



God Speaks to Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

First- and second-graders may get a little confused when you talk to them about hearing God. Since they are concrete thinkers and trust what you say, they may leave this lesson expecting to hear an audible voice. It's important to communicate to your kids that God seldom speaks audibly to his children. Help them understand that God speaks to them through their parents, through other Christians, through their own consciences and impressions, and most important, through the Bible.



► Bible Point


God wants us to listen and follow when he directs us.

Key Verse

“Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will listen and follow when God directs them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Responsive Racing <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn what it means to respond by playing a racing game in which they respond to “flags.”	Bible; green, red, and yellow construction paper	
2 Bible Exploration	Who Called? <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Hear the story of God calling Samuel, and play a game of guessing who called their names.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline, “Samuel Hears God’s Voice” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God Says <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a version of Simon Says to practice responding to God.		
	I Will Answer <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make phones to remind them to listen to God.	CD player, My Bible Fun, 1 cardboard tube per child, scissors, glue, 1 chenille wire per child, markers Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Responsive Racing Supplies

Bible
green, red, and yellow
construction paper

1 GETTING STARTED

Responsive Racing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Hello, everyone!**

Pause for children to respond. If they don't, repeat the greeting until they do.

Ask:

- **Can anyone tell me what it means to respond?**

Say: **To respond means to react to something, doesn't it? When I say "hello," you react, or respond, by saying "hello" back to me. When someone tells a funny joke, we respond by laughing. If we bump the funny bone in our elbows, we might respond by rubbing our elbows. We're going to start today with a game about responding. In this game, you're all going to be race-car drivers.**

Have students line up in single file and place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Point out an invisible loop in the room that children can follow around as a racetrack. Explain that children will keep their hands on each other's shoulders as they walk in single file around the "track."

Hold up a green piece of construction paper, and explain that when the green "flag" is waving, kids can move quickly around the racetrack. Hold up a yellow piece of construction paper, and explain that when the yellow flag is waving, everyone must move in slow motion. Then hold up a red piece of construction paper. Explain that when the red flag is waving, they must stop, and the last "driver" in line will skip up to the front of the line and lead the race.

Say: **On your mark! Get set! Go!**

Wave the green flag, and continue waving it for a few laps. Then wave the yellow flag for a few seconds. Remind children to move in slow motion. Alternate flags a few times, and then hold up the red flag so that a new person can lead the race. Continue switching flags, and allow every child a chance to lead the race. End the race, and lead children in giving high fives to one another.

Ask the children to sit down as a group for a discussion.





Ask:

- What did you respond to during the race?
- How was responding to the flags like responding when a parent, teacher, or friend directs you?
- How should we respond when God directs us?

Say: Today we're going to hear about a boy who learned how to respond to God. Our Key Verse from the Bible tells us what we can say to respond to God.

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 3:10, and show the verse to the children.

Say: First Samuel 3:10 says, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Ask children to repeat the Key Verse with you a few times.

Say: This Key Verse comes right from our Bible story. In fact, the boy in our story actually says the Key Verse! Let's find out more about the boy who responded to God by saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Who Called?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the Bible Timeline. Then say: **The Bible tells us what a boy named Samuel learned about responding to God. Samuel lived in the temple, which was sort of like a church, and worked for an old priest named Eli. Samuel's room was near Eli's room so that Samuel could hear Eli if he called during the night. Let's pretend you're all Samuels, sleeping in your room in the temple. Over there is Eli's room. Designate a corner of the room to be Eli's bedroom. I'll play the story on the CD, and you can follow the directions you hear.**

Have kids lie down on the floor and pretend to sleep. Play "God Calls Samuel" (track 6 on the CD), leading kids in following the directions they hear from Samuel.

When the segment is finished, have children sit with you on the floor.

Say: **Eli told Samuel to respond to God by saying these words from 1 Samuel 3:10: "Speak, for your servant is listening."** Have children repeat the Key Verse. **After Samuel responded with these words, God talked to Samuel about his plans. The Bible says God was with Samuel and called him many times throughout his life.**

Ask:

- Why do you think Samuel didn't recognize God's voice at first?
- How does God talk to us today?
- What did Samuel learn about responding to God?



Who Called? Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "God Calls Samuel" (track 6)
- Bible Timeline
- "Samuel Hears God's Voice" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Say: **Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW WHEN HE DIRECTS US. Remember, our Key Verse tells us what Samuel’s response was when God called him: “Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10).**

Let’s play a game to show us how Samuel might’ve felt that night when God first called him.

Instruct children to sit in a circle, and then explain the game. Say that you’ll choose a volunteer, who will stand facing a corner and hide his or her eyes. Once the volunteer’s eyes are closed, you’ll choose one student to be the caller. When the volunteer turns around to face the group, the caller will say the volunteer’s name and the volunteer must respond with “Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10). The volunteer is to try to figure out who called his or her name.

The catch is, children must all mouth the volunteer’s name at the same time to throw him or her off. The caller will say the volunteer’s name three times. Make sure you help the children synchronize their moving mouths all three times. If the volunteer guesses correctly, the caller will become the new volunteer. If the volunteer cannot identify the caller, the caller may reveal himself or herself. Then select a new volunteer.

Begin the game by choosing a volunteer and having him or her face a corner with eyes closed. If time allows, give everyone a chance to be the volunteer. Then have kids form pairs to answer the following questions. After each question, invite partners to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like having to guess who was calling your name?**
- **How did you respond when you figured out who the caller was?**
- **How was the way Samuel responded to the voice he heard like the way you responded to the caller?**
- **How should we respond when God directs us?**

Say: **Remember, our Key Verse tells us what Samuel’s response was when God called him: “Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10). Samuel had to learn who was directing him, and he had to learn a good way to respond. Once he learned, Samuel became a great prophet. That means that Samuel listened to God and told the people what God said. Let’s find out how we can learn to respond to God every day!**





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God Says

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's play a game to remind us to respond to God. This game is like Simon Says, but it's called God Says instead.**

Choose one person to be the director. The director should stand in front of the group and give directions beginning with the words "God says." For example, the director could say, "God says to put your hand over your heart." Children should respond by saying, "I will respond to God," while following the action. However, if the director does not begin a direction with the words "God says," children should respond by doing nothing.

Choose a new director after every three or four directions so each child has a chance to direct. Don't have children sit out—even if they follow the directions incorrectly. When everyone has had a chance to be the director, gather the children.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you know when to respond to the directions in this game?
- How is that like listening for God's direction in real life?

Say: **Just as you listened for the words "God says" in our game, you can listen for God's voice and direction in real life. You can read your Bible, listen to your parents, and pray. God wants us to follow his directions because he always knows what's best for us. Let's make something that will help us remember to listen to God's direction.**

I Will Answer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn to the "I Will Answer" section of their My Bible Fun pages. Give each child one empty cardboard tube, a chenille wire, scissors, and glue. Instruct children to cut the phone faces from their My Bible Fun pages and set them aside. Then have



I Will Answer Supplies

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- CD player
 - My Bible Fun
 - 1 cardboard tube per child
 - scissors
 - glue
 - 1 chenille wire per child
 - markers
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 4)

I Will Answer Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





children glue the phone faces on the tubes. Let children use markers to decorate the rest of their phones. Finally, show kids how to fold their chenille wires in half and twist them together from top to bottom. Help children glue their chenille wires into the tops of the tubes to create antennas for the cordless phones. As children work, play “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 4 on the CD).

When children have finished, gather everyone in a circle with the phones they made.

Ask:

- How do people respond when a phone rings?

Say: **People usually answer their phones right away.**

Ask:

- How can this phone be a reminder of how we should respond to God?

Say: **We should respond to God as Samuel did—right away! ► GOD WANTS US TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW WHEN HE DIRECTS US.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW WHEN HE DIRECTS US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Play a game of Follow the Leader with your friends. When you're finished playing, tell your friends that God wants us to listen and follow when he directs us.**
- **Every morning before you get out of bed, ask God to lead you that day—and then follow when he directs you!**
- **Have a sleepover at your house, and teach your friends the Key Verse.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun





Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Let’s remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW WHEN HE DIRECTS US** as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God wants us to listen and follow when he directs us. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Encourage children to take home their phones as reminders of how they can respond to God.

Pray: **Dear God, speak to us, for we are your servants, and we will listen. Thank you for giving us your direction. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



