

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: “GOD CALLS SAMUEL”

Devotional Thought Through Bible Storytelling

- 1st Choose a biblical emphasis or Life Lesson (Bible truth) from the story that will apply to your listeners’ lives. That emphasis will be called the **Devotional Thought**.
- 2nd Tell the Bible story.
- 3rd Immediately after telling the story:
 - State the **Devotional Thought** and then make a brief application.
 - Or make a brief application and then state the **Devotional Thought**.
 - Repeat as many times as you make an application to your listeners.
 - Encourage the listeners to repeat the **Devotional Thought** with you.
- 4th End in prayer. (Optional)

BIBLE STORY: “God Calls Samuel”

TEXT: 1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20

INSTRUCTIONS:

(optional)

Say, “As I tell the story, I want you to help me.

- Whenever I hold my hands up to my mouth, I want you to say with me, **‘Samuel, Samuel!’**
- Whenever I use movement with my hands, like walking, do it with me.”

BACKGROUND OF STORY (Initial Situation):

In Israel, there was a woman called Hannah who did not have any children. She prayed for many years to have a child, promising to give him to the Lord. Finally the Lord blessed her with a child. She called him Samuel.

When he was weaned, Hannah and her husband took Samuel to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. She presented her son to the priest Eli, where Samuel was to live and serve the Lord.

The Tabernacle was a place where the people worshiped God. It was a tent. The Tabernacle could be moved whenever God led His people to move from one place to another place.

Inside the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant, where the Ten Commandments were kept. Also, inside the Tabernacle were seven lamps on the golden Lampstand. The lamps were to stay lit from sundown in the evening to sunrise in the morning. The priest was to make sure the oil never ran out, so that the light would not go out during the night.

BIBLE STORY:

Several years passed. The boy Samuel was serving the Lord under priest Eli’s supervision. It was rare to hear a word from the Lord in those days.

Priest Eli was getting old. He could barely see. One night priest Eli was lying in his usual place.

Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle, *probably helping priest Eli by making sure the lamps remained lit during the night.*

The Lord called out, **“Samuel, Samuel!”** (Put your hands to your mouth when you call.)

Samuel ran to priest Eli. (Pat your hands quickly on your legs, like running.) Samuel said,

“Did you call me? Here I am.”

Eli replied, ***“No, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.”***

Samuel went back to bed. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.)

A second time the Lord called out, ***“Samuel, Samuel!”*** (Put your hands to your mouth when you call.)

Samuel went to priest Eli. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.) Samuel said, ***“Did you call me? Here I am.”***

Eli replied, ***“No, my son, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.”***

Samuel went back to bed. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.)

A third time the Lord called out, ***“Samuel, Samuel!”*** (Put your hands to your mouth when you call.) Samuel went to priest Eli. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.) Samuel said, ***“Did you call me? Here I am.”***

By this time, priest Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. So Eli said, ***“Samuel, it is the voice of God calling you. Go back to your bed. If the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’”***

Samuel went back to bed. (Pat your hands on your legs, like walking.)

A fourth time the Lord called out, ***“Samuel, Samuel!”*** (Put your hands to your mouth when you call.)

This time Samuel replied, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***

God spoke to Samuel, giving him a special message. God had special plans for Samuel’s life. Samuel became a great servant of God. He became a priest and prophet of God, respected by God and all the people in Israel.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

- Whenever we are reading our Bible, let each of us say like Samuel, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
Say it with me, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
- Whenever we are praying, let each of us say, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
- Whenever we are doing our activities during the day, let each of us stop and say, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***
- Whenever we wake up during the night, let each of us say, ***“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”***

PRAYER: Optional

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