

Bible Story 16: SAMUEL HEARING GOD CALLING

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-28; 2:11,18-21; 3:1-10,19-20

MEMORY VERSE: "THE LORD CAME AND STOOD THERE, CALLING AS THE OTHER TIMES, 'SAMUEL! SAMUEL!' THEN SAMUEL SAID, 'SPEAK, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING.'" 1 SAMUEL 3:10 **NIV**

BIBLE STORY:

NARRATOR: During the time of the last judge in Israel, there was a woman called Hannah who did not have any children. Every year she and her husband Elkanah left their town and went to worship and offer sacrifices to God at the Tabernacle in Shiloh. This year Hannah was very sad over not having any children. In the Tabernacle she cried out and prayed to God, saying:

HANNAH: "O Lord, if you will give me a son, I promise I will give him back to you to serve you all his life."

NARRATOR: Now sitting just inside the temple was the priest Eli, the religious leader. He watched Hannah, and, after talking with her and seeing her sadness, he said,

ELI: "Return home in peace. May God give you what you have asked."

NARRATOR: God responded to Hannah's prayer. Later she gave birth to a son and called him Samuel. Hannah and Elkanah dedicated him to God. When he was old enough, they took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh, where he was to stay and serve God. Every day Samuel helped the priest Eli and was like a son to him. Each year Samuel's mother came, bringing him a new robe to wear.

Time passed. Now Eli was old and almost blind. One evening, Eli was lying down in his normal place. Samuel was lying down near the Ark of the Covenant, where the Ten Commandments were kept in the Tabernacle. The lamp was still lit. Suddenly the Lord called out:

VOICE (GOD): "Samuel, Samuel!"

NARRATOR: Samuel quickly went to Eli and said,

SAMUEL: "Sir, did you call me? Here I am."

ELI: "No, I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

NARRATOR: Samuel returned to his bed. For the second time the Lord called out:

VOICE (GOD): "Samuel, Samuel!"

NARRATOR: Once again Samuel got up and went to Eli, saying:

SAMUEL: "Sir, did you call me? Here I am again."

ELI: "Son, I did not call you. Return to your bed."

NARRATOR: Now for the third time the Lord called out:

VOZ (DEUS): "Samuel, Samuel!"

NARRATOR: Once again Samuel got up and went to Eli, saying:

SAMUEL: "Sir, did you call me? Here I am."

NARRATOR: Finally Eli understood that it was God calling Samuel. Eli said,

ELI: "Samuel, it is the voice of God calling you. Return to your bed and, when the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, my Lord, for your servant listens.'" "

NARRATOR: Samuel returned to his bed. For the fourth time, God called out:

VOICE (GOD): "Samuel, Samuel!"

NARRATOR: This time Samuel stayed in his bed and said,

SAMUEL: "Speak, my Lord, for your servant listens."

NARRATOR: God had special plans for Samuel's life. He became a priest and prophet of God, respected by all the people in Israel.

LIFE-LESSONS:

1. When Samuel was small, he began to serve God. No matter what your age is, seek ways to serve God.
2. Samuel liked the church and helped Eli in the Tabernacle. Follow Samuel's example. Go to church and participate in the services, singing, reading the Bible and praying. Help take care of your church. How? (Examples: bringing flowers, picking up paper other people have thrown on the floor, straightening the hymnals in the racks..)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Hannah sad? What was a Tabernacle? What did Hannah do when she went to the Tabernacle? What did Eli say? Who was born?
2. When was Samuel taken to live in the Tabernacle? What did he do in the Tabernacle?
3. What are some ways you can worship and help in your church?
4. About how old was Samuel when God called him (an adult, youth, preteen, child or preschooler)?
5. Does it matter how old a person is when God calls him/her? Why?
6. How many times did God call Samuel during the night? Was Samuel listening? What did Samuel do the first three times? What happened on the fourth call?
7. How does God talk to people today? Should we listen? Why?
8. Do you think God has a special plan for each person's life? How can you discover God's plan for your life?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Show pictures of different types of churches and talk about each one.
- Ask: *"Tell me about your church. Where is it located? What color is it? Describe the windows. Who works in your church? When do you go to church? How do you get to church? How do you worship in your church?"*
- If possible, show a picture of a Tabernacle and describe it. Remind the group that the Tabernacle was the church where people went to worship God during the time of this Bible story.
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story about Samuel in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

onto flannel or sandpaper. But place sandpaper figures onto flannel and not sandpaper.

MAGNET FIGURES:

1. Glue magnets behind all the figures, but not on the heads.
2. Magnets will stick to most metal objects, such as a refrigerator, metal cabinet and even some cans. Tell the story. *If you use your refrigerator, afterwards open up the refrigerator and serve a snack!*
Suggestion: Invite friends to come and watch the play.

VISIT A CHURCH:

- Option 1: Visit your church. Talk with different people who help in your church and let them tell your group what they do. (Examples: pastor, music director, secretary, janitor, person who takes care of the grounds outside, etc.)
- Option 2: Invite different people to come to your group and share what they do in the church.
- Option 3: Send or give cards, cookies or a small gift in appreciation to those who help in the church.

RETELL THE STORY:

DRAMA:

1. Let different ones dress up in costume (robes, towels, etc.) and act out the Bible story.
2. Let the group use puppets, flannel graph figures or magnet figures while telling the Bible story.

PUPPETS:

1. Draw and decorate Bible figures, gluing each one onto an ice cream stick.
2. Hide behind a table, box, piano or sheet, and then tell the Bible story, using these puppets.

FLANNEL GRAPH FIGURES:

1. Glue flannel or sand paper behind the figures.
2. While telling the story, place flannel figures

GAME: "PASS THE ORANGE/BALL/SMALL OBJECT"

- Divide into two equal groups, forming parallel lines. Give the first person in each line an orange. That individual must pass it to the person behind him/her until it reaches the end of the line.

 1. Standing or sitting, pass the orange using only their hands.
 2. Sitting, pass the orange using only their feet.
 3. Standing, pass the orange using only their necks.
 4. Standing, pass the orange using only their elbows.

DAILY BIBLE READING - 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11,18-21; 3:1-10,19-20

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
1 Samuel 1:1-8	1 Samuel 1:9-18	1 Samuel 1:19-28; 2:11	1 Samuel 2:18-21	1 Samuel 3:1-6	1 Samuel 3:7-10	1 Samuel 3:19-20