Sexplore it

A whispered name



Bible verses: 1 Samuel 1:26-28; 3:1-18 God calls Samuel



Aim: To learn to listen for God and be curious about how we can 'hear' God



Today's fruit: Patience



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. We can hear God in many ways if we take the time to listen carefully for his voice.

Samuel showed patience as he listened to Eli and to God.

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

You will need:

- Five loaves and two fish handout see Start It
- To hide the loaves and fish in advance
- Flip chart and pens
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Patience download from Saluationist

🗀 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)



Say:

In our story today, we meet another child who was willing to listen to God and follow the path for his life. Let's share our memory verse together, which reminds us of the importance of putting our trust in God.

Memory verse

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him,

and he will make your paths straight.'

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Say:

Today's song will help us remember our memory verse.

Song

'Proverbs 3:5-6' (motions) by Saddleback Kids (2:19)





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 were 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)

Say:

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

It can be challenging to work out whether we are really hearing or feeling God. Spending time in prayer and reading our Bible can help us to understand if it is God's voice we can hear. Eli had listened to God for a very long time and was able to help Samuel. In his wisdom, Eli realised that it was God's voice that Samuel could hear.

Ask:

- Who are the grown-ups in your life who help you to understand more about God?
- How could they help you to listen when God is speaking to you?

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. Even though he was a young boy, he knew that following God was the most important thing in his life.

🖁 Explore it

=⊂∕ Action it

Explain to the children that they are going to 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.



Ask:

- What are some of the different ways that we can hear from God?
- Do you think it's only from our ears?
- What other ways do people feel God speaking to them?

Say:

We are all made differently, which means we hear God in different ways. Some people hear God when they are silent, in music and pictures, or experience a feeling in their body or mind.

Ask:

How do you think you might hear God speaking to you?

Display the Patience sign.

Say:

Sometimes, listening to God can take a lot of patience. After all the sleep interruptions, Eli could have lost his patience with Samuel. Instead, he helped this young boy hear the voice of God. Samuel showed patience, not just by waiting, but by trusting God's timing. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can be patient, certain that God knows what he's doing and cares deeply about us all.

Ask:

How could you take a moment to be patient and listen for the voice of God this week?

To bring the session to a close, share in a moment of silent listening. Ask the children to close their eyes and listen. How long you remain silent for will depend on your group, so when you feel the time is right, bring the session to a close in prayer.



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



🛿 Explore it

A whispered name

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses: 1 Samuel 1:26-28; 3:1-18



Aim: To learn to listen for God and be curious about how we can 'hear' God

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Today's fruit: Patience

🖵 Listen

In this week's session, we thought of all the different ways we can listen for God's voice. Choose one of the ideas and try at home. Just like Samuel, you can share with a grown-up what happened when you listened to God's voice.



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

'Proverbs 3:5-6' (motions) by Saddleback Kids (2:19)



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and he will make your paths straight.'

(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)



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