

I'm Listening

1 Samuel 3; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 581, 582

Have you ever heard your Mom calling and pretended that you did not hear? The opposite happens in today's story. Samuel heard someone calling him and tried to answer.

The little boy was an answer to his mother's prayers. Hannah had prayed for a son. She had promised God that she would give her child to Him to be His servant.

And so it was that she took her little boy Samuel to live with priest Eli in the tabernacle. Samuel and the old priest became very close.

"Samuel was helpful and affectionate, and no father ever loved his son more tenderly than did Eli this youth" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 573).

As Eli grew older, he was filled with anxiety and sorrow for the evil ways of his own sons. "He turned to Samuel for comfort" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 573). Samuel became a joy and delight for the old priest. And Samuel loved the old man.

"In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often" (1 Samuel 3:1, ICB). But God would soon speak to Samuel in a most unusual way.

Eli's eyesight was failing. He was almost blind, and he really needed Samuel's help. One night as Eli was lying in bed, Samuel, too, was resting in his room. The boy was just about asleep. Suddenly he heard a voice calling "Samuel!"

Samuel sat up with a start. A lamp still burned nearby. Did Eli need him?

Samuel got up and went to Eli's room. "Here I am," he said to Eli. "You called me."

But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

Samuel quietly returned to his bed. *I'm sure Eli called*, he thought as he closed his eyes.

Again Samuel heard a voice. "Samuel! Samuel!"



The boy sat up and looked around. Then he scurried out of bed and dashed to Eli's side. "I am here," he said. "You called me."

"No, Samuel, I didn't call you," responded Eli. "Go back to bed."

So Samuel returned to his bed. *I'm sure I*

The Message

*I will listen and answer
when God speaks to me.*

Memory Verse

**“Speak, Lord,
for your servant
is listening”**

(1 Samuel 3:9, NIV).

heard Eli, he thought as he snuggled under his blanket again.

“Samuel! Samuel!” That voice again!

Samuel jumped up and rushed to Eli again.

“I’m here,” he spoke softly. “You called me.”

“No,” Eli answered. “I didn’t call you.” Then Eli realized that the Lord must be speaking to Samuel. So he told Samuel, “Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, ‘Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening’ ” (1 Samuel 3:9, ICB).

Again the Lord spoke to Samuel. And Samuel answered as Eli had told him. Then the Lord said, “I am going to do something that will shock those who hear about it. I will do to Eli and his sons everything I have promised because his sons have done terrible things.”

Samuel was shocked. He probably didn’t sleep much the rest of the night. In the morning he quietly went about his duties. He was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. But Eli soon approached Samuel and asked, “What did the Lord say to you? Don’t hide it from me, Samuel.”

So Samuel revealed all that the Lord had said. And Eli knew that God had made Samuel His messenger.

That night, God gave Samuel the first of many messages Samuel was to deliver to God’s people in the years to come. Samuel truly was God’s servant throughout all his life. And God wants you to serve Him too. You can be God’s messenger. You can share with others what God says as you learn more of His Word, the Bible.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go for a walk with your family. See who can hear the most sounds.

ASK Ask your Mom or Dad to help you discover who, apart from your pastor, works in your church.

DO Find a quiet place and read your lesson story together.

PRAY Thank God for the gift of hearing.

S U N D A Y

DRAW Draw a big pair of ears and cut them out. Write your memory verse on the ears. Write or draw pictures on the back showing all the different ways you can listen to God. Put the ears where you will see them often.

DO Sit very quietly for three minutes. What do you hear?

PRAY Ask God to help you hear His voice.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship read about Samuel in 1 Samuel 3.

ASK Ask your family to help you look up the word *listen* in a concordance. Count the number of times it is mentioned. Look up one or two of the texts and discuss them together.

DO Write your memory verse in your own words.

T U E S D A Y

DO Make an "I can listen to God" mobile. Cut pictures out of magazines or draw pictures of ways God speaks to us today. Tape them to pieces of string and tie the strings to a clothes hanger.

ASK Ask your family to tell you ways that God talks to them.

SING Sing "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 133). Then thank God for your family.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During family worship think of five or six sounds you can easily create. For example, turning the pages of a book. Ask your family to close their eyes. See how many sounds they can recognize. Talk about things that might drown out God's voice.

DO Together, write a poem, song, or rap about listening to God.

PRAY Pray that God will help you and your family shut out the things that drown out His voice.

Samuel saw evil people every day, but he served God no matter what others did.



THURSDAY

DO Before worship collect four or five things that remind you of God. Put them in a bag. During family worship ask everyone to feel inside the bag. See how many things they recognize.

THINK Listen to your favorite songs about Jesus. What do the words tell you and your family about Him?

DO Name people in the Bible to whom God spoke directly. Read about one during worship.

PRAY Thank God that He finds so many different ways to reach us.

FRIDAY

ASK Ask your Mom if you can have family worship by candlelight.

DO Act out the story of Samuel with your family. Imagine what it was like in the tabernacle.

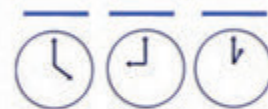
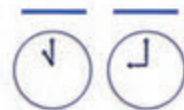
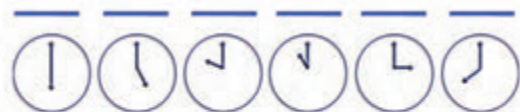
DO Say your memory verse together.

PRAY Ask God to help you and your family listen to Him speak to them on Sabbath.

I'm Listening

PUZZLE

Directions: Use the clock face code to find out how you, like Samuel, can become a messenger for God.



COMMUNITY

Directions: Color these leaders from the Bible. Look up the Bible verses with each leader to match and draw a line to items that might be associated with that person.



Samson

Judges 14:5, 8; Judges 16:3, 14



Samuel

1 Samuel 2:19; 1 Samuel 3:3



Deborah

Judges 4:5, 10; Judges 5:1, 12

Gideon

Judges 6:11, 12, 21; Judges 7:18, 20

