

Lesson 8: I Am Listening Like Samuel

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that we should have faith in Jesus and be ready to listen like Samuel.
- 2) Learn the account of God's call to Samuel and how we are called too. (1 Samuel 3:1-18)
- 3) Understand the importance of listening to God and listening in service to others.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class from lesson 2
- Samuel Visual Aids – one copy for class to share
- Samuel Listens Activity Sheet – one per student
- I am Ready Poster Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Sticky Note Package – one small package of sticky notes for each student to do refrigerator home activity with family. (Mentioned on activity sheet).
- Index cards or pieces of paper – one per student
- Paper bag – one for teacher to put paper/cards into

Snack:

- Banana slices (a “silent” food so they can listen) a few per student
- Napkin one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.



Lesson 1: We should stay focused on Jesus. We do so by 1) getting rid of things that stop us from focusing 2) we work in all things with Jesus in mind, and 3) we think of Jesus throughout the day.

Lesson 2: We need to put God first by loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Lesson 3: We need to seek God and we can do so like Jesus by taking some quiet time every day to pray.

Lesson 4: We are to love others as ourselves. Meaning we need to go out of our way to show love to others by our words, thoughts, prayers and actions.

Lesson 5: We can be brave like Esther and Mordecai who stood up and took responsibility to help others.

Lesson 6: We can be determined and persistent like the four friends who had enough faith to keep trying to bring their friend to Jesus.

Lesson 7: We can be daring by giving our all like the widow did when she gave all she had to live on to the Lord knowing He would care for her.

2) We Can Be Ready to Serve and Willing to Listen Like Samuel

5 minutes

Who are the heroes we have studied so far? Esther, Mordecai, Four Friends, and the Widow.

What were the things that made them heroes? Courage, faith, brave, persistent, daring, giving, and determined to do the right things.

They all seemed like very ordinary people who found themselves in some pretty special situations. They had to make some tough choices. The important thing is that they all had a strong faith in God to make the right choices.

This time our hero is very young. The youngest hero we will talk about in the coming weeks. He lived during the time of the Judges when Israel kept falling away from God to worship idols and false gods. It was a difficult time for those who had kept their faith. The young man we are studying today is Samuel.

Did you know that when Samuel grew up, he became the last judge of Israel, was also a prophet, and anointed Israel's first two kings – Saul and David?

Samuel served God since he was very, very young. He lived at the temple under the direction of the priest Eli.

God called young Samuel to give Eli some bad news. Eli was a good priest but had let his sons do evil things in the temple. This led to God punishing them and Eli for not showing respect and being disobedient to God's word. Eli should have stopped his sons from being disrespectful to God in the temple.

Samuel was a brave believer willing to serve God. He listened to what God told him to do and did as he was told. Eli too was brave in that he did not protest what God had in store for him and his family. He knew he had done wrong and accepted his consequences.

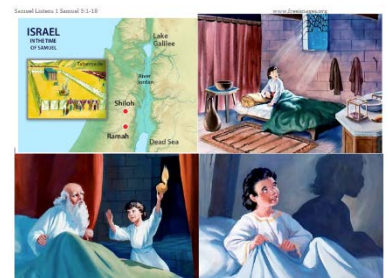
3) Samuel – Ready to Serve; Willing to Listen

10-15 minutes

*Have visual aids of the Samuel ready.

Have students turn to **1 Samuel chapter 3**.

Read **1 Samuel 3:1**. Mention the remarkable fact that: **Because of the people's disobedience and lack of faith, God hardly ever spoke directly to the people or appeared to them in dreams during the time of Judges, even though in the Old Testament times He would, as in the time of Moses.**



Now read **1 Samuel 3:1-18** and provide visuals for students to look at while you or volunteers take turn reading.

Ask:

What happened when Samuel was called? He ran and said “Here I am!”

Was Samuel ready to serve? Yes, because as soon as he was called he listened and got up quickly to serve.

Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, but who was really calling Samuel? God!

Samuel had to listen to what God said and then have the courage to share the tough message to his mentor and caregiver Eli. Do you find it hard sometimes to listen to what God has to say because it takes bravery to do it? Yes/No.

What are some examples of things God calls us to do that requires us to be brave? Share the gospel message with others. Listen to our parents all the time. Do the right thing at school even though it seems everyone else is doing wrong and getting away with it and having more fun, etc.

To listen to God today we have to take the time to quiet ourselves and our lives and open the Bible to read it. How can we be ready to listen? Find a regular time each day. Focus on making time.

Ensure there are no distractions when we do read/listen to God’s words. Once we read them, do them!

Like Samuel, we can serve God wherever we are! Whether at home, school, or when we are away from our parents. God calls us all to Him – even at a young age. We need to listen and say, “HERE I AM!”

Though Samuel was very young, God used him to do important work.

How does God use each one of us? Caring for others, our pets, doing our chores without complaining and or being told, paying attention in class, doing our homework as best we can and if needed helping others with theirs, being friendly, putting song books or bibles away on Sundays, singing to God with joy, listening to our parents, the minister, our teachers, etc.

Having a desire to give, to help, to serve, to learn, etc.

God speaks to us every day, can you name some ways God speaks to us without using actual speech? Creation and its beauty show the power and ability of God, Sunday school, reading the Bible, going to church services, through our parents, other Christians, etc.

How can we listen for God? Let students answer

How can we serve God at home? At school? At church?

What was Samuel’s faith like? Strong, he believed it was God talking to him, once Eli explained and he obeyed knowing that God’s Word needed to be told to Eli even though it was hard for Samuel to do.

What can we learn from this story? Let students answer.

4) Samuel Activity Sheet

15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencils and/or pencil crayons. Read the directions aloud, help as needed.

Discuss questions and ideas as a class. Relate these to the lesson – that we should be ready and listen like Samuel because we also have faith in God.

When doing the Badge of Bravery say to the students:

When Samuel was told the bad news about Eli, he was afraid to tell him.

Let’s look at some other situations and consider how it takes bravery to do these things. Rank the items on your list in order of the bravery required.

This is not a test. On your own rank them from “1” being the least brave, to “10” being the most brave.

How is bravery required in our everyday lives? For example sitting by a new student at school, playing with someone who is usually left out...? Let students come up with some other ways.

What other acts do we do in our day to day lives that are brave? Let students answer.



Samuel: Here I Am!
1 Samuel 3:10
Samuel was a very young boy who had grown up in the temple, working for the priest Eli. One night he heard someone calling his name. Thinking it was Eli, he ran out Eli's room, but each time Eli said "I did not call..." and Eli Samuel kept back to sleep. Finally Eli figured out that it was God speaking and told Samuel how to respond. God trusted Samuel with important information, even though Samuel was young.



Badge of Bravery
Rank these tasks in order of what requires the most bravery, with "1" being the least brave and "10" being the bravest. How did you choose?

_____ walking a fly ball	_____ getting your hair cut in a new style
_____ receiving a letter from a friend	_____ telling friends at school about church
_____ putting out a fire	_____ serving in a volunteer position on the corner
_____ sharing your lunch with someone	_____ being nice to someone you don't know
_____ sticking up for someone being picked on	_____ wearing a safety vest on practice day

Between Church and Home

- Make a list of all the ways (such as television) that your family receives information. Which of these ways would be the easiest to give up for a week? Which would be most difficult?
- Start a sticky note board on your fridge, where you write thank-you notes to each other.
- Be a good listener. Take the time each day to ask each person you meet a nice question and listen to their response. Take the time each day to read God's Word and pray (and only listen to God speaking to you through His Word the Bible).
- Turn off all the noise in your home – the TV, radio, phones, computers, or anything else that makes a sound that you are able to hear. Shut them off for 15 minutes. Ask your family to sit together

Like Samuel, we can trust God to teach us. With our eyes on Jesus, we can be ready and serve God wherever we are.

We are learning that there are many ways to be brave and that each of you can be brave in your own ways as well.

5) I am Ready Poster

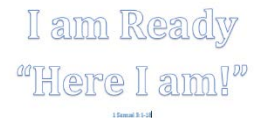
10-15 minutes

Hand out one poster to each student along with pencils/pencil crayons. Read the instructions from the bottom of the poster and the phrase at the top. Explain that this is how Samuel responded to God – Here I am! How can we be ready?

Some ideas: I am ready to listen, serve, give, love, help, worship, be brave, etc. Have them draw or write their answers on the poster then color the page if time.

Ask:

Why are these words important for this lesson? Because it shows bravery, being ready and willing to listen and go do what God needs to, even if and when it is difficult.



Samuel is not the only one who is called by God, we are all called too, did you know that?

Let's turn to Revelation 3:20, Jesus is speaking to one of the churches explaining that He comes to everyone wanting a relationship with them. Read the verse.

What does Jesus do? Comes to everyone and wants a relationship with them.

He doesn't literally knock at your door but, He does come to you through the Bible, through other people, in our hearts, and lets you know that He loves you and wants to spend His life with you.

Notice the verse says "if anyone" – Jesus wants all to come to Him, anyone can hear Him and open the door!

Right now Jesus is knocking at the door for (point to each child and name them by name) you, you, you and you!

You have been called now by Jesus - are you ready to listen, open the door and say, "Here I am!"?

6) Optional: Asking Questions Like Jesus

10-15 minutes

Before class: Have index cards or pieces of paper and pencils – one for each student and a paper bag to collect the questions.

During class: Say: **Today's hero was a small boy named Samuel who lived at the temple and served God. Did you know that when Jesus was twelve years old He listened to the teachers in the temple and asked them questions?**

Let's turn to Luke 2:41-52. When there read it aloud.

Say: Jesus was trying to explain to his earthly parents that He had to be going about His Father's business – His heavenly Father God. Jesus growing up had many questions and was wise in going to God's people and the Word to get the answers. He was not disobedient. He was unaware that his family had left or were looking for Him. But when they found Him, He returned home with them and was obedient to His parents.

Imagine that you are also in the temple with Jesus asking questions. What would you want to know?

Write down your question or questions along with your name and put them in the bag.

I will look them over this week and get back to you next time as best as I am able (ensure that you do get back to them and go to the Bible to get the answers they need. If you have trouble ask your minister or someone who has knowledge of that particular question and get help in finding the right biblical answer and get back to each student with the answer. If a student doesn't come the next week, save the question until they do.) **Maybe you have questions about God, life, the Bible, Jesus, etc. Write a question down and we'll try to get the answers!**

Help them write their questions as needed, read the question if possible beforehand to make sure you understand what they are trying to ask and ask for clarification if needed.

7) Lesson Review

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

8) Optional: Going to the Temple Listening Game

5 minutes

To help reinforce the importance of listening have the students try to remember a list of items.

Say: **I am going to pick one of you to start, then we will go around in a circle, each person getting a turn. We are going to see the importance of listening by having you all try to remember a long list of items.**

The first person starts by saying: "I'm going to the temple today and I am going to take with me a(n) _____." Your job is to pick something appropriate to take with you into the temple. Maybe a Bible, an apple, a song book, a pencil, etc. The next player says the same thing but now adds one more thing. We keep saying the same thing, adding one word each time as we go around the room and see how long we can all remember the list correctly. If you make a mistake, it goes to the next person and you sit out that turn.

*You may want to write down what each student says yourself to ensure it is remembered properly.

Go around the room once or twice ensuring each student gets the same amount of turns. Once you have one round done, start with someone else if time.

9) I Will Follow Songs

5-10 minutes

If time choose songs that relate to this lesson from the "I Will Follow Songs" sheets.

10) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **John 14:6** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: *"I am the way"* a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point ahead when you say "the way", point to their Bibles when they say "truth", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

11) Optional – Snack: Banana Slices**5 minutes**

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us about our lesson today. Raise your hand if you remember what our lesson was about?**

We need to be ready to listen and serve like Samuel.

Bananas are VERY quiet. Let's all sit quietly and "listen" while we eat our bananas, see if you can be super quiet!

As we eat our snack, let's think of ways we can be ready to listen and serve and be willing to share them after we have quietly eaten our banana pieces. Let students come up with answers.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson?

12) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who died so we can live for eternity with You in Heaven. Thank You for coming to each one of us and calling us to have a wonderful relationship with You, not only on earth, but in heaven forever. Thank You for those in our lives who are ready to serve You.

Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, with all our mind, soul, heart and strength. For You are worthy, good, awesome, and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord, so we can serve and love others and You, even now at our young age. Help us be brave and responsible. To take joy in working hard for You. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. Help us to stay focused on Jesus and be brave in making the right choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.