

DEVOTION: “SPEAK, LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING”

BIBLE STORY: “God Calls Samuel”

BIBLE TEXT: 1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20

INSTRUCTIONS:

(optional)

Say, “As I tell the story, I want you to help me.

- Whenever I hold my hands up to my mouth, I want you to say with me, **‘Samuel, Samuel!’**
- Whenever I use movement with my hands, like walking, do it with me.”

BACKGROUND:

(Context)

In Israel, there was a woman called Hannah who did not have any children. She prayed for many years to have a child. Finally the Lord blessed her with a child. She called him Samuel.

Hannah and her husband dedicated their son Samuel to the Lord. When he was very young, Hannah and her husband took Samuel to the Tabernacle in Shiloh, where he was to grow up and help the priest Eli.

The Tabernacle was a place where the people worshiped God. It was a tent. The Tabernacle could be moved whenever God led His people to move from one place to another place.

Inside the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant, where the Ten Commandments were kept. Also, inside the Tabernacle was the golden Lampstand. The lamp was to stay lit from sundown in the evening to sunrise in the morning. The priest was to make sure the oil never ran out, so that the light would not go out during the night.

BIBLE STORY:

Several years have passed. The priest Eli was getting old. He could barely see. One night the priest Eli was lying in his usual place.

Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle, probably helping Eli by making sure the lamp remained lit during the night.

The Lord called out, **“Samuel, Samuel!”** (Put your hand to your mouth when you call.)

Samuel ran to the priest Eli. (Pat your hands quickly on your legs, like running.) Samuel said, **“Sir, did you call me? Here I am.”**

Eli replied, **“No, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.”**

Samuel went back to bed. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.)

A second time the Lord called out, **“Samuel, Samuel!”** (Put your hand to your mouth when you call.)

Samuel went to the priest Eli. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.) Samuel said, **“Sir, did you call me? Here I am.”**

Eli replied, **“No, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.”**

Samuel went back to bed. (Pat your hands quickly on your legs, like walking.)

A third time the Lord called out, ***“Samuel, Samuel!”*** (Put your hand to your mouth when you call.)

Samuel went to the priest Eli. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.) Samuel said, ***“Sir, did you call me? Here I am.”***

By this time, the priest Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. So Eli said, ***“Samuel, it is the voice of God calling you. Go back to your bed. If the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’ ”***

Samuel went back to bed. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.)

A fourth time the Lord called out, ***“Samuel, Samuel!”*** (Put your hand to your mouth when you call.)

This time Samuel stayed in his bed and said, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***

God spoke to Samuel giving him a special message. God had special plans for Samuel’s life. Samuel became a great servant of God. He became a priest and prophet of God, respected by all the people in Israel.

END WITH A DEVOTIONAL EMPHASIS:

- Whenever we are reading our Bible, let each of us say like Samuel, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
Say it with me, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
- Whenever we are praying, let each of us say, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
- Whenever we are doing our activities during the day, let each of us stop and say, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
- Whenever we wake up during the night, let each of us say, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***

Amen.

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