

Bible Story 16: SAMUEL HEARING GOD CALLING

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

MEMORY VERSE: "THEN SAMUEL SAID, "SPEAK, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING." 1 SAMUEL 3:10B NIV

BIBLE STORY:

A mother called Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to God. The child went to live in the Tabernacle. Every day he helped Eli, the religious leader. Eli was getting old and almost blind. One night Eli was lying down in his normal place. Samuel was lying down elsewhere when he heard a voice calling his name:

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:

VOICE (GOD): "*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, o God, 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, God, 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.