

K-2 | 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
- ☐ Worship Loop on Jellyfin

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Have music ready to play and pause quickly

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Once most kids arrive, say: "We're going to play a game called Freeze & Listen! You'll need to listen very carefully."
- Explain the rules:
 - When the music plays, you may walk, dance, or move around the room.
 - When the music stops, you must FREEZE immediately.
 - Only the kids who are completely frozen and quiet may follow the whispered instructions.
- Start with a practice round.
- Play music for fifteen to twenty seconds.
- Stop the music suddenly and whisper: "If you can hear me, touch your nose."
- Play several more rounds using different instructions such as:
If you can hear me...
 - "Clap once."
 - "Sit down slowly."
 - "Give a thumbs up."
 - "Whisper, 'God speaks.'"
 - "Close your eyes."
- Each round, whisper a little more softly so kids must listen more carefully.
- After several rounds, gather the kids together.

What You Say:

“Wow! That was fun! It was a lot easier to hear when everyone stopped moving and got quiet, right? When there was noise and movement, it was much harder to listen carefully. Sometimes our lives feel just like that. There’s noise all around us: people talking, distractions, games, school, and even our own thoughts. It can make it hard to really listen. The Bible teaches that God speaks to us. That’s amazing! But just like in our game, we sometimes have to slow down, stop, and listen carefully so we don’t miss what He’s saying.

“Today we’re going to hear about a boy named Samuel. At first, he didn’t realize it was God speaking to him. But he learned to listen. And here’s something important to remember: I can ask God to speak to me. When we ask, we’re choosing to listen, and God is always ready to speak.”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- *Select whispered instructions carefully so all kids can participate.*
- *Model what a “good freeze” looks like before starting*
- *Keep instructions short and simple to build success*

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!” K-2 Backpack Tag Inserts printed double-sided on cardstock, one per child

- ☐ Clear vertical luggage tag holders with loop straps, one per child
- ☐ Crayons

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print the K-2 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 and crayons.
- Show the children the large listening ear on the front of the tag.
- Invite the children to color the ear and decorate the front of their tag.
- Ask the children to turn their tag over.
- Point to the Bible picture and explain that we can listen to God by hearing and learning what the Bible says.
- Point to the praying hands and explain that we can talk to God and take time to listen when we pray.
- Point to the listening ear and explain that we can listen during Bible stories and listen to trusted grown-ups who help us understand God's Word.
- Invite each child to choose one way they want to practice listening to God this week.
- Ask the children to circle and color the picture they chose. They may color the other pictures if time allows.
- 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 they can attach the tag to a backpack, Bible bag, or pencil pouch.

After the Activity:

- Collect the crayons and discard the cardstock scraps.
- Encourage the children to look at their tag during the week and remember, “God, I’m listening!”

What You Say:

“In today’s Bible Story, Samuel heard someone calling his name. At first, Samuel thought Eli was calling him. Then Samuel learned that God was speaking to him. Samuel stopped and listened.

God wants us to listen to Him too. We can ask God to speak to us.

(Point to the Bible.) What can we do with the Bible? We can READ it and listen to what God says.

(Point to the praying hands.) What can we do when we pray? We can PRAY, talk to God, and take time to listen.

(Point to the ear.) What do our ears remind us to do? LISTEN!

Our Memory Verse says, ‘My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.’ John 10:27 NIV.

Whenever you see your backpack tag, remember: **I can ask God to speak to me.”**

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 child to stand and move without touching anyone else.

During the Activity:

- Ask the children to spread out and stand in their own personal space.
- Explain that you will give them different directions, but they should only move when the direction begins with the words, "Listen like Samuel."
- Tell the children that if a direction does not begin with "Listen like Samuel," they should freeze and remain in place.
- Remind the children that no one will be eliminated. If they make a mistake, they should freeze, reset, and continue playing.
- Begin with the practice commands, then continue through the three rounds.

Practice Commands:

- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Touch your head."
- Say, "Clap your hands."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Stomp one time."
- Say, "Raise both hands."
- Repeat the rules if the children need additional practice.

Round One: Simple Listening

- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Clap two times."
- Say, "Touch your toes."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Turn around one time."
- Say, "Stomp your feet."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Take one small step forward."
- Say, "Hop three times."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Put your hands on your shoulders."
- Say, "Wave both hands in the air."

- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Cup your hands around your ears."
- Say, "Sit down."

Round Two: Listen and Remember

- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Pat your knees, then clap one time."
- Say, "Touch your shoulders, then freeze."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Take two quiet steps backward."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Stand on one foot and count to three."
- Say, "Turn around, then touch your toes."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Make a sleeping pose like Samuel."
- Say, "Wake up and stretch."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Wake up, cup your hands around your ears, and say, 'I'm listening!'"
- Say, "Clap three times, then sit down."
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Take one step forward, touch your head, and freeze."

Round Three: Tricky Listening

- Explain that you may perform a different motion from the one you say. The children should 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, "Turn around one time."
- Point toward the floor as you say, "Listen like Samuel. Point toward the ceiling."
- Cup your hands around your ears as you say, "Touch your ears."
- Say, "Samuel says, 'Clap two times.'"
- Say, "Listen like Samuel. Pretend to open and read a Bible."
- Pretend to read a Bible as you say, "Pretend to pray."

- Say, “Listen like Samuel. Pretend to pray.”
- Say, “Listen like Samuel. Take one quiet step forward and freeze.”
- Say, “Take one quiet step backward and freeze.”
- Say, “Listen carefully. Touch your nose.”
- Say, “Listen like Samuel. Point to your ears, then point to your heart.”
- Finish by saying, “Listen like Samuel. Cup your hands around your ears and say, ‘God, I’m listening!’”

After the Activity:

- Invite the children to sit down.
- Explain that the game required them to listen carefully for the special words before they moved.
- Review how Samuel listened when God called his name.
- Lead the children in repeating the Bottom Line: “I can ask God to speak to me.”

What You Say:

“Today we learned about Samuel. Samuel was lying down when he heard someone call his name. At first, Samuel thought Eli was calling him. Eli eventually helped Samuel understand that God was the One speaking to him. Samuel became quiet and listened.

“In our game, you had to listen carefully for the words ‘Listen like Samuel’ before you followed the direction. If you did not hear those words, you had to remain still.

“God may not call our name out loud the way He called Samuel, but we can still ask God to speak to us. We can learn what God says by reading the Bible, praying and taking time to be quiet, and listening to trusted adults who help us understand what the Bible teaches.

“Our Bottom Line is: **I can ask God to speak to me.** Let’s say that together: **I can ask God to speak to me.**”