




God Speaks to Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

When a baby recognizes the sound of her mother's voice, a toddler looks up at the mention of his name, or a 2-year-old responds to an "I love you," it is evidence of the child's language development. Young children learn to respond first to the sound of a parent's voice, then to tones of voice, and finally to the content of the message. Listening to God requires not the ability to process sound but rather an awareness of how God speaks through his Word and the works of people.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Wiggly Ears Hear the story of Samuel, and discover their ears.	scissors Teacher Pack: "Samuel" teaching picture 	Cut the "Samuel" teaching picture as indicated, and insert the ears through the slits. Bring the strips on the ears together behind the picture so that you can move both ears with one hand.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Here I Am Play Hide-and-Seek with the teacher, and hear about Samuel talking to God.		
	Get Up, Samuel Experience a rhyme to act out the story of Samuel.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

Listen to God.

Key Verse


"Put your hope in God"
(Psalm 42:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will begin to learn that they can listen to God.




TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Slumber Party Hear the story of Samuel while lying down like Samuel.	several pillows and blankets, scissors Teacher Pack: “Samuel” teaching picture 	Cut the “Samuel” teaching picture as indicated, and insert the ears through the slits. Bring the strips on the ears together behind the picture so that you can move both ears with one hand. Spread blankets and pillows on the floor.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	I’m All Ears Play a listening game.	3 or 4 cardboard tubes of varying lengths, scissors	Collect cardboard tubes of different lengths, such as a paper-towel tube cut in two, a full-size tube, and a wrapping-paper tube.
	Big Ears Make ears to wear and look at.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Big Ears” page (at the end of the lesson), 3 chenille wires per child, scissors, tape, mirror	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book, and cut out a pair of ears for each child from the handouts. Twist three chenille wires end to end, making one long wire per child, and roll each end of the long wire into a flat spiral.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Night Noises Hear the story of Samuel and some of the sounds Samuel may have heard.	Bible, CD player, several blankets and pillows, 1 felt square, glue, scissors, tape Teacher Pack: CD, "Samuel Hears God's Voice" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Remove the "Samuel Hears God's Voice" poster from the Big Bible Poster Pack, and cut off and discard the margin pictures of praying Samuel and the footprints. Cut a small piece of felt (or other soft fabric) the size of Eli's blanket, and glue it over his blanket on the poster. Hang the poster on a wall in your meeting area, and spread blankets and pillows on the floor opposite the poster.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Verse Rehearse Play a listening game to learn how Samuel answered God.	several blankets	
	Listening Ears Add ears to a face to learn that children can listen to God.	1 paper plate per child, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Big Ears" page (at the end of the lesson), scissors, crayons, tape	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book, and cut out a pair of ears for each child from the handouts.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Speaks to Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Samuel Thinks Eli Calls Him in the Night

Both Samuel and Eli had gone to bed for the night when God called out to Samuel. Perhaps Samuel was accustomed to calls for assistance from Eli, who was losing his eyesight (1 Samuel 3:2). At first, Eli might well have thought Samuel had been dreaming when he heard a voice calling his name. First Samuel 3:7 explains that Samuel “did not yet know the Lord.” This doesn’t mean that Samuel didn’t understand who the Lord is or hadn’t really been serving him; he simply had never before received a direct revelation from God. So it is not surprising that the boy continued to return to Eli when he was called.

When Eli realized that Samuel was hearing a call from God, he didn't get up, go with Samuel, and hear what God had to say. He knew that whatever God wanted to say to Samuel was between God and the boy. The prophecy Samuel received echoed the words of a prophecy Eli had received from a "man of God" earlier. Because Eli's sons had dishonored God in their priestly duties, that prophecy predicted the death of Eli's sons and their replacement by a priest who would be faithful to God (1 Samuel 2:27-36).

Samuel Shares God's Difficult Message With Eli

The prophecy given to Samuel made it clear that Eli had not raised his sons properly and that Eli would be punished. As difficult as it must have been for Samuel to pronounce judgment upon the priest he served, Samuel faithfully reported to Eli what God had said.

From 1 Samuel 3:19-21 it is clear that this was the first of many times God spoke to Samuel. Samuel grew up listening to God. The phrase “from Dan to Beersheba” (1 Samuel 3:20) was used to describe the entire Promised Land. Samuel became God’s mouthpiece to the nation of Israel. He listened when

God appeared to him, and “Samuel’s word came to all Israel” (1 Samuel 3:21).

The Jesus Connection

In our relationship with Jesus, God sometimes speaks to us through the Bible or God's people. When he does, he wants us to listen and obey.

What does it mean to really listen to God? What might God be guiding you to do? Pray that your ears will be open to hear God speaking to you. You can write your prayer here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



INFANT

1

GETTING
STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing or listen to "Great Hope" (track 5) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. During the song, help baby clap hands to the words "in the Lord." Raise baby's arms overhead when singing "Praise God."



**I've got great hope in the Lord,
In the Lord, in the Lord.
I've got great hope in the Lord,
Praise God, praise God, praise God!**
(Repeat 2x.)

Sing or listen to "Hushaby" (not on CD) to the tune of Brahms' "Lullaby" anytime during the lesson. Sing it to calm a fussy baby or to rock one to sleep.



Hushaby and good night, (lay head on folded hands)
God called Samuel in the night. (Cup hands to mouth.)
Samuel woke and spoke with God, (stretch arms wide)
Happy God had called his name. (Place hands on ears.)

2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Wiggly Ears

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the teaching picture to a baby.

Say: **This is Samuel. One night when Samuel was sleeping, God talked to him. Samuel listened with his ears.** Wiggle the ears on the teaching picture. **You have ears, too.** Touch the baby's hands to his or her ears. **You can ► LISTEN TO GOD, too.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Great Hope"
(track 5)

Wiggly Ears
Supplies

scissors

Teacher Pack

"Samuel" teaching
picture

Wiggly Ears
Easy Prep

Cut the "Samuel" teaching picture as indicated, and insert the ears through the slits. Bring the strips on the ears together behind the picture so that you can move both ears with one hand.



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Here I Am

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold an infant on your lap so he or she is looking up at you.

Say: **There was a boy named Samuel whom God called.** Cover the baby's eyes with his or her hands. **Samuel? Samuel?** Pull baby's hands away from his or her face while you say: **Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. You can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

Repeat the game using the baby's name instead of Samuel's.

Get Up, Samuel

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Do this action rhyme with a baby:

Say: **Samuel went to sleep.** (*Lay baby on his or her back.*)

He thought he heard his name. (*Touch baby's ears.*)

He ran to the room from where the voice came. (*Pedal baby's feet as if running.*)

Eli said, "No," (*shake head "no"*)

It was God who called your name. (*Touch baby's mouth.*)

Listen and obey God, child!" (*Touch baby's hands to his or her ears.*)

And [baby's name] can do the same. (*Gently tickle baby's tummy.*)

► LISTEN TO GOD.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



**TODDLER****1****GETTING
STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Great Hope" (track 5) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. During the song, march in place. Jump up and down on the words "Praise God, praise God, praise God."

♪ I've got great hope in the Lord,
In the Lord, in the Lord.
I've got great hope in the Lord,
Praise God, praise God, praise God!
(Repeat 2x.)

Sing "Hushaby" (not on CD) to the tune of Brahms' "Lullaby" anytime during the lesson.

♪ Hushaby and good night, *(lay head on folded hands)*
God called Samuel in the night. *(Cup hands to mouth.)*
Samuel woke and spoke with God, *(stretch arms wide)*
Happy God had called his name. *(Place hands on ears.)*

2**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Slumber Party

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Rest on the blankets with one or two toddlers.

Say: **God tried to talk to grown-ups, but the grown-ups wouldn't listen.** Put your hands over your ears. **Then God spoke to the boy Samuel while he was sleeping. God called, "Samuel, Samuel!"** Hold up the teaching picture, and wiggle Samuel's ears. **Can you call Samuel's name?** Encourage the toddlers to call out to Samuel. Whenever a child says "Samuel," wiggle the ears on the teaching picture.

Samuel used his ears to listen to God. God told Samuel he was special. Whisper into each toddler's ear: **You are special, too.** Then say aloud: **You can ► LISTEN TO GOD, just as Samuel did.**

**Sing and Celebrate
Supplies**

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Great Hope"
(track 5)

**Slumber Party
Supplies**

several pillows and
blankets
scissors

Teacher Pack

"Samuel" teaching
picture

**Slumber Party
Easy Prep**

Cut the "Samuel" teaching picture as indicated, and insert the ears through the slits. Bring the strips on the ears together behind the picture so that you can move both ears with one hand. Spread blankets and pillows on the floor.



I'm All Ears Supplies

3 or 4 cardboard tubes
of varying lengths
scissors

I'm All Ears Easy Prep

Collect cardboard tubes
of different lengths,
such as a paper-towel
tube cut in two, a
full-size tube, and a
wrapping-paper tube.

Big Ears Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
"Big Ears" page (at the
end of the lesson)
3 chenille wires per
child
scissors
tape
mirror

Big Ears Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book, and cut out a pair
of ears for each child
from the handouts.
Twist three chenille
wires end to end,
making one long wire
per child, and roll each
end of the long wire into
a flat spiral.

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

I'm All Ears

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Starting with the shortest tube, hold the tube to a toddler's ear and softly speak a short message such as "You can listen to God." Let the toddler take a turn speaking through the tube next to your ear as well. Be prepared for children who will speak loudly through the tube into your ear. Continue using the different sizes of tubes, varying the volume of your voice.

Say: **God speaks to us. We need to ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

Big Ears

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with one toddler at a time.

Say: **Samuel used his ears to listen to God. Let's make listening ears for you!** Help the child tape a chenille spiral to each ear cutout. Then bend the wire, and adjust it over the child's head so that the paper ears cover his or her own. Let the child look in a mirror.

You can use your ears to listen to Mommy. You can use your ears to listen to me. You can use your ears to listen to Daddy, and you can use your ears to ► LISTEN TO GOD.





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sing “Great Hope” (track 5) to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” anytime during the lesson. Play the song on the CD. Have children clap on the words “in the Lord.” Encourage them to raise their arms over their heads on the words “Praise God, praise God, praise God.”

♪ I’ve got great hope in the Lord,
In the Lord, in the Lord.
I’ve got great hope in the Lord,
Praise God, praise God, praise God!
(Repeat 2x.)

Sing “Hushaby” (not on CD) to the tune of Brahms’ “Lullaby” anytime during the lesson.

♪ Hushaby and good night, (lay head on folded hands)
God called Samuel in the night. (Cup hands to mouth.)
Samuel woke and spoke with God, (stretch arms wide)
Happy God had called his name. (Place hands on ears.)



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Growing With Jesus”
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “Great Hope”
(track 5)



Night Noises Supplies

Bible
CD player
several blankets and
pillows
1 felt square
glue
scissors
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Night Noises"
(track 8)
"Samuel Hears God's
Voice" poster (from the
Big Bible Poster Pack)

Night Noises Easy Prep

Remove the "Samuel Hears God's Voice" poster from the Big Bible Poster Pack, and cut off and discard the margin pictures of praying Samuel and the footprints. Cut a small piece of felt (or other soft fabric) the size of Eli's blanket, and glue it over his blanket on the poster. Hang the poster on a wall in your meeting area, and spread blankets and pillows on the floor opposite the poster.

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Night Noises

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place the CD player in the story area, and invite the twos to come and lie down on the blankets together. Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 3.

Say: **Our Bible story is about a boy named Samuel. Let's pretend to be sleepy Samuel, who lived in God's house. At night he might have heard many noises. Listen to these noises and tell me what you think they are.**

Play the "Night Noises" segment (track 8), and let the children guess what the noises are. Pause the CD after the first time Samuel's name is called.

Say: **Samuel thought his friend, Eli, had called his name. He got up and ran to Eli's room.** Walk across the room to where the "Samuel Hears God's Voice" poster is hanging, and ask the children to follow you to "Eli's room." Have the kids form a line in front of the poster.

Say: **I'll bet it was really dark and hard for Samuel to see Eli. Let's take turns closing our eyes and pretending it's really dark as we look for Eli.**

Help the first child in line close his or her eyes and feel on the poster for the flannel blanket covering Eli.

Say: **Find the soft blanket covering Eli. Good job—now wake him up. Eli! Eli!**

Give each child a turn looking for Eli in the dark.

Say: **But it wasn't Eli who called. Eli said, "Go back to bed!"** Have the children return to the blankets. Continue the track to the next time Samuel is called, and then pause the CD again. **Samuel was sure it was Eli this time.** Have the children follow you back to Eli's room. **But Eli didn't call Samuel. Eli told Samuel that God was talking to him. He told Samuel to go listen for God.** Have the children lie on the blankets again, and play the last segment of the track. **Samuel sat up and said, "Speak, God. I'm listening."**

Ask:

■ **Who is listening to me?**

Say: **I want to tell you something special.** Whisper into each child's ear: **God loves you.** Then say aloud: **God talked to Samuel and told him special things. You can listen to me, and you can ► LISTEN TO GOD, too.**



3

WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Verse Rehearse

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children lie down again on the spread-out blankets. Have the children listen for you to call their names. When you call each child's name, have him or her jump up and say, "Speak, Lord, I'm listening" and then return to a sleeping position. You may need to say the words with the child whose name is called. Repeat this process until every child has had a turn.

Say: **You're learning to listen as Samuel learned to listen. You can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

Listening Ears

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a paper plate, and encourage the children to draw faces on their plates with crayons. Give each child two ears.

Ask:

- **Where are your ears?**

Say: **Let's tape these ears in the right place on our paper-plate faces. We can remember that Samuel's ears were in the right place at the right time. Samuel listened to God. You can ► LISTEN TO GOD, too.**

Help the children tape the ears to the sides of the paper plates.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



Verse Rehearse Supplies

several blankets

Listening Ears Supplies

1 paper plate per child
My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
"Big Ears" page (at the
end of the lesson)
scissors
crayons
tape

Listening Ears Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book, and cut out a pair
of ears for each child
from the handouts.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
"Growing With Jesus"
page (at the end of the
lesson)



HOME
CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus



Way to Grow

Young children learn to respond first to the sound of a parent's voice, then to tones of voice, and finally to the content of a message. Spiritual awareness progresses in much the same way. First your child will learn from you what God is like, then he or she will form an impression of God's Word, and finally your child will understand the content of God's messages. Each step is crucial in the lifelong process of knowing God.

Your child learned to listen to God (from 1 Samuel 3:1-21). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Here I Am

Hold your infant on your lap so he or she is looking up at you.

Say: **There was a boy named Samuel whom God called.** Cover the baby's eyes with his or her hands. **Samuel? Samuel?** Pull baby's hands away from his or her face while you say: **Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. You can listen to God.**

TODDLER

I'm All Ears

Collect cardboard tubes of different lengths, such as a paper-towel tube cut in two, a full-size tube, and a wrapping-paper tube. Starting with the shortest tube, hold the tube up to your toddler's ear and softly speak a short message such as "You can listen to God." Let your toddler take a turn speaking through the tube next to your ear as well. Continue using the different sizes of tubes, varying the volume of your voice.

Say: **God speaks to us. We need to listen to God.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Verse Rehearse

Have your child lie down on a spread-out blanket on the floor and listen for you to call his or her name. Then have him or her jump up and say, "Speak, Lord, I'm listening" and then return to a sleeping position. Repeat a few times.

Say: **You're learning to listen as Samuel learned to listen. You can listen to God.**



Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

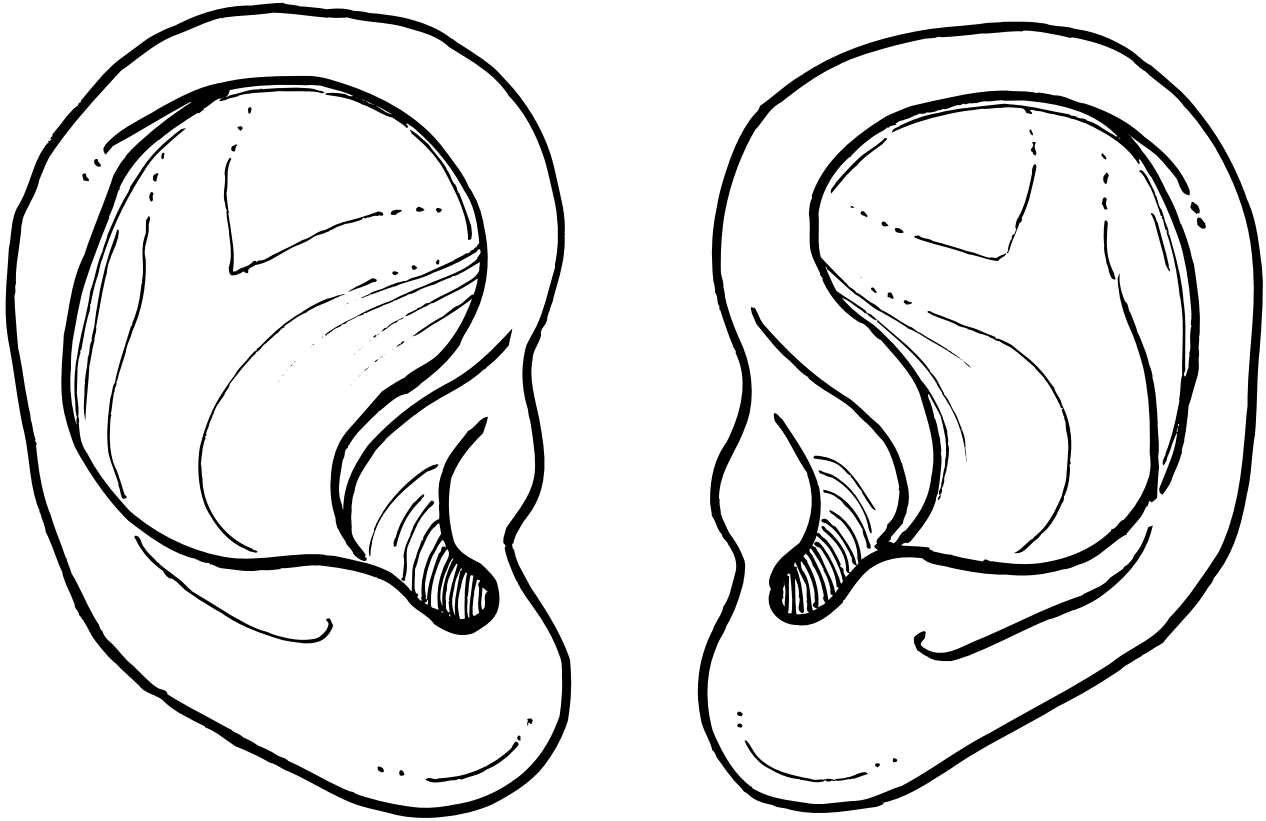
- Help your child record his or her voice on a digital recorder. Record a message yourself. Play the recordings back, and ask your child to identify who is speaking. Tell your child you hope that he or she listens to hear God's messages, too.
- Read a Bible story in a whisper. Remind your child that Bible stories help us hear God's voice.

OK
TO COPY





Big Ears



OK
TO COPY
Illustrated by Nancy Munger.

