

God Calls Samuel

Introduction

Play a game of Simon Says with the students to practice listening.

Story

Today's story is in 1 Samuel. Where is this book found? Do you notice how it has a number before the name of the book? That's because there are two books with Samuel's name in the title. Both books are history books, telling us what happened long ago. The beginning chapters of 1 Samuel tell us about Samuel's life. He was a great prophet and good at listening to God's voice and then telling the people what God said.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Let's act out today's story. You will pantomime your character's actions as I read the story aloud. Divide kids into pairs. Assign one kid to be Samuel and the other to be Eli. Direct all the pairs to lie down on the floor as if they are sleeping, with the kids portraying Samuel all at one end of the space and the kids portraying Eli at the other end. Read the story through, cuing the kids as needed. One variation would be to cue the kids portraying Samuel to say, "Here I am, for you called me."

Discuss:

- Whom did God call? How many times did God call him?
- What did Eli tell Samuel to do?
- How would you feel if somebody wanted you to do something important in the middle of the night?
- How old do you think you have to be to live God's way? Name something you've done at a younger age than you thought you would be able to do.
- God had some exciting plans for Samuel. The good news is that Samuel was willing to listen to what God had to say. He learned how to listen. How does God speak to us today?