GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

# Samuel Hears God Call

1 Samuel 3:1-21



YOUR BIBLE READING

**Listening to God includes the courage to tell the truth.**

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

# A Call in the Night

1 Samuel 3:1-21



Samuel was serving God with Eli the priest at Shiloh. In those days, messages and visions from God were rare. Eli was growing old, and his eyesight had become weak. One night he was lying in his usual place. Samuel lay in the place of worship where God's ark was kept, and the lamp had not yet gone out. The quiet setting would soon be interrupted by someone calling the boy's name.

God called Samuel. Samuel answered and ran to Eli, saying that he had come because Eli called him. But Eli had not called. He told Samuel to lie down again, and the boy returned. The account does not criticize Samuel for going to the person he thought needed him. He had heard a call and made sense of it through someone familiar, without yet knowing what was happening that night.

God called Samuel again. Once more he went to Eli and said he had been called. Eli answered that he had not called and sent him back to lie down. The passage explains that Samuel did not yet know God in this way, because God's word had not been revealed to him. Repetition was part of the encounter. Hearing the call did not mean he immediately understood its source or the message it would bring.

At the third call, Samuel rose and went to Eli again. This time Eli understood that God was calling the boy. He gave Samuel an answer to use if the call came again: he should ask God to speak because his servant was listening. Samuel went back to his place and lay down. He now had guidance from Eli, but the words of the message itself had not yet been given to him.

**Remember:** I can listen carefully and speak honestly.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

# A Difficult Message Told Honestly

1 Samuel 3:1-21



God came and called Samuel as before. Samuel answered that he was listening as God's servant. The message was not an easy one. God said he would act in Israel in a way that would astonish those who heard it. He would carry out the judgment already spoken against Eli's household. Samuel was receiving news about the very family under whose care he was serving at the place of worship.

The reason was serious wrongdoing. Eli knew what his sons were doing and had not restrained them. God said that the household's wrong could not simply be removed by sacrifice or offering. The passage does not present worship activities as a way to cover up known harm. The message joined responsibility with consequences, including responsibility for a leader who knew about wrongdoing and failed to stop it within his own household.

Samuel lay until morning and then opened the doors. He was afraid to tell Eli what he had heard. Eli called him and asked for the whole message, warning him not to hide any part. Samuel told him everything. Eli answered that it was God and that God should do what seemed good to him. The boy did not replace the hard news with a more pleasing message to make the conversation easier.

As Samuel grew, God was with him, and his words proved faithful. People throughout Israel recognized him as a prophet of God. God continued to reveal himself at Shiloh through his word to Samuel. The night's call was the beginning of a role that the community would come to recognize. The account moves from a boy misunderstanding who had called to a prophet who faithfully speaks a message he has received.

**Pause and think:** What kind of support helps someone speak honestly when the truth may be difficult to hear?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

# Listening and Telling Need Care



Samuel needs help understanding the call. In everyday learning, it is normal to ask someone more experienced to explain something unfamiliar. Think of a time when a clear instruction helped you know what to do next. What made it useful: simple words, a demonstration, time to try, or a chance to ask again? Needing an explanation is part of learning, not something to be ashamed of.

Some truths are difficult to tell because they concern someone with authority. If you know about harm or feel unsafe, tell a trusted adult who can help protect you. If the first person does not listen, try another safe adult. Children are not responsible for managing a whole household's wrongdoing, and keeping harmful secrets is not the same as being loyal or respectful.

This particular call belongs to Samuel's account. You do not have to decide that every sound, thought, or dream is a message from God. If an experience confuses or frightens you, discuss it with a caregiver. Careful listening includes help with understanding, patience about what you do not know, and honesty about what you actually heard rather than what you might imagine.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

**Samuel learns to listen and tells Eli the difficult message without hiding what he has received.**

What kind of support helps someone speak honestly when the truth may be difficult to hear?

# Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

## 1 Think about the reading

**1.** Who helped Samuel understand who was calling?

**2.** What did Samuel do when Eli asked about the message?

## 2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Samuel told Eli the difficult message.
- ☐ Samuel heard his name and ran to Eli.
- ☐ Eli understood and helped Samuel answer God.

## 3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Samuel opening the doors in the morning.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

# Read & Grow Together

## Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

## Remember this

I can listen carefully and speak honestly.
**Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation.** Related passage: 1 Samuel 3:9-10,18-19

## A thoughtful conversation

Samuel received a specific prophetic call. Do not teach children that every inner thought or voice is God; help them check troubling messages with Scripture and trusted adults.

## Activity answers

**1.** Eli the priest.
**2.** He told Eli everything honestly, even though he was afraid.
**Sequence boxes, top to bottom:** 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

## Optional prayer

God, help us listen wisely and tell the truth with care. Amen.

## Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

## Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 1 Samuel 3:1-21. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 09_1Sa_03_03_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
This adapted story pack is shared under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0. Credit the creators, identify changes and use the same license for adaptations. Genesis to Revelation edition 3.0.