

**YEAR 1**

**Unit 3 GOD HEARS US**

Lesson 2: Samuel

God Hears Us



 **GAMES**

1 .A game of ***‘Samuel Whispers’*** This is played just like ‘Chinese Whispers’. The children sit around in a circle. One child is chosen to be ‘Samuel’ and make up the whisper (help them to make up a sentence, you could start by passing around what Samuel responded to God when he heard him calling ‘Speak lord for your servant is listening’) If you have a large group you might split them into their age groups and challenge the teams against each other. Make sure you have a list of different whispers to send around.

2.. Have one person close his or her eyes. Tell them they have one minute to get back to their seat with their eyes closed. They have to listen to your voice to guide them back to their seat.

Ask them h**ow easy or difficult was it to listen to your voice? How did other people’s instructions affect you? What techniques did you use to listen well?**

***Under 5s:***

*1 You could use have a range of animal pictures displayed in front of your child (or use different stuffed/hard toy models of animals from home). You then tell them to point at or cover over the picture of an animal when they hear the animals noise. You either play the noise of each animal online or make the noise yourself.*

*2 You could play a game of Simon says but get your toddler to point at very simple body parts like their head, shoulders, knees, toes, eyes, hair etc.*

*3. You could start the session by letting your toddler play some instruments or bang some pots and pans. You could sing songs, especially songs like sleeping bunnies where the children listen and follow the actions in the song.*

*\* Free Games app on phone or tablet. Search Youth Group Games ‘Tried and tested youth games’.*

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**MEMORY VERSE**

**‘Be Strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**

Ways to teach the memory verse

1. Say the verse out loud a few times.
2. Try to make up actions to go with the words and use them as you say it out loud.

*Under 5s*

*‘Be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid because God is always with you’.*

*Create actions to go along with different parts of the memory verse. You could flex your muscles for strong and brave. Then shake your head for no, put on a scared face for afraid, point to the sky for God and point to yourself to end the verse.*

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**BIBLE BLAST**

**KEY PASSAGE: *1 SAMUEL 1 & 2***

You can read this story from your child’s bible or use the story below

In our story today, someone was called by a voice that he didn’t recognise at first. Do you remember the baby who was born in last week’s story? What was his name? What does his name mean?

When Samuel was born, his mum, Hannah, had promised that she would give Samuel back to God one day because God had given him to her – so when Samuel was old enough, she sent him to live with a priest named Eli so that Samuel could learn all that he could about God, and grow up working to serve God and God’s people.

One night, when Samuel was living with Eli, he woke up in the middle of the night to hear a strange voice saying “Samuel!” He had never heard this voice before, but he knew that the only other person in the building was Eli, so he thought, “Well, it didn’t sound like Eli – but who else could it be? He must want me for something.” So he got up out of his bed, lit a candle, and went to Eli’s room.

But it hadn’t been Eli’s voice – in fact, Eli was VERY grumpy at being pulled out of bed in the middle of the night for reason! “No, Samuel,” he said. “I didn’t call you, you must have been dreaming. Now ssh and go back to sleep.”

Samuel was very confused, because he knew that he had heard something! But if Eli hadn’t called him, who could it have been? So he went back to his bed, blew out his candle, and went back to sleep.

(Pause) “Samuel!”

He was being called again! It had to be Eli; maybe he was playing a joke? So up he got, lit his candle again, and went to knock on Eli’s door. “Eli! Did you call me?”



He was even grumpier this time. “No, Samuel, I didn’t! Would you ever go to sleep!”

Even more confused now, Samuel went back to his room, blew out his candle once again, and fell fast asleep.

“Samuel”.

Right! What was Eli doing?! For the third time, Samuel jumped out his bed and went to Eli’s door “Eli! Seriously! Are you calling me?”

Eli hadn’t called Samuel, but he had an idea as to who it may have been. You see, Eli had spent his whole life learning how to recognise this Person’s voice. Who do you think it was?

Eli said, “Samuel, it truly wasn’t me who called you. But I think I know who it might be. Go back to bed, and next time you hear the voice, try saying “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.””

Samuel was probably even more confused now than he had been before. But he trusted Eli, so he did what Eli said. And that voice came again – “Samuel!” So Samuel said the words Eli had suggested – “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” And in that moment he knew that it was God who had been calling him – and he had lots more to say to Samuel that night!

Isn’t that amazing? God called in a voice that Samuel could hear and grow to recognize. God kept speaking to Samuel all through his life.

**Application:**

 You know just as God spoke to Samuel, he speaks to us too – in lots of different ways!

Sometimes we can hear his voice, sometimes he shows us pictures, and sometimes he shows us what he would like to tell us when we read the Bible.

If you open up your heart to listen out for God, he will speak to you too!

**Let’s pray**

***Dear God thank you that you listen to us and hear our cries for help. Please help us to listen to you and live by your ways.***

***Amen***

Once you have read the bible story ask your children some ….

**KEY QUESTIONS**

* Who was Samuel and who was Eli?
* How would you feel if you heard God calling you in the middle of the night?
* Does God still talk to people? How do you think he might talk to you?

## *Under 5s*

## *Who do you love to talk to?*

## *Who was Samuel and who was Eli?*

## *Do you think you think God still talks to people?*

## *Has God ever talked to you? What do you think He might talk to you about?*

## *GET CREATIVE*

## *For little ones with a short attention span these activities/ideas may be a helpful way to explain the meaning of the story:*

## *Use a selection of cardboard tubes and boxes (alternatively you could use lego bricks) and together with your toddler make a model of the temple where Samuel heard from God.*

##  *You could get your toddler to act out the story and let them bring their pillow and a blanket into the room where you are telling the story. You can explain to them that God spoke to Samuel when he was going to sleep.*

## *You could get your toddler to record him/herself on your phone and then play it back to them to see if they can recognize the sound of their own voice. You can talk about how God speaks to us but sometimes it might seem like its just a thought in our head and so it sounds like our voice. Other times He speaks through the bible or through other people.*



 **PRAY**

Ask the children to find a place on their own with the reflective colouring sheet below and some colouring pencils. Explain to them that while it is important to talk to God it is important to listen to what He has to say too! While they colour in the sheet with the verse tell them to listen out for something God may want to say to them.

*Under 5s*

*Thank you God, that you love to talk to us. Help us to listen to you and hear your voice. Amen.*

#### CRAFT

#### *Equipment*

#### *Play dough*

#### Get the children into pairs and let them look carefully at each other’s ears! Let them make a model of an ear by looking at their partner’s or yours!

