

LESSON 10: GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 1 Samuel 3

11/03/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 1 Samuel 3
- In This Passage: Samuel is a young boy who lives in the Tabernacle. One night, he wakes up to someone calling his name. He thinks it's Eli, the priest, but it's not. The third time Samuel hears his name, Eli realizes it's God. Samuel listens to God's message and passes it along. God speaks, so we listen for him.
- Bible Point: God speaks...
- Application: ...so we listen for him.
- Summary Verse: "So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God speaks.* Kids have busier schedules than ever. Without a break in their activities, it can be hard for kids to have room to listen for God. Use this lesson to encourage kids to pause for at least a few minutes each day, allowing space for God to speak.
- Think About: Have you ever felt like God was speaking to you? How did you respond?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that your kids will hear God speaking to them.

Quick Tip

- Dig In has built in discussion that gives kids a chance to speak *and* listen! You'll often use "pair shares," where kids discuss with a partner. Having kids form pairs makes it easier for kids to share their thoughts and feelings. To help kids get started, designate who in each pair will begin. For example, you might say, "The person wearing the most blue can go first." Also, telling kids that each person will have a short, designated amount of time to talk will help take the pressure off and will keep your class on track. It's also helpful to announce a halfway point so everyone gets a chance to share.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers guess what sounds are, act out the story, and talk about ways God speaks to them.

Supplies

- Bible
- bedsheet or large towel
- bell
- bag of crunchy chips
- paper
- water in a container
- empty cup
- spare change
- opaque bag or box
- pillows (enough for all kids to use at the same time) (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the bell, open bag of crunchy chips, paper, water in a container, empty cup, and spare change in an opaque bag or box, and place the bedsheet or large towel over it.
- If you're using them, place the pillows at one end of your room.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers hear things God says to them and respond in prayer.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers listen to hear matching sounds.

Supplies

- disposable coffee cups with lids (set of 10 for every 10 kids)
- objects that make different sounds when shaken (5 different pairs of objects for every 10 kids)
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Choose simple objects from your supply closet, but be sure to select things that make different sounds. We used sprinkles, pennies, modeling dough, pony beads, and crayons. Put the objects in cups so each different object has a matching pair. For example, make 2 cups with the same amount of sprinkles, 2 cups with the same amount of crayons, and so on. Secure the lid tightly on each cup.
- Listen to each sound to make sure each different pair of cups sounds unique. You can add or remove items if needed, or combine items to create even more unique sounds. For example, add 5 pony beads and 2 crayons for one pair of cups.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers quietly move toward and then run away from “Samuel.”



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a listening game.

Supplies

- paper
- marker



CRAFT

Kids make ear trumpets.

Supplies

- paper plates (1 per child)
- markers or crayons
- decorating supplies such as stickers or foam shapes
- tape
- hole punch
- yarn cut into 2-foot lengths (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Tightly tape one end of each piece of yarn to make threading easier for preschoolers.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers show their goofiest faces to everyone around them.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers give the birthday child a fist bump with fireworks. (Make a fist, and when you bump your fist to another person's fist, open your hand and wiggle your fingers.)
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **The Bible says that God speaks. He talks to us in many different ways. Today we'll hear a story about how God talked to a boy named Samuel. Samuel was sleeping and heard a sound. It sounded like his teacher was calling him, but it was really God. Let's start our lesson by talking about sounds we hear.**

Share

- Share about a sound *you* like. Maybe you love the sound of the ocean or a thunderstorm. Maybe it makes you happy to hear the voice of your grandmother or a friend who lives far away. Or maybe you like to hear the sound of your cat purring.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about a sound *they* like to hear.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **The boy we'll read about in the Bible today heard a surprising sound in the night. He heard God's voice. God talked to him, and God speaks to us, too. When we listen to our friend God, we find out we're loved by him, he wants to take care of us, and he wants the very best for us. Let's listen to God as we read from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God for speaking to us.



Supplies

- Bible
- bedsheet or large towel
- bell
- bag of crunchy chips
- paper
- water in a container
- empty cup
- spare change
- opaque bag or box
- pillows (enough for all kids to use at the same time) (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place the bell, open bag of crunchy chips, paper, water in a container, empty cup, and spare change in an opaque bag or box, and place the bedsheet or large towel over it.
- If you're using them, place the pillows at one end of your room.

Play a Listening Game

Say: **Today we'll find out what it means that God speaks, and we'll learn to listen to God when he speaks. Let's begin with a fun listening game.**

Have an adult or teen leader use the bedsheet to make a curtain that kids can't see behind.

Show kids the opaque bag or box, and say: **I have some things in here that make noises. I'm going to pull one thing out of the bag and hold it behind this curtain. I'll make a noise with it while you listen carefully. Let's see if you can guess what's making the noise.**

Behind the makeshift curtain, pull out an item and make a noise with it for about five seconds. Invite children to guess what's making the noise, and then show it to them. Here's how you'll make each noise:

- Ring the bell.
- Put your head behind the curtain and eat a chip.
- Crumple the paper.
- Pour the water from the container into the cup.
- Shake the spare change in your hand.

Remind the children to be very quiet as they listen for each noise.

Say: **Some of the things in my bag were easier to figure out than others. You might've just listened with your ears, but you also might've used your eyes to guess, too, like when I had to put my head behind the curtain to crunch on the chip. You might've even thought about other times you heard that sound and where you were to help you figure out what it was.**

Ask: • **When have you heard each sound we guessed today?** Mention each object, and encourage children to talk about times they've heard each sound.

If time allows, invite children to take turns making sounds with the objects behind the curtain while the others guess as quickly as possible. You may also play this game at the end of the Core Bible Discovery activity if time allows.

Act It Out

Show the Bible. Say: **Our listening game was fun, and it reminds me of what we're learning today. The Bible says we can listen carefully when God speaks to us. It tells about a time God spoke to a boy named Samuel. Samuel didn't know God yet, so he didn't know who was speaking to him when God spoke. But his teacher, Eli, knew God's voice. That's kind of like our game—if we heard a sound we already knew, it was easier to guess. But if we didn't know a sound as well, we needed some help. Let's find out what happened with Samuel and Eli.**

Have all the kids lie down and rest. If you have pillows, distribute them. Say: **Eli was one of God's friends, and Samuel was Eli's helper. One night Eli went to bed, and Samuel was sleeping nearby in a place called the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was a special place for God.**

Something special happened when they both were fast asleep.

Have kids close their eyes. Pause for a few seconds, and then say loudly: **God called Samuel's name! Samuel!** Have kids sit up and open their eyes, if they haven't already.

Say: **Samuel got right up, and he went to his teacher, Eli. Pretend you're Samuel and I'm Eli. In a minute, I'll have you close your eyes, and when you do, listen for me to say "Samuel." As soon as you hear me say "Samuel," wake up, run to me, and say "What is it, Eli?"** If you have young preschoolers in your class, have the children practice repeating the line with you a few times before they close their eyes.

Say: **The Bible says Samuel went to sleep.** Have the children close their eyes and pretend to sleep. Move away from kids so they'll be able to travel to you when they wake up. Pretend to be asleep, but call out: **Samuel!** Have an adult or teen leader remind children to wake up, run to you, and say "What is it, Eli?"

Sit up and say: **I didn't call you. In the Bible, Eli was fast asleep. He told Samuel to go back to bed.** Have an adult or teen helper lead children back to their resting area to lie down and close their eyes. After a few seconds, pretend to sleep again, but shout: **Samuel!** Have an adult or teen helper lead children to get up, run to you, and say "What is it, Eli?"

Sit up and say: **I didn't call you. In the Bible, Eli told Samuel again to go back to bed. So Samuel did.** Have an adult or teen helper lead children back to their resting area to lie down and close their eyes.

After a few seconds, pretend to sleep again, but shout: **Samuel!** Have an adult or teen helper lead children to get up, run to you, and say "What is it, Eli?"

Sit up and say: **This time when Samuel woke Eli up, Eli realized that it was God who was saying Samuel's name. So Eli told Samuel to go lie down again. Eli said that if someone called Samuel's name again, he should say, "Speak, God, I'm listening."** Have an adult or teen helper lead children back to their resting area to lie down.

Say: **When you close your eyes, listen for me to say "Samuel." As soon as you hear me say "Samuel," say what Eli told Samuel to say: "Speak, God, I'm listening."** If you have young preschoolers in your class, have the children practice repeating the new line with you a few times before they close their eyes.

Have kids close their eyes, and then after about five seconds, shout: **Samuel!** Have teen and adult helpers lead children to say, "Speak, God, I'm listening." Repeat this a few times, each time leaving a different amount of time before you shout Samuel's name.

Say: **Samuel did what Eli told him to do, and God spoke to Samuel. God told Samuel that something very big was coming because the people weren't obeying God. The next morning, Eli wanted to know what God said to Samuel. Samuel shared what God said, and Eli listened to God's important message, and he obeyed God. God spoke, and both Eli and Samuel listened to God.**

Ask: • **Why do you think it's good to listen to God's important messages?** Preschoolers might share that it's important to listen to God because he loves us, because he has messages that are good for us, or because God knows everything so it's best to listen to him.

Talk About It

Say: **This was the first time God gave Samuel an important message, and Samuel grew up to share many important messages with God's friends. Samuel was called a *prophet*, and God spoke to Samuel many times. God speaks to us, too. We might not hear his voice out loud, but we can hear God's message in other ways. Let's think of some ways we can hear important messages from God.**

Share about two ways you've heard God talking to you. Maybe you've heard God tell you something when you were listening to or singing a song. Maybe you read something in the Bible and it helped you make a choice in your life. Or maybe you heard a sermon that you felt was specifically for you.

Ask: • **What are some ways you think God can give you an important message?** Preschoolers might share that they can hear God's messages in Sunday school, when they talk to God, when they read the Bible with an adult, or when they're singing a song to Jesus.

Say: **When God speaks to us, it's always important. God tells us things, like how much he loves us and how much he loves the people around us. God tells us he's with us when we're having a hard time. God also tells us to be kind and caring to others. God can talk to us through people, songs, and the Bible, and he can talk to our hearts. It's always best to listen to God when he speaks because he always wants what's best for us!**



Supplies

- Bible

Listen and Respond

Say: **Today we heard how God talked to his friend Samuel, and we found out that God speaks to us, too. Let's listen to some things God says to us. God talks to our hearts when he speaks to us, so let's put our hands on our hearts as we listen to God.** Lead children to place their hands over their hearts.

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible is God's words to us. It says in John 3:16, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."**

We listened to something God speaks to us: God says he loves us. Now let's talk to him. We can tell him we love him, too. Lead kids to hold out their arms to welcome a hug from God and say to God, "I love you, too, God."

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible says in Psalm 139:13, "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb."**

We listened to something God speaks to us: God says he made each of us perfectly. Now let's talk to him. We can thank him for making us. Lead kids to thank God for several of their body parts and touch those body parts as they thank God. For example, you might lead kids to thank God for making their legs as they place their hands on their legs and thank God for making their minds that they think with as kids touch their heads.

Show the Bible. Say: **God's Son, Jesus, said in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."**

We listened to something God's Son says to us: Jesus says to obey and follow him. Now let's talk to him. We can ask Jesus to help us follow him. Lead kids to hold their arms up in the air to ask for Jesus' help and say, "Jesus, help me follow you."

Listen Quietly

Say: **There are so many ways God speaks to us. He speaks to our hearts. We listen to what he said in the Bible. We can hear him speak to us when we sing songs to him. We can hear him whisper to us when we pray silently to him. Let's practice being quiet and listening for God to talk to us now.** Lead children in a moment of silence for about 20 seconds. Then close in prayer.

Tell the children that you're glad they came to church to join your class today. Ask them if they'll come back to your class next week.



OBJECT LESSON

Shake, Listen, and Find

[10 min]

Supplies

- disposable coffee cups with lids (set of 10 for every 10 kids)
- objects that make different sounds when shaken (5 different pairs of objects for every 10 kids)
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Choose simple objects from your supply closet, but be sure to select things that make different sounds. We used sprinkles, pennies, modeling dough, pony beads, and crayons. Put the objects in cups so each different object has a matching pair. For example, make 2 cups with the same amount of sprinkles, 2 cups with the same amount of crayons, and so on. Secure the lid tightly on each cup.
- Listen to each sound to make sure each different pair of cups sounds unique. You can add or remove items if needed, or combine items to create even more unique sounds. For example, add 5 pony beads and 2 crayons for one pair of cups.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the activity. You can find the album [here](#).

Shake Cups and Listen

Shake one of the cups.

Ask: • **What does that sound like?**

Say: **Let's shake the cups to music and listen to the sounds they make.**

- If you have a big class, form groups of 10 kids, one group for each set of cups you prepared. Have groups gather in different corners of the room.
- Play music.
- Have kids shake all the cups at the same time and listen to all the different sounds they make.
- Stop the music.

Listen for the Matching Sound

Say: **Our cups make a lot of noise! Let's shake again, but this time, listen very closely. Someone else has a cup that sounds just like yours! It's your job to listen and find a friend with the matching sound.**

- Play music again.
- Have kids shake their cups and move close to other kids to try to hear if their cups sound the same.
- When a child finds someone whose cup sounds the same, the pair should link arms together.
- Stop the music. Then have each pair take turns shaking their cups to see if it's a matching sound. If it doesn't match, have kids try again.
- When all the sounds match, mix up the cups and repeat as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **We listened carefully to hear matching sounds. But with the music playing and all the noise, it was hard to focus and find a match. God speaks, but sometimes it's hard for us to focus and listen for him. That's why we sometimes close our eyes and fold our hands while we talk to him. It helps us pay attention. Or maybe we turn off the TV and video games when someone reads us Bible stories—we want to give God all our attention so we can hear from him. God speaks, so we listen carefully to him.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

How Many Steps, Samuel?

Play a Version of Mother May I?

Say: **Today we're learning that God speaks to us. We found out that Samuel listened carefully to God. Like that, sometimes we have to listen very carefully so we can hear something.** Tell about a time you listened carefully. Perhaps you listened to hear if a baby was crying in the next room or you watched a movie with the volume low so as not to wake up a family member.

Ask: • **When have you had to listen carefully to hear something?** Kids might talk about listening to a radio show in the car or listening to hear a car motor that let them know a parent was home from work.

Say: **Let's play a game where we listen carefully to hear if friends are near, and then we'll try to tag them!**

- Choose one child to be "Samuel," and have him or her stand on one side of the playing area with his or her back turned toward the rest of the kids.
- Have all the other kids line up, side by side, along the other side of the playing area.
- Stand facing Samuel so you can see his or her face. Then begin the game by asking, "How many steps, Samuel?"
- Samuel will hold up a number on his or her fingers; then you'll say the number out loud for all the kids to hear and obey. Repeat so kids move closer and closer to Samuel.
- Samuel will listen carefully, and when footsteps sound close, he or she will shout "Run!" On "run," all the kids turn around and run back to the starting line. Samuel will turn and run, too, and try to tag someone to be the next Samuel.
- Play as long as time permits, inviting kids who are tagged to become Samuel. If no one is tagged, ask for volunteers to become the new Samuel.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What made this game kind of hard?**

Say: **Players who pretended to be Samuel had to listen very carefully. God wants us to listen carefully to him, too. That's why God speaks—because he wants to be friends with us. Even though we don't always hear God's voice, we do know that God is always close by. He loves us and wants us to wait and listen for him.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

I Say, You Do!

Supplies

- paper
- marker

Play a Game Like Simon Says

Say: **In our Bible story, Samuel listened to his teacher, Eli, and did what he said. Let's play a game where you'll listen and do what your leader wants you to do!**

- Have kids stand in front of you.
- Give kids instructions, but communicate the tasks in different ways. Ideas include the following:
 - *Tell* them to jump up and down.
 - *Whisper* to sit on the ground.
 - *Sing* the first line of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and pretend to paddle.
 - Put your hands on your head, and *motion* for them to do the same.
 - *Whisper* "Tell your friends to bark like a dog" to one child, and then have the child tell the instructions to the whole group.
 - *Draw* a smiley face to tell kids to smile.
 - *Sing* "If You're Happy and You Know It," and have kids clap.
 - *Tell* kids to give a friend a high-five.
 - Pat your knees and *motion* for kids to join you.
 - *Whisper* "Tell your friends to quack like a duck" to one child, and have the child share the instructions with the whole group.
 - *Draw* a sad face to tell kids to frown.
- Play for several minutes, mixing up different instructions and communication methods. The faster and sillier, the better! End by using your voice to tell everyone to sit in a knee-to-knee circle.

Talk About It

Say: **In our game, I spoke in different ways. Sometimes I talked with my voice, and other times I showed you what to do or gave you a message through someone else. God speaks like that, too. We might not always hear God's voice like Samuel did, but God talks to us through songs, through words in our Bibles, and through other people, too! No matter how God speaks, we can listen for him and do what he says.**



CRAFT

Ear Trumpet

[20 min]

Supplies

- paper plates (1 per child)
- markers or crayons
- decorating supplies such as stickers or foam shapes
- tape
- hole punch
- yarn cut into 2-foot lengths (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Tightly tape one end of each piece of yarn to make threading easier for preschoolers.



Tip

- Have adult and teen helpers monitor children closely and teach them appropriate use of the ear trumpets to avoid them sticking the sharp ends into their ears.

Make Ear Trumpets

Show preschoolers the sample craft by holding the tapered end of the paper plate up to your ear.

Say: **This is called an ear trumpet. A long time ago, some people used these to hear better when someone talked to them. Let's each make one, and then we can try them out!**

- Give each preschooler a paper plate, and let kids color on both sides with crayons or markers.
- As preschoolers finish coloring, roll their plates tightly on one end to make a cone shape, and let preschoolers help add tape to the overlapped sides of the plate to keep them in place.
- Punch a hole along the wider end of the cone.
- Let preschoolers loop a length of yarn through the hole and tape the ends together to create a handle for their ear trumpets.
- Have preschoolers add stickers, foam shapes, or other decorations to their ear trumpets.

Try Them Out

Say: **Let's practice listening with our ear trumpets.**

Help preschoolers get into pairs.

Have children take turns whispering “God loves you” to their partners without using the ear trumpets. Then have the listening partner put the small end of the cone close to his or her ear, and have the other partner whisper “God loves you” again to compare the difference.

Say: **Just like we listened for our partner’s voice, we can listen for God because God speaks to us. When God spoke to Samuel, Samuel heard God’s voice. But God speaks to us in lots of different ways. He might speak to us through words that pop into our heads, feelings in our hearts, or seeing someone help another person. All these things can remind us of God’s love for us. God speaks to us all the time, so let’s pay close attention to hear him.**

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