals

**Tell what it means to listen & follow God**  
**Share how you can listen to God this week**

God talked to Samuel and told him things that were going to happen. Samuel trusted God and listened to His voice. People everywhere knew that Samuel loved God and God spoke to people through Samuel.

God calls us too. He doesn't use a loudspeaker or a telephone. It is a heart feeling that tells us to trust Him and ask Jesus to come into our lives. We have a choice to say what Samuel said, "I am here, God. I am listening." We can listen and obey God too.

What do we do to trust Jesus? We must see that we have done wrong and tell Him about it. We must believe that Jesus died and came back to life so that we can live. We must ask Jesus into our lives. Then we must start doing what God wants us to do—like reading our Bibles, praying, inviting people to church, and doing what is right. If you want to know more, ask a worker.

**Learning Activities**

Today is a great day to teach lots of lessons on listening to God and trusting Jesus. Make sure they ALL learn something.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Play the telephone game. Whisper the verse to the first person and they must whisper it to the next person. Then, that person share it with the next person etc. until it gets to the last person who must share out loud what the verse is. Hopefully, it will be correct.

**Prayer Time**

Thank God for listening to us. Ask God to help us listen to Him this week.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Share snacks together. Maybe tell the kids ahead of time that the most quiet children (or the one who listens most attentively) will get to have snacks first!

Planning for Lesson 43  
Saul makes mistakes  
1 Samuel 13 and 15

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Samuel Listens

Last week we learned how God blessed Hannah and gave her a child. She promised that he would stay at the church when he got older. Hannah's baby was named Samuel. Samuel grew and Hannah kept her promise by sending Samuel to live at the church. He lived with the preacher named Eli.

Samuel helped Eli in the church. One night Samuel heard someone calling his name. (Whisper the name "Samuel") He thought it was Eli. He jumped up out of bed and ran to see what Eli wanted. Eli told him that he didn't call him.

Again Samuel heard someone calling his name. (Whisper the name "Samuel") He ran to see what Eli wanted. Eli told him that he hadn't called him.

A third time Samuel heard the voice and went to Eli. (Whisper the name "Samuel") Eli had not called. Suddenly, Eli realized that GOD was calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to listen again for the voice. When he heard it, he must say, "I am here, God. I am listening."

Sure enough, the voice called (Whisper the name "Samuel") and Samuel told God, "I am here, God. I am listening."

God talked to Samuel and told him things that were going to happen.

Samuel trusted God and listened to His voice. People everywhere knew that Samuel loved God and God spoke to people through Samuel.

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Samuel Listens

Make BIG ears (use the pattern in the packet). Talk about how we must LISTEN to God and obey Him!

Bring a cassette tape recorder with different sounds taped on a tape. See if the kids can identify the sounds (ex: water, dog barking, car horn, birds, phone, coke machine dispensing a coke etc.) Explain that Samuel listened to God's voice. Ask them how they can listen to God.

Decorate a prayer pocket.

Play a fun game. Ask the children to list words for the story (Hannah, Samuel, Church, Sleeping, Bed, God, etc.) Ask one person to be "Eli." That person will silently choose one name and lay down on a little mat (or blanket etc.) The other children will line up and take turns running to Eli and trying to decide which name Eli picked. They will say, "Eli, Eli, is it (\_\_\_\_)? If they are right, they trade places and become Eli. If not, they run back and the next person tries to guess the answer. (courtesy of Gospel Light)

Play Simon Says. The kids really have to listen to see whether to stand still or obey the request. Talk about how we should listen to God and obey Him.

For older kids: We did not talk much about what God told Samuel. God told him that the preacher Eli and his sons would be punished because his sons were disobedient. They continued to do wicked things even when God had told Eli to discipline them. In our life, God may not punish us like He did the sons, but we will have consequences when we do not obey God. God wants us to listen to Him and obey.

Teachers, some children may wonder how Hannah could give her son away. It is hard to understand, but remember that she knew God would take care of him. She also visited him often and prayed for him. If you have children in your group that are adopted or who live with relatives, please reassure them of how much God loves them as well as their family of origin.

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