

LESSON 10: GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Kids make and listen to simple stringed instruments.

Supplies

- cereal or tissue boxes (1 per child)
- rubber bands (1 per child)
- markers (2 per child)



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids guess who is making sounds.

Supplies

- Bible
- slips of paper
- “Good News, Bad News” handout (1 for every 10 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Write a number on a slip of paper for each child, starting with 1 and continuing for the number of kids you have.
- Cut apart the sections of the “Good News, Bad News” handout.



CRAFT

Kids make Morse code clickers.

Supplies

- card stock
- rulers
- scissors
- Glue Dots
- buttons (4 per child)
- markers
- pencils
- “Morse Code Key” handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- “Morse Code Messages” handouts (1 for every 10 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut apart the “Morse Code Messages” handout.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game like Marco Polo.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

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



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

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

Supplies

- Bible

**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 kids double high-five four friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say, "Three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It's your birthday!"
- 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 groups, have kids share about a sound *they* like to hear.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids 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.



OBJECT LESSON

String Sounds

[10 min]

Supplies

- cereal or tissue boxes (1 per child)
- rubber bands (1 per child)
- markers (2 per child)

Wrap a Rubber Band Around the Box

Say: **It's fun to listen to music! Let's make instruments to play.**

- Give each child a box, a rubber band, and two markers.
- Show kids how to wrap the rubber band around the perimeter of the box. It should stretch tightly around the box.
- Turn the box on its side so a long side is facing up.

Place Markers Under the Rubber Band

- Place one marker under the rubber band at the far left side of the box.



- Place the other marker under the rubber band, too.



- Slide the second marker along the side of the box as you pluck the rubber band with your finger between the two markers.
- Have kids listen carefully to the sound the rubber band makes as it's plucked when the marker is at different places.

Talk About It

Say: **The rubber band acts like a guitar string, and the moving marker causes the rubber band to make different pitches along the box. It sounded different each time we moved the marker. God speaks, but he doesn't always sound the same.**

Ask: • **How does God's voice change like the pitches changed on the box?**

Say: **Sometimes God speaks quietly. In 1 Kings 19, God spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper. And in Psalm 68, David says God's mighty voice thunders from the sky. The prophet Zephaniah told God's people that God will rejoice over them with singing.**

Ask: • **What do his different "voices" tell us about God?**

Say: **God speaks, so we listen for him. And his voice reveals his closeness, his power, and his love for us.**



Supplies

- Bible
- slips of paper
- “Good News, Bad News” handout (1 for every 10 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Write a number on a slip of paper for each child, starting with 1 and continuing for the number of kids you have.
- Cut apart the sections of the “Good News, Bad News” handout.

Tip

- If you have fewer than 8 kids, play some background music during the “Listen Carefully” section to make it more challenging.

Listen Carefully

Say: **Today’s Bible story shows us how God speaks, so we listen for him. Let’s see how he spoke to a boy named Samuel who lived and served in the Tabernacle. That’s like a church to us. Let’s see what happened to Samuel.**

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-5.

Ask: • **Why do you think Samuel didn’t know it was God’s voice?**

• **If you were lying in bed and heard a voice, who would you think it was?**

• **Tell about a time you felt confused about what you heard.** Share your own example first. It might be a time you misheard what someone said or you misunderstood song lyrics. Then have kids share in pairs.

Say: **Let’s see how well you can tell who’s making a noise.**

Give each child a slip of paper with a number. Have kids memorize their numbers and not reveal them to anyone else. Then have kids scatter around the room, sit down, and close their eyes.

Say: **When I call out a number, the person with that number will make a noise. You might cough, let out a squeak, clap your hands, or anything else you can think of. Everyone else will try to identify who made the sound.**

Call out a number, and after that child makes a sound, tell kids they can open their eyes and point to the person they think made the sound. Then have the child who really did make the sound raise his or her hand.

Repeat several times.

Ask: • **What helped you decide who made the sound?**

• **When were you most sure you were right about where the sound came from?**

• **How did this game help you understand Samuel’s confusion?**

Say: **The closer you were to the person who made the noise, the easier it was to be sure it was that person. And if you know the person well, you’d have a better idea of his or her voice. That’s kind of like how the more we know God, the more we can know it’s him speaking to us. God speaks, but he didn’t speak very much in those days. Samuel had probably never heard God speak before! No wonder he was confused. Listen to what happened next.**

Read 1 Samuel 3:6-8.

Say: **Finally, Eli realized what was happening. Let’s see what he said to do.**

Read 1 Samuel 3:9-10.

Say: **Samuel was ready to listen to God.**

Ask: • **If God were to speak aloud to you, what would you want him to talk about? Why?** Have kids share in pairs. Then ask a few kids to report to the whole group.

Say: **God speaks, so we listen for him like Samuel did.**

Share News

Say: **We'd like to hear good news from God. But the message God gave Samuel wasn't so great. God told Samuel that Eli's sons were doing bad things and God was going to punish them. And Samuel had to share that bad news with Eli! Yikes!**

Let's see what it's like to share good and bad news.

Have kids get in small groups. Give each child a section of the "Good News, Bad News" handout. Have adult and teen helpers quietly read slips to all kids who can't read. Have kids form pairs and tell the news to their partners as if it were true.

Ask: • **If you shared good news, tell what that felt like.**

• **If you shared bad news, tell what that felt like.**

Say: **If God had told Samuel he was going to give Eli's family tons of money, that would've been much easier to share. But when God speaks, sometimes it's good news, and sometimes it's bad news. We need to listen to God either way.**

Ask: • **How do you normally respond to bad news?**

Say: **Let's see how Eli responded when he heard what God told Samuel.**

Read 1 Samuel 3:17-18.

Say: **When God speaks good news to us, it's easy to listen. When God speaks bad news, we can still listen humbly and accept what he says. Let's try that now. I'm going to invite God to speak to us about something we're doing that he's not happy about. Then you'll sit quietly and listen for God to show you something he wants to change in your life.**

Pray: **God, we want to listen to you, even if you have bad news. We ask you now to show us if there are things you want to change about our lives. Show us what we're doing wrong, and show us what you want us to do instead.**

Allow about one minute for silence. Then pray: **Amen.**

Say: **There's one more thing you should know about Samuel. God kept speaking to him!**

Read 1 Samuel 3:19-20.

Say: **A prophet is someone who God speaks to often. A prophet's job is to tell others what God says. Samuel started when he was just a boy by sharing the news about Eli's sons. Sometimes God speaks to other people through us! And sometimes God speaks to us through other people.**

Ask: • **Who are people who speak God's wisdom in your life?**

Say: **God speaks to us in a lot of ways, but it might not always be an audible voice like Samuel heard. Sometimes it's in our hearts, through the Bible, or through other people. God speaks, so we listen for him. Like Samuel, we can say, "Speak, your servant is listening."**

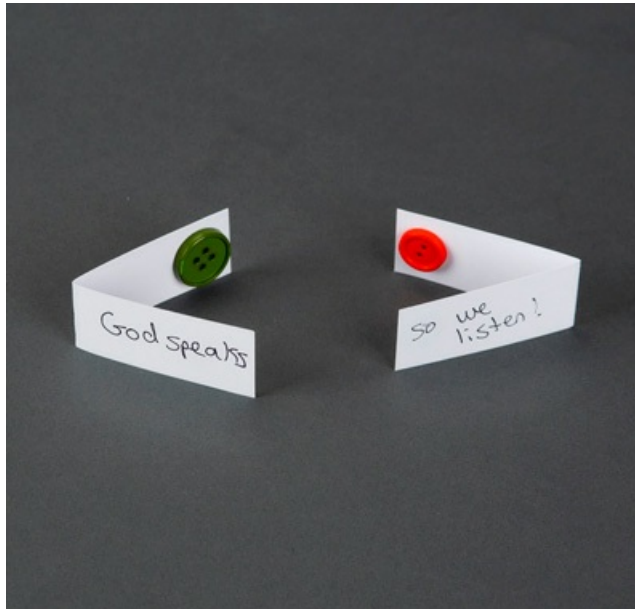


Supplies

- card stock
- rulers
- scissors
- Glue Dots
- buttons (4 per child)
- markers
- pencils
- "Morse Code Key" handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- "Morse Code Messages" handouts (1 for every 10 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut apart the "Morse Code Messages" handout.



Make Morse Code Clickers

Say: **There are a lot of ways to send messages besides talking. One way people used to send messages, before telephones, was Morse code. Morse code uses a series of dots and dashes to spell words. The dots can be short sounds or flashes of light, and the dashes are longer sounds or flashes of light. We're going to make clickers you can use to send Morse code messages.**

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and help kids as they follow these instructions to make clickers.

- Cut two pieces of card stock that are each $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and 4 inches long.
 - Fold the pieces of card stock in half.
 - Use Glue Dots to glue a button on each end of the card stock strips, on the same side. The buttons should touch when the card stock is folded.
 - Decorate the card stock. Include the point: God speaks.
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- Place one clicker in each hand, between your thumb and forefinger. Practice clicking, using one hand for dots and the other for dashes.

Send Messages

Say: **Now let's practice sending Morse code messages!**

- Give each child a "Morse Code Key" handout, a pencil, and a strip from the "Morse Code Messages" handout. Make sure kids keep the messages on their strips a secret.
- Have adult or teen helpers help kids read the two handouts and then show them how to spell some other simple messages (such as Hi!), if needed.
- Have kids form pairs and sit away from other pairs.
- Have one partner use his or her clickers to transmit the message on the strip, one letter at a time. The second partner will use a pencil to record the letters indicated by the clicks. Have adult or teen helpers help kids read the messages they wrote down.
- Reverse roles so both partners have a chance to transmit and receive Morse code messages.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What are other ways people communicate with each other?**

• **What do you think is better: Morse code or text messaging? Why?**

Say: **Morse code can be difficult to get used to! You might've struggled with understanding your message at first. But back when Morse code was common, there were people whose whole job was to send and receive Morse code messages. With a lot of practice, they could do it quickly! When we practice listening to God, we'll hear how God speaks to us.**

Have kids take their clickers home and practice Morse code with their friends and families, explaining how God speaks to us.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

"I'm Listening"

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

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

Play a Version of Marco Polo

Say: **When God spoke to Samuel, Samuel said, "I'm listening." Samuel found out that God speaks, so he continued to listen for God's voice.**

Let's play a great game that can help us understand a little bit of what it might have been like for Samuel when he was learning to listen for God's voice.

- Invite a willing person to be the first "Samuel."
- Samuel will keep his or her eyes tightly closed—*no peeking*.
- Everyone else will slowly move around the room.
- When Samuel wants to hear where people are, he or she will call out, "I'm listening!"
- Everyone else must respond by calling out, "Samuel!"
- Samuel will keep calling out for the response from the other players in an effort to track down and tag one of the other players—as in Marco Polo.
- Whoever Samuel tags will become the new Samuel.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play to increase the challenge. Adjust the volume as needed so it doesn't make the game too difficult.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was your strategy to listen well in this game?**

Say: **God spoke to Samuel in a voice that could be heard, like you can hear mine now. God can speak to us that way, but God also speaks to us in many other ways, such as through wise advice of other people who follow God or through reading the Bible—God's Word. As we get to know God, we'll get better and better at being able to listen to what he's saying.**

Ask: • **What are some ways you'll listen for God this week?** Share an example of your own, such as setting aside time in the morning to pray and listen to God.

Say: **God speaks to all of us, even if it's not exactly the way he did to Samuel. If you tell God you're listening, like Samuel did, God will speak to you in a special way, too.**



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.**



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.