

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



THE LISTENING SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:10-28; 3:1-11

Aim: To learn to listen for God and speak the truth

In today's session we find Eli and Samuel fast asleep in the most holy place in the Temple. Samuel hears the Lord speak but thinks it is the voice of his teacher, Eli. After a disturbed night's sleep Eli realises that God is the one talking to Samuel. This gives Samuel the opportunity to listen carefully to God and bravely speak the truth, delivering a message that the people of Israel, and Eli, would rather not hear.

Each child will need:

- Lollipop sticks, card, pens/pencils, scissors, glue and craft material to make puppets – see Action It
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It Ideas handout

Start It

Say: In today's story our Bible character had to listen carefully to hear God. For our starter game you will need to listen carefully as well.

Video

Can you beat Mozi in clap the rhythm! Clapping rhythm games for kids by Colour Me Mozart (2:02)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsQZX7Hhqug

Sing It

Say: Let's share our memory verse together for the final time this month.

Memory verse

'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

— (Joshua 1:9 NIV)

Say: For today's Sing It, you can choose from the four songs we have used in our sessions so far. We will sing your favourite one together.

'Memory verse song – Joshua 1:9' by Hillsong Kids (1:48)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyp7WNusPDg

'Be strong and courageous – Joshua 1:9' (hand motions) by Seeds Family Worship (3:15)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU45XTawnSY

'Motions (Joshua 1:9)' by Saddleback Kids (1:55)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=asjSnNgDTrw

'Be strong and courageous song – Joshua' 1:9 by Kickstart Worship (3:20)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljRww6Ocs_k

Tell It

Say: Today our Bible story is all about a very special little boy called Samuel. His parents, Hannah and Elkanah, wanted to have a child so much that they travelled to the Temple to pray. Hannah wept so much as she prayed that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. When Eli realised she hadn't been drinking and recognised her faith, he assured her that God would answer her prayer.

Ask: In what way did Hannah show that she had a strong faith in God?

Say: Hannah returned home, and a while later her baby Samuel was born. Hannah promised God that she would bring Samuel back to the Temple to serve him. Eli was surprised to see her. Let's look in the book of 1 Samuel to find out what happened next.

Read:

'She said to Eli, "As surely as you live, my master, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life." And he worshipped the Lord there.'

— (1 Samuel 1:26-28 ICB)

Ask: Samuel was quite young when he was sent to live at the Temple. How would you have felt if it was you?

Say: Eli became an important person in Samuel's life, teaching him about God and how to serve in the Temple. One night something very special happened to Samuel. Let's watch the clip to find out what it was.

Video

Slapstick Theatre (Samuel and Eli) by Saddleback Kids (1:46)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9albNjFjWk

Say: In the Bible account of this story, we read that Eli and Samuel were asleep 'in the Lord's Holy Tent'. (1 Samuel 3:3)

Ask: Think back to some of our Explore It sessions last month. What was kept in the Lord's Holy Tent?

Say: The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy Tent, so Samuel and Eli were fast asleep in a very special place. Three times God called to Samuel, and he went to his teacher Eli.

Ask:

- Have you ever felt like God is talking to you?
- What did it feel like?
- How did you respond?

Say: In his wisdom, Eli realised eventually that it was God's voice that Samuel could hear.

Read:

'So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in bed.

'The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said, "Samuel, Samuel!"

'Samuel said, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'"

— (1 Samuel 3:9-10 ICB)

Ask:

- What can we learn from the way Samuel responded to God?
- How could we do the same?

Say: Samuel listened carefully to God and promised to serve him. God had a difficult message for him to deliver.

Read:

'The Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am going to do something in Israel. It will shock those who hear about it. At that time I will do to Eli and his family everything I promised. I will not stop until I have finished. I told Eli I would punish his family for ever. I will do it because Eli knew his sons were evil. They spoke against me, but he did not control them. So here is what I promised Eli's family: 'Your guilt will never be removed by sacrifice or offering.'"

'Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the Tent of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. But Eli said to him, "Samuel, my son!"

'Samuel answered, "I am here."

'Eli asked, "What did the Lord say to you? Don't hide it from me. May God punish you terribly if you hide from me anything he said to you." So Samuel told Eli everything. He did not hide anything from him. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord. Let him do what he thinks is best."

— (1 Samuel 3:11-18 ICB)

Ask: How do you think Samuel felt delivering such a difficult message from God to Eli?

Say: Samuel listened carefully to God, but he also had the courage to obey God and speak the truth to Eli.

Action It

Puppets

Create a set of mini puppet characters, using card and lollipop sticks to retell the story of Eli and Samuel. Depending on the size of your group, the children can work in teams to produce different props and characters, and write a short script to retell the story.

You could rewatch the Slapstick Theatre (Samuel and Eli) clip to recap the story if required. Give the children time to make and rehearse their puppet show and then share it with the rest of the group.

Pray It

Say: Eli was a special teacher to Samuel and helped him to hear God speaking.

Ask:

- Who is your favourite teacher?
- Why do you like them so much?

Say: On Thursday 5 October it is World Teacher Day. In our prayer time, we are going to take the opportunity to thank God for our teachers.

The children will need paper and coloured pencils for this activity. Give them time to draw a picture of their favourite teacher and write a thank you prayer around the portrait. When they have finished, sit the children in a circle and give each one an opportunity to share their picture and say a thank you prayer out loud.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home

SEPTEMBER
SESSION 05

THE LISTENING SAMUEL

 1 Samuel 1:10-28; 3:1-11

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FOR ME



Create

Thursday 5 October is World Teacher Day. Create a thank you card to give to a teacher that has particularly helped you. Give thanks to God for the way they have supported your learning and helped you at school.

TOGETHER



Play

Plan to go for a walk with the people at home. Before you go, write down six sounds that you might hear on the walk. Take the list with you and listen for the sounds as you go on your walk.



Song for the week

'Memory verse song – Joshua 1:9' by Hillsong Kids
www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyp7WNusPDg

'Be strong and courageous – Joshua 1:9' (hand motions)
by Seeds Family Worship
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU45XTawnSY

'Motions (Joshua 1:9)' by Saddleback Kids
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Memory verse

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