

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 73: SAMUEL IS CALLED
I SAMUEL 3:1-20

Samuel served the LORD by helping Eli the priest, who was by that time almost blind. In those days, the LORD hardly ever spoke directly to people, and he did not appear to them in dreams very often. But one night, Eli was asleep in his room, and Samuel was sleeping on a mat near the sacred chest in the LORD's house. They had not been asleep very long when the LORD called out Samuel's name. "Here I am!" Samuel answered. Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. What do you want?" "I didn't call you," Eli answered. "Go back to bed." Samuel went back. Again the LORD called out Samuel's name. Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you want?" Eli told him, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to sleep." The LORD had not spoken to Samuel before, and Samuel did not recognize the voice. When the LORD called out his name for the third time, Samuel went to Eli again and said, "Here I am. What do you want?" Eli finally realized that it was the LORD who was speaking to Samuel. So he said, "Go back and lie down! If someone speaks to you again, answer, 'I'm listening, LORD. What do you want me to do?'" Once again Samuel went back and lay down. The LORD then stood beside Samuel and called out as he had done before, "Samuel! Samuel!" "Speak LORD, for your servant is listening," Samuel answered. "What do you want me to do?" The LORD said: Samuel, I am going to do something in Israel that will shock everyone who hears about it so much their ears will tingle! I will punish Eli and his family, just as I promised. He knew that his sons refused to respect me, and he let them get away with it, even though I said I would punish his family forever. I warned Eli that sacrifices or offerings could never make things right! His family has done too many disgusting things. The next morning, Samuel got up and opened the doors to the LORD's house. He was afraid to tell Eli what the LORD had said. But Eli told him, "Samuel, my boy, come here!" "Here I am," Samuel answered. Eli said, "What did God say to you? Tell me everything. I pray that God will punish you terribly if you don't tell me every word he said!" Samuel told Eli everything. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD, and he will do what's right." As Samuel grew up, the LORD helped him and made everything Samuel said come true. From the town of Dan in the north to the town of Beersheba in the south, everyone in the country knew that Samuel was truly the LORD's prophet.

73. SAMUEL IS CALLED

(1 SAMUEL 3:1-20)



"So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words
fall to the ground."
1 SAMUEL 3:19

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MEMORY VERSE:

"So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground." 1 SAMUEL 3:19

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Samuel served the LORD by helping Eli the priest. TRUE or FALSE
2. The LORD called Samuel, and Samuel answered, "Where am I?"
TRUE or FALSE
3. When the LORD called Samuel, he went to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." TRUE or FALSE
4. The LORD did not call Samuel again. TRUE or FALSE
5. When the LORD called Samuel the third time, he went to Eli, and Eli finally realized it was the LORD who was speaking to Samuel.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What did Samuel say to the LORD when he knew it was really the LORD speaking to him? Did he tell him he was listening?
2. What did the LORD tell Samuel He was going to do? Was it something shocking?
3. Did the LORD tell Samuel He was going to punish Eli and his family?
4. Did Samuel want to tell Eli what the LORD had said to him?
5. Did he tell Eli anyway? What did Eli say? Did he say it wasn't fair? Or did he say that the LORD was right?
6. Did everything Samuel said come true? Did the people know he was truly a prophet of the LORD?

Lesson 73

HEARING, LISTENING, AND OBEYING

Even though Samuel was just a child, God talked to him and gave him an important message for Eli.

Has God ever talked to you? He can. Just make sure all of you - your ears, and your whole body - is ready to listen.

PRAYER: *Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. Amen.*

SUPERSIZE IT: Hearing God

Below is a list of some ways God might speak to people. Can you think of more?

- in Bible words
- through the words of a song
- while enjoying nature
- during prayer
- through your conscience (you feel bad when you do something wrong or good when you do something right)
- in a silent voice in your thoughts
- in an out-loud voice
- through other people

Has God ever spoken to you in any of these ways? Tell about it.

Lesson 73

HEARING, LISTENING, AND OBEYING

Play this listening game with the children. Ask them to stay in their chairs with their heads down (like playing heads up, 7-up, but without their thumbs sticking up) until they hear you calling their name, then tell them to come and find you as soon as they hear your voice calling their name. Walk around the room silently so you are in a different spot as you call each child's name twice. (i.e. - Hannah! Hannah!)

When they get to you say some 'message' in their ear for them to tell the classroom (like "Jesus loves you all", or "God is good - all the time", or "Jesus will never leave you alone", or "Obeying God is better than sacrificing"). Then tell them to say your message to the class.

After they tell the class their message, say to them: "You were listening for me to call you, you heard me and you obeyed me when you came straight away and said the message I gave you to the class."

Remind them of the story of how Samuel ran to Eli, his master, even though it was the early hours of the morning, when he heard his name being called, and how Samuel obeyed the LORD when He gave Samuel a message.

Discuss with them the importance of obeying the LORD whenever He "speaks" to them.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that the Lord has a special plan for their lives. May we be quick to listen and quick to obey. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.