

SAMUEL WAS BORN AND CALLED

1 SAMUEL 1-3



KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 4:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God called to Samuel, and Samuel responded. God calls people to turn from sin and follow Jesus. Everyone who responds by trusting in Jesus is saved from sin.

STORY POINT: Samuel responded to God's call.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

First Samuel 1–3 reveals God’s call of salvation and the response of faith that follows for all who belong to Him. In the dark of night, God called to Samuel and invited him to become His prophet who would shed the light of His words to His people. God’s call upon Samuel’s life is one that followers of Christ still respond to today: to trust in Him as the hope of salvation and to lead others to do the same.

How do we see God at work in Samuel’s life? How does trust in the Lord play a recurring role in this story?

Samuel was an answered prayer in his mother’s life. She spent years praying to God for a son whose life she promised to dedicate back to the Lord’s service. She allowed her precious son to grow up in the Lord’s house under the care and supervision of Eli the priest. It was Eli’s instructions to Samuel that prepared the young boy to receive the Word of Lord and to share it as instructed. Though the call to repentance was not an easy message to share, Samuel did so and grew up to become a prophet. All of Israel knew he walked with the Lord.

From an early age, Samuel was brought up to recognize the Lord and His provision. From the prayers of Hannah to the instructions of Eli, Samuel was led in the ways of the Lord and responded to God’s call with open-handed faith. Samuel’s obedience flowed from His trust in the God of His salvation. He listened to God and dedicated his life to His service. Like Samuel, we can respond to God’s call by placing faith in Jesus, turning from sin, and proclaiming His truth to the world.

Consider the relationship between trust and obedience. Does your life reflect the truth that God’s ways are good and worthy of your trust? Lead boys and girls to see the fruit of a faith-filled life in service to God. Show them that, like Samuel, they can begin leading others to follow the Lord in faith.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Do You Hear?" activity page



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "Samuel Was Born and Called" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 9, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "Doug and Evelyn in Tanzania" printable

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "My God (Philippians 1:19)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- blindfold

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- index cards, 8 per group

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ Who is your favorite person to talk to on the phone? Why? ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: TELEPHONE

Instruct kids to sit in a large circle. Explain that you will begin today's game by whispering something in the ear of the kid to your right. Then, he or she will whisper what was said into the ear of the kid to his or her right. Continue until the message makes its way all around the circle. Instruct the last kid to repeat what she heard. Repeat as time allows, allowing different kids to choose a message to send around the circle.

| **SAY** “ In a game of telephone, it's easy to misunderstand what someone says! When God calls us to follow Him, the message is clear: turn from sin and trust in Jesus! In today's lesson, we will learn about how a boy named Samuel heard God's voice. We'll see that **SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD'S CALL.** ”

OPTION 2: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



Invite kids to join you for a game of choice. Ask kids how they would respond in certain situations. Encourage discussion among kids as they describe what they would do for each of the following situations:

- You saw a kitten stuck in a tree.
- You had the choice between flying like a bird or swimming like a fish.
- You found a \$10 bill on the ground.
- You were the principal of your school for a day.
- You heard God call your name.

| **SAY** “ We're faced with different choices every day. The effects of some choices are bigger than others, but the biggest choice we make is to trust in Jesus as He calls us to follow Him! Today, we will learn how **SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD'S CALL.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and today, we will be hearing another story from the Bible. Reading from the Bible is one way we can grow in our understanding of who God is and how He loves us. Everything in the Bible points to Jesus—even today’s story about how **SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD’S CALL**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] Today’s story can be found in the book of 1 Samuel located in the Old Testament. Let’s turn to 1 Samuel chapter one and get ready to hear our story. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one and assist them in finding 1 Samuel.]

Let’s take a moment to pray to God together: ‘God, thank You for the gift of Your Word. We thank You for knowing each of us by name and calling us to trust in Your Son, Jesus, for salvation. Help us hear and respond to Your truth today. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Last week, we learned our big picture question: **How does God care for His creation?** Who remembers the answer? [Allow responses.] **God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.** Let’s say the answer again. [Repeat the big picture answer.]

Because God is good and loving, He cares for people and everything He created. God’s love for His creation is so great, He had a plan to rescue people from sin and make all things new. Through Jesus, God saves people from sin and will one day make a new world where everything will be perfect. But to take part in God’s new creation, we have to respond in faith to Jesus. In our story today, we’ll see how **SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD’S CALL** and learned to follow Him. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Last week, we learned how God provided a family redeemer for Ruth. We saw how God provided Boaz to help Ruth in her time of need. And we learned how God had a plan for Ruth’s family to one day bring the Savior—Jesus—into the world. Today, we will see how God heard Hannah and how He responded to her prayers by giving her a son named Samuel. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1–3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Samuel Was Born and Called.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

SAMUEL WAS BORN AND CALLED

“During the time of the judges, there was a woman named Hannah who desperately wanted a son. Every year, she would go with her husband to worship and sacrifice to the Lord at a place called Shiloh. Priests named Hophni and Phineas, and their father Eli, would lead the people in worship at Shiloh.

During one of her visits, Hannah went into the Lord’s house, crying and praying to God: “LORD, please give me a son, and I will give him back to you.”

Eli was also in the Lord’s house at the same time. When he heard what she was asking the Lord for, he said, “Go in peace, and may God grant your request and give you a son.”

God answered Hannah’s prayer, and she gave birth to a boy, and she named him Samuel. When the boy was a few years old, Hannah returned to Shiloh and gave Samuel to Eli to worship and serve the Lord there.

Then Hannah prayed and said, “My heart rejoices in the LORD. There is no one holy like our God!”

Now, Eli’s sons were wicked leaders of the people. They did evil by using their power as priests to take what they wanted from the people. They did not obey God’s laws for making sacrifices. God sent a man to Eli to give him a message from the Lord. He said, “I am going to cut off your family from leading my people, and I will raise up a faithful priest for myself.”

Sometime later, Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord by the ark of God. The Lord called Samuel, and Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

Samuel ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

“I didn’t call,” Eli replied. “Go back and lie down.”

A second time, the Lord called, “Samuel!”

Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Eli sent Samuel back to bed again.

A third time, the Lord called Samuel. This time, when Samuel went to Eli, Eli understood that the Lord was calling Samuel. He said to Samuel, “If he calls you again, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’”

When the Lord called Samuel a fourth time, Samuel replied, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Active listening: Lead kids to pretend to answer a phone call with their hands every time they hear the word “call,” called,” or “calling” in the story.

Use dramatic voice: Change the tone of inflection of your voice as you read each person’s part.



From that day on, **God spoke to Samuel, and all Israel knew that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord.**

Christ Connection: God called to Samuel, and Samuel responded. God calls people to turn from sin and follow Jesus. Everyone who responds by trusting in Jesus is saved from sin. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Hannah prayed to God, asking Him to provide her with a son. Did God answer Hannah’s prayer? What was her son’s name? [Allow responses.] God gave Hannah a son named Samuel. God hears and responds to our prayers too. We can trust that God will answer our prayer in His timing and in ways that are best for us. Sometimes, God may not answer our prayers right away or give us the answer we want. However, God can always be trusted.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah kept her promise to God and dedicated Samuel’s life to serving and worshiping God in the temple. Eli’s sons served in the temple, but they did not honor God by leading His people well. Why did Samuel approach Eli in the night? [Allow responses.] While Samuel was sleeping, God called out to him, but Samuel did not know God was the One who called his name. Who did Samuel think was calling for him? [Allow responses.] Samuel thought Eli called to him. Eventually, Eli told Samuel that God was calling to him. Eli instructed Samuel on how to answer the call of God. Then **SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD’S CALL** by saying, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’ Unlike Eli’s sons, Samuel would honor God.

God called to Samuel, and Samuel responded in obedient faith. God raised up Samuel to be a prophet for the people of Israel. This means God would speak to Samuel, and Samuel would tell people what God said. Today, God calls people to turn from sin and follow Jesus. Everyone who responds by trusting in Jesus is saved the punishment sin deserves. Like Samuel, we have the opportunity to respond to God’s call to trust in Jesus for salvation and forgiveness of sin. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ The Bible tells us that we have all sinned and need forgiveness. God made the way for us to be saved by placing our trust in Jesus. God calls people to respond to His call through faith in His Son, Jesus. Do you have any questions about what it means to trust in Jesus? ”

(Tip: Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 9, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What makes a “prophet” a prophet? Do we have prophets today?
2. How is Jesus the perfect Prophet?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Doug and Evelyn in Tanzania” printable. Remind kids that Doug and Evelyn



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Knapp were missionaries in Tanzania, Africa. Tell kids that it wasn't always easy for Doug and Evelyn to tell people about Jesus in Tanzania. But as the Knapps formed relationships with the people through the shared interest of farming, they had more opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

SAY “ One time, a group of bees swarmed around some children. As the local Christians knelt to pray, an unusual gust of wind came and scattered the bees. When the bees were gone, the believers gathered in the church to praise God for hearing their prayers and removing the bees. Even though some people questioned what the Knapps were telling them about Jesus, God’s mighty power to answer prayer led many of the people to trust in Jesus. ”

Remind kids that God heard the prayers of the Christians in Tanzania just as He heard the prayer of Hannah from our story. Close in prayer, thanking God for how He sees and hears His children.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Philippians 4:19 together.

SAY “ God sees each and every one of our needs and is faithful to supply us with what we need. Our key passage reminds us just how much God cares for us. ”

Invite kids to repeat the key passage together. Then instruct them on different ways to recite the key passage, such as a robot, a pirate, an alien, a cowboy, or underwater. Repeat as time allows or until kids are familiar with the key passage.

Lead kids to sing “My God (Philippians 4:19).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, thank You for caring about us and for calling us to trust You. Help us turn away from sin and to turn toward Jesus. Lead us to respond to Jesus’ gospel by faith. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Do You Hear?” activity page.

SAY “ Today, we’re going to learn how God called Samuel to follow Him and share His truth with others. We’re going to see how God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin. ”

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 1. Explain that Samuel grew up to become a prophet of God’s people. We learn about Samuel, Saul, and David in the books 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 1:7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ Hannah was a woman of prayer and faith. Every year she traveled to the tabernacle to worship God and offer sacrifices. Even when she faced difficult and sad times, she continued to worship God. God saw Hannah’s tears and heard her prayers.

God sees and hears us as well. No matter what circumstance we find ourselves in, God is with those who trust in Him. Like Hannah, we can continue to worship God no matter how difficult our situation. God loves us and made the way for us to one day be free of sin’s consequences once and for all. One day, everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him in the new heaven and earth. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ What have you prayed to God about? Has He answered your prayers? ”

Discuss how we can come to God in prayer for many reasons. Tell kids we give Him praise, give Him thanks, ask for things according to His will, and repent of sin. Share how Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:5-13. We can trust God always hears our prayers. Help kids understand that God may not answer our prayers how we want, but we can trust His good and perfect plans.

SAY “ How can we respond when God’s Word, the Bible, gives us a command to obey? ”

Tell kids that we respond to God by obeying Him by faith. Share how the Bible has many commands for us to obey, and we can ask God to help us follow His ways over our own. Discuss how the Holy Spirit helps believers obey God because we love Him. Remind kids that God calls all people to respond to the gospel by repenting of sin and trusting in Jesus.

SAY “ Why did God give us the Bible? ”

Remind kids that God called Samuel to be a prophet to the people of Israel. Explain that Jesus was the final and perfect Prophet. Tell kids that God gave us the Bible to help us know Him and His Son, Jesus. Share how Hebrews 1:2 tells us that in these last days, God has spoken to us through Jesus. When we look to Jesus, we come to know God, see exactly what God is like, and find the only way to God.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: HERE I AM



Play a game similar to “Marco Polo” by choosing one kid to be Samuel. Place a blindfold on Samuel. Explain that the other kids will call out, “Samuel,” and he will respond with “Here I am.” As kids call out “Samuel,” he will try to tag someone by listening to how close or far away they may be. Remind kids to walk away, rather than run. Once a kid is tagged, she becomes Samuel and a new round of the game begins. Play as time allows.

SAY “ Today, we learned that SAMUEL RESPONDED TO GOD’S CALL. God knew Samuel by name. God knows each of us by name too. Just like Samuel responded with, ‘Here I am!’ we must be ready to respond to God’s call to follow Jesus and turn from sin. ”

OPTION 2: BIBLE BOOKMARK RACE

Form kids into teams of four and provide each kid with two index cards. Distribute Bibles to each group. Write the book names on a dry erase board for kids to see: Numbers, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, Proverbs, John, Galatians, Hebrews. Then challenge groups to work together to bookmark each book.

Begin by choosing one kid in each group to hold the Bible. When you say “Go,” the kid holding the Bible will place their index card in the book of Numbers as a bookmark. He will then pass the Bible to another kid in his group who will then bookmark Judges. Groups will repeat this process, allowing each kid to bookmark the books of the Bible. For kids who are new to church, point out the Table of Contents to help them find the book. The first group to bookmark all the books wins. Repeat, if time allows, choosing new books to bookmark.

Option 3:

Samuel Bed Craft

- 1. Color in the page.
2. Cut out the bed section, Samuel, and the rectangle shape.
3. Cut along dotted line on bed.
4. Tape rectangle onto reverse of bed to make an envelope



SAY “ Samuel was a prophet who spoke God’s words to the people. Today, God speaks to us through His Word. We read the Bible to learn about God and His Son, Jesus. All Scripture points us to Jesus who saves us from our sin. ”



https://youtu.be/MvxcP0851uc

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
•What does the story teach me about myself?
•Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.