

SAMUEL'S CALL

Scripture:
I Samuel 1-3

Memory Verse: I Samuel 3:10
"Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Materials:
Picture of the Tabernacle
Stick figure pictures of Hophni/Phineas
Stick figure pictures of "growing" Samuel
Poster paper with 2 rhymes

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that Samuel was set apart to God and grew in obedient respect, therefore, God removed the wicked sons of Eli who wouldn't listen to reproof. Instead He established His Word to Samuel, who was listening.

To Realize: Those who despise God's Word will be despised, and those who are ready to obey God's Word will be honored with the privilege of serving God.

To Respond: by taking God's Word seriously, listening and doing what He says.

Setting Up the Story—

Show a picture of the Tabernacle. Start by telling about the most important tent in the world—it was in Israel at a place called Shiloh. And the reason it was the most important tent is because God had told Moses to make it so that His presence would be there with the Israelites! There wasn't another place like it on the whole earth! It would be a special honor to work at the Tabernacle and take care of God's tent. When the Tabernacle was first built many people wanted to be the ones to do God's work there—but God said "No" and that HE would choose who would work there. And he chose Aaron's family to be the only ones who could be His priests and work inside the Tabernacle. And He chose Levites to help Aaron's family with the work. Imagine if you were a boy born into Aaron's family and then you found out that you were one of those that could work in GOD'S Tabernacle! You would help people bring their sacrifices to God! You would get to help them get forgiveness for their sins! If someone brought a gift to God because they were so thankful for what He had done for them—you would get to hear about it and take the gift to God for them! It was a VERY HIGH HONOR to be a priest who was chosen to work in God's Tabernacle. But after a long, long time, do you know what happened? Israelites were still coming to bring their sacrifices to God, but the priests didn't think it was anything special to work for God. And in today's story, that is where it opens up—with an old priest named Eli, and his two sons: Hophni and Phineas!

Telling the Story—

Scripture:
I Sam. 1:1-3

I. Set Apart Sons

- A. Hophni and Phineas are priests to the Lord
1. At Shiloh
 2. Tabernacle
 3. Officiate the sacrifices

I Sam 1:4-2:11

- B. Samuel is set apart to God
1. Hannah begs for a child
 2. Vows he will be given to God's service
 3. Samuel is born!
 4. Hannah takes him to the Tabernacle

Scripture:
I Sam
2:12-17

II. God Communicates

- A. Eli's wicked sons refuse to listen
1. They take the Lord's portion of food
 - a. The best meat of the sacrifice
 - b. The faithful Israelite would correct them
 - c. **They wouldn't listen** and took it by force

I Sam.
2:18-21

(Meanwhile Samuel is blessed!)

I Sam
2:22-25

2. Eli tries to correct his sons
 - a. He hears they are treating the women working at the Tabernacle very badly
 - b. He tells them they are wrong
 - c. They don't change

As you tell the story—

(draw stick figures on the board or have them on a piece of paper)

Draw stick figure of baby Samuel or have it on a piece of paper. Each time you talk of Samuel, make the stick figure a little bit bigger to show that he is growing!

Put up poster paper with rhyme:

Eli's sons, they didn't care

(fold arms across chest and shrug shoulders)

They really didn't want to hear!

(put hands up over ears and squint eyes like you don't want to hear!)

MEANWHILE...What is happening to Samuel?! I Sam. 2:18-21

Say Rhyme:

Little Samuel was set apart (pat hand as if patting a little boy's head)

He wanted to obey God from his heart. (put hands over heart)

Then Eli hears that his sons are doing terrible things! They are treating the women who work at the Tabernacle very badly. They were acting like people who didn't know God!

He says, "I'm hearing bad things about you!" He should have made them stop being priests, but he didn't. Do you know why? He didn't think God's work was very important!

I Sam.
2:26

(Meanwhile Samuel is growing taller and in favor with God and men!)

I Sam.
2:27-35

3. A Man of God corrects Eli and his sons
 - a. Tells him that it was a high privilege to be set apart to do God's Work at the Tabernacle
 - b. Tells him that Hophni and Phineas would die on the same day
 - c. Tells him that his family will no longer be in charge of the Tabernacle and they would beg
 - d. Tells him that God has chosen a FAITHFUL priest who will DO what God says!

4. God was going to speak to them ONE MORE TIME...and this time, it was going to be through a young boy!

3:1-10

- B. Samuel Listens!
1. God calls to Samuel 4x
 - a. Samuel thinks it's Eli!
 - b. "Here I am!"

What do you think Eli's sons did?
SAY Rhyme again:

***Eli's sons, they didn't care
They really didn't want to hear!***

MEANWHILE...What is happening to Samuel?! I Samuel 2:26 Samuel was growing taller! And he had favor with the Lord and with all who came to the Tabernacle.

Say Rhyme:
***Little Samuel was set apart
He wanted to obey God from his heart.***

Do you think Eli's sons paid attention to little Samuel? He was just a kid!

***Eli's sons, they didn't care
They really didn't want to hear!***

God sent a man to deliver a message to Eli. Do you think it was going to be a good message or a sad message? (Sad) Why? (because they weren't listening!)

Eli should have made his sons stop being priests because of all the bad things they were doing. But you know what was sad? Eli loved all that good meat they would take, and he was eating it too! How do you think his sons responded to God's message through the man of God?

***Eli's sons, they didn't care
They really didn't want to hear!***

By this time Samuel was probably 10-12 years old.

It was in the early morning hours! Samuel might have wanted to sleep, but what does he do? He jumps right up and goes to see what Eli wants.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Eli tells Samuel what to say d. "Samuel! Samuel!" e. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." 	<p>Samuel is LISTENING!</p>
3:11-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. God communicates to Samuel what He is going to do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Everything He said He would do to Eli's family is going to happen b. Time is up 	<p>Why do you think God spoke to Samuel and not to Eli? <i>Little Samuel was set apart</i> <i>He wanted to obey God from his heart.</i> Did it matter to God that Samuel was only a boy?</p>
3:15-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Samuel delivers God's message 	<p>Why did God pick Samuel to deliver his message? (because he was listening and would deliver it!)</p>

Concluding the story:

Sing song to tune of "Frere Jacques" (Are you sleeping?)

"Are you list'ning? Are you list'ning? To God's Word? To God's Word?"

Every word is the truth

That He wants to show us.

Speak, Lord, Speak. Speak, Lord, Speak."

SAMUEL'S CALL HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. How do you feel about doing the Lord's work? Does it feel routine and old hat? Are there any ways you are despising His work?
2. If God were to speak your name for a particular task, would you be ready immediately to act on His instructions?
3. Is there any correction you have been given that you have ignored? Is there any truth that you are supposed to speak to someone to turn them back to God's ways?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. How might a child growing up in a Christian family or a ministry family be tempted to despise God's work or treat it lightly?
2. Do your students feel that only the "grown ups" can do God's work?
3. Is there any child in your class struggling with saying, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening?"

Memory Verse:

I Samuel 3:10

"Samuel! Samuel!" and Samuel said, "Speak! For your servant is listening."

Divide the class into two sides.

All together say the reference.

Then side 1 cups their hands to their mouths and call out, "Samuel! Samuel!"

All together say: "and Samuel said,"

Then side 2 puts their hands cupped behind their ears and reply:

"Speak! For your servant is listening!"

On the next time through, alternate the two sides. Repeat 4-5x until both sides can say the complete verse.

Post-Lesson Activity:

Tape the signs "Hophni and Phineas" and "Samuel" at the front of the class.

Read a clue and have the students move to the side that describes the correct answer. (One clue can go either way!)

1. "Treated the women at the Tabernacle badly."
2. Had a new robe each year.
3. Grew in favor with God and men.
4. Liked to take the best meat for themselves.
5. Didn't listen to their father.
6. Lived away from his family to work in the Tabernacle.
7. Was set apart to do God's work. (can go both ways!)
8. Ignored the warning from the man of God.
9. Listened to God.
10. Didn't listen to God.