



Samuel and Eli

Lesson Aim: To know we should listen to God.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

What He has done: God called Samuel.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "I will listen."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah, the Judge, Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	God gave the Israelites a judge named Deborah.	To know God gives us judges.
34	Gideon Goes to Battle, Judges 7:17-21	God gave Gideon and His people a victory.	To know we can trust God's plan.
35	Samson and the Gate, Judges 13:5; 16:2-3	God made Samson strong.	To know God makes us strong.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:8-18	God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.	To know God gives us special friends who worship Him with us.
37	Samuel and Eli, 1 Samuel 3:1-10	God called Samuel.	To know we should listen to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 145. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for watching over us all. Help the children understand how to listen to Your voice. Reassure them of Your presence every day. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an ear
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "I will listen."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Can Do Everything" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time" "I Will Listen" "I Am with You" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" "I'm in the Lord's Army" "How Great Is Our God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarment Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 37
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: 1 Samuel 3:1-10	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at 1 Samuel 3:10 Visual: Samuel and Sleeping Eli craft
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Samuel and Sleeping Eli	Sturdy flesh-colored paper, standard-size sturdy white paper, cloth, wood craft stick or plastic spoon, tape, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers, optional: cotton for Eli's beard
		Game: Here I Am!	None, optional: sheets or blankets
		Game: Listen!	Bible, various noisemakers
		Snack: Crunchy Munchies	Crunchy snack (Chips, crackers, carrot sticks, etc.)
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 37 Color This Story: "God Calls Young Samuel at Night."
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: 1 Samuel 3:1-10	None
	Up to 10	Game: Jesus Gives Me Strength!	Soft ball for rolling
	Up to 10	Game: "God's Strength" Memory Pass	Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about listening

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



I will listen

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of an ear. **Let this sticker of an ear help you remember to listen to God. Today's Whisper Verse is "I will listen."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "I will listen."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| "I" | Point to self. |
| "(will) listen." | The hand cups the ear, as if to hear better. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "I will listen," Psalm 85:8. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who watches over us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.



It’s Praise Time. That means it’s time to praise God! He is the One who watches over us even as we lay down to sleep. Let’s sing God’s promise to watch over us as we praise Him by giving our offering. Sing: “I Am with You.”

In today’s Bible Story, a boy named Samuel heard the Lord calling to him in the night. Samuel answered by saying, “I am listening, Lord.” That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse: “I will listen.” Let’s whisper it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “I will listen.” Include sign language.



I wonder if Delbert and Lello know anything about Samuel. Let’s call them both to come out for a visit! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 37.



Most of us don’t get to hear God’s out-loud voice as Samuel did. However, God helps us know in our hearts what He is saying to us—through the Bible, through people, and through the world He made. Sing: “I Will Listen.”

God gives us strength to do everything—even to listen to Him. Sing: “I Can Do Everything” and “How Great Is Our God.”



Samuel and Eli

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned how God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship. Today, we will hear how Samuel listened to God. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to 1 Samuel 3:10.

WATCH THE WORD: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display the "Samuel and Sleeping Eli" craft sample. Other visual options include the Color This Story or any related picture.

- There once was a boy named Samuel.
- He slept in the temple each night.
- He laid down to sleep; he heard a voice call,
- And he ran to Eli's bedside.

- Samuel said, "Eli, here I am.
- I heard you calling out."
- "I did not call you," Eli said.
- "Go back to bed and lie down."

- When Samuel lay back down to sleep,
- He heard the voice once more.
- But Eli said, "Go back and lie down."
- They did not know it was the Lord.

- The third time Samuel heard the voice,
- Old Eli figured it out.
- "Next time you hear that voice, just say,
- 'Here I am, Lord, I will listen now!'"



Who really called Samuel? (God.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read 1 Samuel 3:10 from the teacher's Bible. **Remember that "Lord" is one of God's special names.**

What did Samuel say when God called? ("I am listening.") That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together: "I will listen." Include sign language or hand motions.



Listening to God

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

Teacher Tip: Complete this craft before Watch the Word. Instruct the children to use the craft to act out the story as you tell it.

CRAFT: SAMUEL AND SLEEPING ELI

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Samuel and Eli.

Supplies: Sturdy flesh-colored paper, standard-size sturdy white paper, cloth, wood craft stick or plastic spoon, tape, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers, optional: cotton for Eli's beard

Prepare: From sturdy flesh-colored paper, draw and cut out a 3-inch tall Samuel. On standard-size sturdy white paper, draw Samuel's bed on the left side and Eli lying on a bed on the right side. At the top of the sturdy paper, print: **"The Lord Calls Samuel." 1 Samuel 3:1-10.** Under Samuel's bed, print: **"Here I am, you called me."** Under Eli's bed, print: **"I did not call. Go back and lie down."** Cut two cloth rectangles as blankets for the two beds.

Directions for children:

1. Color the cut out of Samuel and the picture of Eli and the two beds.
2. Glue a cloth rectangle on both beds as blankets.
3. Tape the back of Samuel onto the wood craft stick.
4. Optional: Glue cotton on Eli's beard.

Craft Discussion:

- **Use your Samuel puppet to show what he did the first time God called him.** Children move Samuel puppet from Samuel's bed to Eli's bed.
- **What did Samuel say?** ("Here I am! You called me.")
- **What did Eli say?** ("I did not call. Go back and lie down.") Children move Samuel puppet back to bed to lie down.
- **Samuel went back to bed, but then he got up again and again!** Repeat having Samuel puppet move back and forth between the beds two more times.
- **Was Eli calling Samuel?** (No.) **Who was really calling Samuel?** (God.)
- **What did Samuel do when God called the third time?** (He listened to God.)
- **That's like our Whisper Verse!** Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: HERE I AM!

Purpose: Children will practice listening and responding like Samuel did.

Supplies: None, optional: sheets or blankets

Samuel was sleeping when God called to him. Samuel listened to God. You can listen just like Samuel did!

Directions:

1. Children lie on the floor pretending to be Samuel asleep in bed.
2. Optional: Spread blankets over the children, as if they are in bed.
3. Call out a child's name.
4. Child "wakes up," stands in front of the teacher, and says, "**Here I am.**"
5. Teacher asks child, "**Will you listen to God?**"
6. Child says and signs, "**I will listen.**"
7. Child goes back to bed.
8. Repeat until each child has a turn.

GAME: LISTEN!

Purpose: Children will practice listening for God's words from the Bible.

Supplies: Bible, various noisemakers (For example: a rattle, a spoon with a metal pot, toy musical instruments, etc.)

Prepare: Mark the following verses in your Bible: Philippians 4:13, John 3:16, and Psalm 23:1

We can listen to God when someone reads God's words from the Bible. Close your eyes. When you hear God's words, stand up. When you hear a different noise, sit down. Will you listen?

Children say and sign: "I will listen."

Directions:

1. Alternate between making noise with one of the noisemakers and reading one of the Bible verses. Be sure to hold the Bible where the children can see you are reading from it when they open their eyes.
2. Children stand when you read from the Bible.
3. Children sit each time you make a noise with a noisemaker.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: CRUNCHY MUNCHIES

Purpose: Children enjoy a noisy snack as they discuss listening to God's Word.

Snack Suggestion: Crunchy snack (Chips, crackers, carrot sticks, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **We can listen to God's words. Where are God's words?** (In the Bible.)
 - **Let's eat a crunchy snack. Eat your snack as loudly as you can!**
 - **Now eat your snack as quietly as you can.**
 - **If we are always loud, can we listen to God's words?** (No.) **When someone is reading God's words in the Bible, we should listen very quietly.**
 - **What should we say when someone is about to read the Bible?** ("I will listen.")
 - **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together.** Children say and sign motions to Whisper Verse: "I will listen."



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Samuel and Sleeping Eli" craft. Use your Samuel stick puppet to tell the story of Samuel and Eli. Talk about how Samuel listened to God.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family.** Talk about how you can listen to God.

COLOR THIS STORY: "God Calls Young Samuel at Night." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Can Do Everything" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **There once was a boy named Samuel.** (Raise index finger.)
- **He slept in the temple each night.** (Rest head on folded hands.)
- **He laid down to sleep; he heard a voice call,** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **And he ran to Eli's bedside.** (Run in place.)

- **Samuel said, "Eli, here I am.** (Point to self.)
- **I heard you calling out."** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **"I did not call you," Eli said.** (Shake head, "no.")
- **"Go back to bed and lie down."** (Point to the doorway.)

- **When Samuel lay back down to sleep,** (Rest head on folded hands.)
- **He heard the voice once more.** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **But Eli said, "Go back and lie down."** (Point to the doorway.)
- **They did not know it was the Lord.** (Point to heaven.)

- **The third time Samuel heard the voice,** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **Old Eli figured it out.** (Point to head.)
- **"Next time you hear that voice, just say,** (Raise index finger.)
- **'Here I am Lord, I will listen now!'"** (Whisper Verse motions.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

GAME: JESUS GIVES ME STRENGTH!

Purpose: Children will realize Jesus gives them strength.

Supplies: Soft ball for rolling

The Bible says, **"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."**

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. Child holds ball and names an activity that is hard for him or her to do. For example: tying a shoe, riding a bike, sharing toys, counting, reading, or swimming.
4. Together, everyone says to the child with the ball, **"Jesus can give you strength to child's activity."**
5. Child rolls the ball to another child.
6. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "GOD'S STRENGTH" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy

Teacher Tip: If there are more than 10 children, begin each new round with the child who finished the last round to make sure each child has a turn holding and passing the block. For very large groups, divide into two circles that play simultaneously.

Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Now, let's take turns saying it one word at a time until we've said the whole verse.

Directions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Give the wood block to the first child.
3. Teacher says, "**I**." As the children repeat the word, "**I**," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
4. Teacher says, "**can**." As the children repeat the word, "**can**," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
5. Continue passing the block until the children have repeated the entire verse.
6. Play again. Each time you play, try to pass the block and say the Bible Memory Verse faster.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about listening.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 37: Samuel and Eli

PONDER! Use your "Samuel and Sleeping Eli" craft to tell the story of 1 Samuel 3:1-10 to your family. Eli was not calling Samuel. Who was calling Samuel? God wants you to listen to Him, just like Samuel did! How can you listen to God by yourself? How can you listen to God with your family?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving Your words to us in the Bible. Help us listen to You. Amen."

PLAY! Play "Here I Am!" with your family. Ask them to lie down on a bed or the floor. Call someone's name. He or she jumps out of bed and says, "Here I am!" Ask, "Will you listen to God?" He or she answers, "I will listen." That's our Whisper Verse! Teach them the hand motions, too!

Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."