

3-6 | September 27

Bible Story: The Lord Calls Out to Samuel • 1 Samuel 3

Bottom Line: I can ask God to speak to me.

Conversation Starter: What are you going to ask God to speak to you about?

Monthly Memory Verse: *"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me."* • John 10:27 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Introduce the game "Switch!"
- Have everyone stand in a circle.
- Choose one kid to stand in the middle.
- Explain the rules:
 - If the kid in the middle says "Switch," everyone must switch spots with someone else in the circle.
 - If the kid in the middle says "Stay," no one moves.
 - If the kid in the middle says "Jump," everyone jumps in place.
 - If someone does the wrong action, they switch places with the kid in the middle.
- Play several quick rounds, encouraging the kid in the middle to say the commands quickly to make it more challenging.

What You Say:

"That got tricky fast! You had to listen closely and react quickly. Sometimes it was easy to know what to do, and sometimes it got confusing when things moved fast."

"Today's story includes a boy who heard something, but he did not understand it right away. It's going to be great!"

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to the September worship song and then watch today's video lesson.

3. Prayer

“Let’s open up today with prayer. Dear God, thank You for speaking to us. Help us to have quiet hearts that are ready to listen to Your voice. Help us to be like Samuel and say, ‘Speak, Lord, I am listening.’ We know we can always ask You to speak to us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

4. God, I’m Listening! Backpack Tag

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at 1 Samuel 3, one for the leader
- ☐ “God, I’m Listening!” Backpack Tag Inserts printed double-sided on cardstock, one per child
- ☐ Clear vertical luggage tag holders with loop straps, one per child
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Colored pencils or markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print the backpack tag inserts double-sided on cardstock at 100% or Actual Size. Select Flip on Long Edge in the printer settings.
- Cut the inserts apart along the dashed lines.
- Place one insert inside a tag holder to create a sample.

During the Activity:

- Give each child one backpack tag insert.
- Point out the three reminders on the front of the tag: READ, PRAY, and LISTEN.
- Explain that we can ask God to speak to us as we read the Bible, pray, and quietly listen for what He wants us to understand.
- Invite the children to color and personalize the front of their tag.
- Ask the children to turn their tag over and complete the prayer, “God, help me listen when I...” They may write about reading the Bible, praying, needing help with a decision, or going through a difficult situation.

- Remind the children that they do not have to share what they wrote.
- Help the children slide their finished inserts into the clear holders and securely close the openings.
- Attach one loop strap to each holder. Show the children how to attach the completed tag to a backpack, Bible bag, or pencil pouch.

After the Activity:

- Collect the remaining supplies and discard the cardstock scraps.
- Encourage the children to use their tag as a reminder to pause, pray, and listen to God throughout the week.

What You Say:

“In today’s Bible Story, Samuel heard God calling his name. Samuel did not understand what was happening at first, but he learned to stop and listen.

Your backpack tag gives you three reminders of ways you can practice listening to God. You can READ the Bible and learn what God says. You can PRAY and ask God to speak to you. Then, you can LISTEN carefully and think about what God is teaching you.

Our Memory Verse says, ‘My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.’ John 10:27 NIV. Whenever you see this tag, remember that **you can ask God to speak to you.**”

5. Listen Like Samuel

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at 1 Samuel 3, one for the leader

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Mark the Bible at 1 Samuel 3.
- Clear enough space for each kid to stand and move safely.

During the Activity:

- Ask the kids to spread out and stand in their own personal space.
- Explain that they should only follow a direction when it begins with the exact words, "Listen like Samuel."
- Tell the kids that similar phrases such as "Samuel says," "Listen carefully," or "Listen to Samuel" do not count.
- Remind the kids that no one will be eliminated. If they make a mistake, they should reset and continue playing.

Round One: Exact Words

- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Touch your right shoulder with your left hand."
- Say, "Samuel says, 'Clap two times.'"
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Take one step to your left and freeze."
- Say, "Listen carefully. Turn around."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Stand on one foot for five seconds."
- Say, "Listen to Samuel. Touch your knees."

Round Two: Listen and Remember

- Explain that the directions will now include several actions. Kids must hear the entire direction before they begin.
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Clap twice, touch your knees, and freeze."
- Say, "Samuel says, 'Turn around and sit down.'"
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Take one step forward, one step backward, and cross your arms."
- Say, "Listen carefully. Touch your head and clap three times."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Make a sleeping pose, stand up, and cup your hands around your ears."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Pat your knees twice, clap once, and say, 'I'm listening!'"

Round Three: Watch the Distractions

- Explain that you will perform a different motion from the one you say. Kids must listen to your words instead of copying your movements.
- Touch your head as you say, "Listen like Samuel. Touch your knees."
- Clap your hands as you say, "Listen like Samuel. Cross your arms."
- Turn around as you say, "Listen carefully. Touch your head."
- Point toward the floor as you say, "Listen like Samuel. Point toward the ceiling."
- Pretend to pray as you say, "Listen like Samuel. Pretend to read a Bible."
- Finish by saying, "Listen like Samuel. Cup your hands around your ears and say, 'God, I'm listening!'"

After the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit down.
- Ask which part of the game was the most difficult: listening for the exact phrase, remembering several actions, or ignoring your movements.
- Review how Samuel listened when God called his name.
- Repeat the Bottom Line together: "I can ask God to speak to me."

What You Say:

"In this game, you had to listen carefully to the exact words I said. You also had to wait until you heard the entire direction instead of reacting too quickly.

"Samuel did not immediately understand that God was calling him. Eli helped Samuel recognize that God was speaking, and Samuel became ready to listen.

"We can ask God to speak to us too. We can listen by learning what God says in the Bible, praying and taking time to be quiet, and listening to trusted adults who help us understand the Bible.

"Our Bottom Line is: **I can ask God to speak to me.**"