

WEEK of November 14 and 17
ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Step three, listen to God.

THE BIBLE

God Calls Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 19-21.
Proverbs 2:1-5

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

Grades 4/5 ACTIVITY | What's that Noise? <https://youtu.be/uHNqCySOpPs>

INSTRUCTIONS: Play the Listening Game on YouTube. The game will play a sound and then show multiple choice answers. The kids will pick which sound they think it is by doing the exercise that is shown below the sound for 25 seconds.

- Today's Bible story will show us that sometimes it's more important to simply listen!

QUESTION | Listening vs. Hearing

- What is the difference between listening and hearing?
- Hearing is being able to detect sound. Listening requires more focus and paying attention to what you are hearing in order to understand it. So listening is not just about what sounds you can recognize with your ears.
- For example, let's say the oven timer goes off. Beep!
 - If you *hear* the sound, that just means that your ears told your brain that there was a noise.
 - If you *listen* to the sound, then you'll know that whatever you're cooking in the oven is ready and needs to be taken out so it doesn't burn!
- Can you think of some more examples where you need to listen — and not simply hear — something?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | God Calls Samuel, Supplies needed: sign with name Samuel on it, Sign with Here I am, you called me, back of both posters say, speak lord for your servant is listening.

Guess what time it is! It's time to tune in to the Bible story segment of The Plate It Cooking Show! Today, I have not one, not two, but three sous chefs to help me with the "ingredients" for this Bible story!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Choose three volunteers that you have prepared ahead of time to help you tell the story from 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–21. Split the group into three sections, each led by one sous chef. Assign each group one of the poster boards with words displaying what to say during the story. When these phrases come up in the story, point to the corresponding sous chef to signal them to rally their group.*

- Last week, we learned about how a woman named Hannah was very sad because she couldn't have a baby. She took her sorrow to God and talked to God about it. She prayed for a son, and she promised that she would give her son to serve God for his whole life. Hannah was *soy* happy to find out that God remembered her prayer! God gave her a son who would become one of God's prophets!
 - **Who remembers what a prophet's job was?** A prophet was someone chosen by God to speak for God to the people who needed to hear God's message.
- **Do you remember what Hannah named her baby?** That's right, Samuel! Our story today is about Samuel! As with all things, time *fries* by, and Samuel has grown into a young boy. Let's find out what happens *durian* this part of Samuel's life.
- *[Read verses 1–3.]* Samuel grew up in the temple and served God under the direction of the priest, Eli. But one night, he heard a voice say.
 - *[Point to sous chef 1 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "Samuel!"]*
- Samuel thought Eli was calling him so he ran to Eli's room and said,
 - *[Point to sous chef 2 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "Here I am. You called me."]*
- But Eli did not. Eli was sleeping. So Eli said,
 - *[Point to sous chef 3 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "I did not call. Go back and lie down."]*
- Samuel was pretty sure there was no one else in the temple that could be talking to him. And then he heard it again! *[Point to sous chefs 1, 2, and 3 in order again.]*
- After this happened three times, Eli realized that it was God talking to Samuel. So he told him, the next time he heard the voice, to say,
 - *[Motion to all three sous chefs to turn their poster over. Have everyone say the sentence out loud together, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."]*

- Samuel heard God's voice for the first time that night. He had never *been* in that situation before. But after this night, Samuel became *berry* good at listening to God and reading God's Word. As he grew up, everyone knew Samuel to be God's prophet.

BIG IDEA | Step three, listen to God, Supplies needed: Paper plate with Big Idea written on it.

We can talk to God and ask questions about anything, but we have to take the next step of listening to God in order to prepare ourselves for our life with God. That's why we can't skip **step three, listen to God!**

VIDEO | Plate It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's video.*

DISCUSSION

- Who did Samuel think was calling his name? Who was actually calling Samuel?
- What did Eli tell Samuel to do when God called him the next time?
- How did God continue to reveal who God is to Samuel?
- Read Proverbs 2:1. How do you store up things people say? How does storing up things God says help us?
- Have you ever heard God speak to you?
- Who is someone in your life who can help you recognize and respond to God's voice?
- How can you make space to listen to God without distractions?

REFLECTION | Recipe Card, Step Three, Supplies needed: recipe card, pencil

INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the recipe card aloud for the kids. Review the Big Idea and have the kids fill in the blanks on their recipe card. Then invite them to have a time of reflection and write down their response to the prompt.*

Step three, listen to God. What is one thing you will do this week to help you listen to God more?

ACTIVITY | Egg Timer Hunt, Egg Timers (multiple)

Let's have some fun *eggs*ercising our listening skills!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Call up as many kids as you have timers. Announce that their goal is to listen for and find the timers before the timer goes off. Have them turn around and close their eyes. Enlist adult volunteers to help hide a few egg timers around the room, turning the timers to a predetermined time. Optional: Time how long it takes them to find the timers. Do a few more rounds with new groups of kids to see if they come up with new strategies for listening and finding the timers faster.*

- Being able to listen carefully is an *eggs*-cellent skill to have, *eggs*-pecially when it comes to listening to God. God is the wisest and most loving, and God wants to guide us in how to live for God. So, an important step in following God is **step three, listen to God**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

MEMORY VERSE | Spoon Catapult Verse Relay, Supplies needed: spoons, ping pong balls, Marshmallows, buckets.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Review the verse with the kids, reciting it a few times. Show kids how to use a spoon to catapult a ping pong ball that has a word or phrase of the verse on it. The kids will have to launch the ping pong balls into a bucket. Once they have collected all the word balls, they can try to put the verse in order and recite it. Feel free to make it into a relay race.*

Grades 4/5 *Consider using a food item in place of ping pong balls, like marshmallows! Then have each cup have a word on it and see if they can launch all of the marshmallows into the cups (or mugs, simulating hot chocolate).*

PRAYER AND BLESSING

Ask if anyone would like to close your time in prayer. If not, read the prayer below or pray your own prayer.

Dear God, thank you that you are always near, ready to speak to us. We're listening! Help us to understand you and your plans for us more as we listen. Amen,

Trace the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and say, "God is near and loves you."