

God Speaks: **ALoud!**

We have been learning which God communicates especially as we hear about Bible. So far we have is THE WORD and speaks to itself; and last week we speaks to us through a



about different ways in with His people, it through stories in the covered the fact that God us through the Bible learned that at times God deep sense of PEACE.

Today, we will be hearing a great story about a young boy named Samuel who HEARD the voice of God and listened to Him, eventually becoming an important prophet of God! Can you imagine suddenly HEARING God's voice? Well, let's see how Samuel reacted to this incredible experience!

Memory Verse: **"Speak! For your servant is listening!" 1 Samuel 3:10b**

Scripture lesson: **1 Samuel 3: 1-21**

Thinking about it:

It had been many years since God had spoken directly to one of His people. Judges (temporary leaders) had come and gone, and the people were becoming restless for a king. As we begin the story, Samuel was the son of Hannah and Elkanah, faithful servants of the Lord. After several years without a child, Hannah prayed to God that He might give her a baby boy. The priest Eli saw her distress and told her to depart in peace, that the Lord might answer her prayer. Within a year, she and Elkanah had a baby boy, whom they named Samuel, which means "asked of God." When Samuel was old enough to help at the tabernacle, Hannah brought him to the high priest Eli in order that he might raise Samuel to be a priest. Our part of the story begins a few years after Samuel was brought to Eli. While Samuel was sleeping one night, he heard a voice call out to him, saying "Samuel! Samuel!" When Samuel woke up, he believed the voice to be that of Eli and so he got up and went to Eli's room, saying "Here I am!" But Eli told him that he had not summoned him. So Samuel went back to sleep. A little while later Samuel heard the voice again: "Samuel! Samuel!" "Here I am!" said Samuel to a sleeping Eli. Again Eli sent him back to bed. After the third time Eli suspected that perhaps it was GOD that was calling to Samuel, and so he instructed him to say "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." When Samuel heard the voice again he did as Eli told him to do, and immediately God began to speak to him. God explained to Samuel that Eli's sons would soon be punished for their sinful behavior. When morning came Eli asked Samuel what happened, and Samuel reluctantly explained to Eli what the Lord shared with him. Eli sadly received the news and



prepared for the Lord's judgment upon his sons. Samuel grew to become a prophet of God who served under King Saul and King David, anointing both of them as rulers over Israel.

Suggested videos: Samuel and Eli

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVos84e8keM>

God Speaks to Samuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P13uIsFW7OA>

Suggested craft: We have a neat craft for today! We will be using plain, white pillowcases and fabric markers to write Bible verses (like today's!) and to decorate them as we'd like. It is a simple and yet meaningful craft to make that will remind us of Samuel's response to God's call on his life. Our pillowcases will help us to remember to listen for God!

Questions to ponder:

- Why did Hannah bring Samuel to Eli's home? (As a way to thank God and dedicate Samuel to Him)
- How did God speak to Samuel? Did he know it was God right away?
- Who did Samuel think was speaking to him?
- Who told Samuel it was God calling to him?
- What was God's message to Samuel? To whom was the message for?
- How did Eli respond to the news about his sons?
- Do we need to live in a temple in order to speak with God?
- What can we do in order to grow closer to God, and get to know Him?
- How might you feel if suddenly YOU heard God speaking to you directly?
- How can WE listen for God's voice?
- How should we respond to God's call on our lives?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank You for the story of Samuel—a young person who spoke with You and listened to You and Your call on his life. Help us to listen for Your voice in our lives, so that we might grow closer to You and learn to live for You. Guide our steps so that we might live our lives faithful to You. Grant us wisdom and peace. In Jesus' name, AMEN.