



Date: _____

Series: I Am God's Child
Summer Year 2, Lesson 3

God Calls Samuel

Bible Event: 1Samuel 3:1 – 4:1

Take Home Point: *I AM GOD'S CHILD – *I listen to God's word.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: The best thing God's word tells me is that Jesus came to save me.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God calls each of us – in our hearts – to live our lives for him. When we listen to God's word, we are learning how to follow his calling and lead godly lives. God loves each of us very much and wants us to listen to his calling. Kids will take home the point: ****I AM GOD'S CHILD – I listen to God's word.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before showing. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting them to see what happens by watching the video. Also, you can introduce the video by inviting them to watch for special actions or words.

Tell children that today's true Bible event is the second part of the story of Samuel. Last week we learned that, as a little boy, Samuel's life was dedicated to serving the Lord. This week, we will see how God called to Samuel.

Show the second half of the video (from 15:30 minutes to the end) *Animated Stories of the Bible: Samuel*, Nest Masters, Inc., 1993.

Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)



Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Make a crunchy trail mix (can be pre-made or the kids can mix it) to place in a Ziploc bag. Shake the bag and listen before eating. Use various cereals, pretzels, crackers, etc.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Use raisins or other dried fruits, carob chips, etc.

Drama Zone: Have a pretend sleepover. Provide sleeping bags, blankets, carpet squares, beach towels, pillows, stuffed animals, flashlights and books. Practice nighttime prayers.

Puppet Zone: Have the children use puppets to act out the story of Samuel from today's Bible event.

Felt Zone: Use felt board Bible characters (a suggested resource is from *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt*, #57, "God Calls Samuel") to act out the story of Samuel.

Craft Zone: Make paper cup headphones. Each child will need two paper cups and one or two pieces of pipe cleaner. Provide crayons and markers to decorate the cups. Attach a pre-made label to one cup saying, ***I AM GOD'S CHILD – I listen to God's word.** Punch one hole on the edge of each cup to attach the pipe cleaners. Place paper cups over the child's ears to mold and fit headphones to each child's head.

Play Zone: Play a version of "Marco Polo." Have one child be Samuel and the rest of the children form a circle around him. Samuel should kneel down and close his eyes. Pick a child to be "God" and have them say, "Samuel." Samuel responds with, "I hear you." When Samuel figures out who's saying his name, pick a new Samuel and start the game over.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any books you may have which include the story of Samuel.

Music Zone: Have the kids participate in action songs like the “Hokey Pokey.”

Coloring Zone: Have the kids color the coloring page “God Calls Samuel.”

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Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba is on stage sitting in front of a phone waiting for it to ring. The large group presenter comes out to say "hi" to Bubba, but Bubba "sshhuusshhes" him. The large group presenter wants to know why Bubba is sitting in front of a phone. Bubba explains that he's waiting for the phone to ring. He knows that God is calling him. God is going to call him any minute.

The large group presenter figures out that Bubba heard today's lesson about God calling to Samuel. He explains to Bubba that God doesn't use the telephone to call us.

He calls us in a different way. He calls us in our heart. When God calls us, he tells us in our heart to do what God wants us to do. He wants us to live our life for him.

God may not use the phone to call us, but he does talk to us in the Bible and at church. He tells us to be kind to people, to share with baby sisters and obey our parents. God tells us how much he loves us and that he gave his own Son, Jesus, for us. And, if we let Jesus into our hearts, he will help us do all of the things that God calls us to do. That's how God calls each and every one of us.

Remember: *** I AM GOD'S CHILD – I listen to God's word.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead, and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- video, *Animated Stories of the Bible: Samuel*, Nest Masters, Inc., 1993.

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Ziploc bags
- various cereals, pretzels, crackers, etc.

Drama:

- sleeping bags, blankets, carpet squares, or beach towels
- pillows
- stuffed animals
- flashlights
- books

Puppet Zone:

- use puppets to act out the story of Samuel from today's Bible event .

Felt Zone:

- use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of Samuel being called. One resource is *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt*, Lesson #57 – "The Lord Speaks to Samuel." Available at www.bettylukens.com.

Craft:

- two paper cups per child
- pipe cleaners (1-2 per child)
- hole punch
- markers and crayons
- pre-made labels "I AM GOD'S CHILD – I listen to God's word"

Play:

- play a version of "Marco Polo."

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books. Be sure to include any that feature the story of Samuel.

Music:

- song, "Hokey Pokey"

Coloring:

- coloring page "God Calls Samuel"
- crayons, markers

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books (include book about Samuel)